

transiter

A Film by Arata Mori

LOGLINE

In Thailand divided by increasing political tensions, emerging LGBTQ+ spiritual mediums help people navigate with the uncertainties of the future. One such medium, Prem (42), heals people in trauma and anxiety through a spiritual session and empowers herself despite of her isolation.

SYNOPSIS

Thailand has an alternative form of psychiatric therapy — a spiritual session. In a closed, intimate space, People sit with a spiritual medium who gets possessed by the deceased and ancestral spirits. Those mediums, talking in the voice of the dead during the sessions, heal people from their mental distress.

A mother, whose son has just been killed by a motorbike accident, comes to the session to talk with him for the last time. A soldier, who exiled from Myanmar and lost his hope, seeks for a mental help. And a businessman, who has lost his fortune in the trade business, asks spirits for a way to get back his money.

Prem (42) is one of the most respected shamans in Thailand. Everyday, not only locals but politicians too come to her sessions. Since she partners with a popular TV show as a spiritual consultant, Prem gains fame and fortune. She is a transgender and part of the new trend in which LGBTQ+ people become shamans. Having gained a new role in society, gender non-binary spiritual mediums empower themselves. However, Prem is still a victim of discrimination in the apparent LGBTQ+ friendly country. Living in an exclusive LGBTQ+ shaman community, she suffers from her isolation and loneliness.

This film TRANSITER brings unrevealed spiritual sessions on screen. By doing so, it depicts psychological Healing Process of people in the political conflict over democracy and sexual liberation in Thailand — regardless spiritual mediums and their customers. The film is dedicated to anyone, out of track in life and trying to take it back.

MORIFILM



asian cultural council

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CONCEPT

In the uncertain era of the world, caused by wars, pandemic and the emergence of AI, we are disconnected from our soul. Especially in the Western world, highly industrialised and isolated, a return journey to spirituality is demanded. This film presents an alternative way of Healing Process, transiting over the border of body and mind and overcoming the gender binary. This film TRANSITER goes beyond just an anthropological research on spirituality in a southeastern country and becomes the mirror that reflects our universal world.

IMPACT

A film on Spirituality in connection with Sexuality is rare. With the new fresh theme, I believe this film will give large impact to a wide variety of global audiences, who have awareness in the two topics both in trend. In a collaboration with Edoardo Siani, the scholar at Ca' Foscari University of Venice, we also aim at benefiting the cultural research in Southeast Asian study, holding screenings in academic and educational space. We will also organise screenings in local venues to contribute to Thai local communities and dedicate the film to LGBTQ+ rights organisations.

STORYTELLING/VISUAL

This film uses a series of spiritual sessions as the central stage - "zones" in which audience immerse themselves with a deep sense of presence and intimacy. Making use of close-ups and shot/reverse shot with a cinematic lens, we guide viewers closer into the spiritual world. Between the sessions, the individual stories of the spiritual mediums and customers will be narrated.

TEAM

Director & Producer — Arata Mori (Japan)

Arata Mori's creative practice crosses over the fields of documentary filmmaking, dance-theatre, architecture and visual arts. His creative documentary film "A Million" was premiered at the 64th Dok Leipzig. He also co-directs the feature documentary "Johatsu - the Missing" with Andreas Hartmann, co-produced by BR/ARTE. Mori is the 2022 grantee of ACC fellowship, working as a freelance director for NHK and WOWOW.

Co-Producer — Andreas Hartmann (OSSA FILM, Germany) , TBD (Thailand)



FORUM & LAB

Dokfest Munich Marketplace
European Social Documentary
Docs by the Sea

AWARD

DAE Award (Pitching Award of Docs by
the Sea)

PARTNER & FUND

Asian Cultural Council
GVL Neustart Kultur

STAGE

Development Stage
(In search for development fund, co-
producer, broadcaster, distribution)

FORMAT

Feature-length Documentary Film and
TV Documentary (90' & 52')

TEASER

<https://vimeo.com/890206189>
(Password: sc321)