



WONDERFUL TOWN



a film by **Aditya Assarat**

release date: winter 2008

Fresh from winning the Tiger Award at the Rotterdam Film Festival, *Wonderful Town* is a film about a rural community following the aftermath of the tsunami which destroyed the tourist industry. Local girl, Na runs a small hotel where every day is more or less the same until one day Ta arrives. Ta is an architect from the city who has come to oversee the building of a new development and very slowly the two build a friendship that develops into something more romantic. But this flash of happiness is too painful for some of the town-folk and in particular, Na's brother. As they conspire to destroy the love affair it raises the question of whether the bitter town can ever be wonderful again.

Cast: Anchalee Saisoontorn, Supphasit Kansen

Running time: 92 minutes



17 Blossom Street
London
E1 6PL

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F +(0)20 7377 1406

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DIRECTORS STATEMENT

Wonderful Town was inspired by the town of Takua Pa in the south of Thailand. It was here that 8000 people perished in the 2004 tsunami. But when I went to visit two years later, there was a strange feeling. The town was very peaceful and beautiful. All the reminders of the tsunami were gone, as if the people wanted to throw away the memory. The roads were repaved, the houses were rebuilt, the coconut trees swayed in the breeze as always. But though the town looked new, the people were not. I felt that everyone was still walking around in a daze, like they just woke up and couldn't remember how to get home. The town's economy was still ruined as the tourists had not returned to the beaches. It was a strange sadness – a town of sadness. So it was this atmosphere that I wanted to document. It's my own way of making a tsunami movie.

Director Aditya Assarat

Aditya Assarat holds a masters degree from the University of Southern California. He started making short films, which were invited to numerous acclaimed festivals including Clermont-Ferrand, Sundance, and the New York Film Festival. In 2004, he was invited to attend the Sundance Director's Lab, a training ground for promising filmmakers from around the world. In 2005, he was chosen to work for one year with Mira Nair as part of the Rolex Mentor and Protégé Arts Initiative. During the mentorship he also co-directed the documentary **3 Friends** which screened at Toronto and Pusan. In 2007, his debut feature film **Wonderful Town**, supported by the Hubert Bals Fund, won the New Currents Award at its world premiere in Pusan.



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2009 High Society 2007 Wonderful Town 2005 3 Friends (co-director) 2005 The Sigh (short) 2004 Boy Genius (short) 2003 Waiting (short) 2001 Motorcycle (short)

Producers

Soros Sukhum

Soros Sukhum holds a bachelors degree from Rangsit University's faculty of Communication Arts. After graduation he worked as assistant to the producer Mingmongkol Sonakul gaining knowledge in all areas of film management and production. Now with almost ten years work experience, he is regarded as one of the most versatile independent producers working with both established directors as well as newcomers. Most recently he produced Wonderful Town and Silencio, a short film commissioned by the Ministry of Art and Culture to commemorate His Majesty the King's 80 th Birthday. His next project is **The Sparrow**, director Anocha Suwichakornpong's HAF 2007 project supported by the Hubert Bals Fund shooting through 2008. Following this,he will work again with Aditya Assarat on their new film **High Society**.

2009 High Society 2008 The Sparrow 2007 Wonderful Town 2007 Silencio 2006 Always 2006 Graceland 2005 Ordinary Romance

Jetnipith Teerakulchanyut

Jetnipith Teerakulchanyut is a member of the pioneering group of filmmakers of the Thai independent new wave. After receiving her BA in business administration from Ramkamhaeng University in 1999, she answered a wanted ad in the local newspaper to be an assistant for Apichatpong Weerasethakul's **Mysterious Object at Noon**. Since then, Wei has continued to work as a unit production manager on many independent films including Apichatpong's **Blissfully Yours**, Pimpaka Towira's **One Night Husband**, and Mingmongkol Sonakul's **I-san Special** which has screened at numerous festivals. Most recently



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she was the production manager for Penek Ratanaruang's **Invisible Waves** and the producer of **Wonderful Town**.

2009 High Society 2007 Wonderful Town 2006 Graceland

Cast & Crew

Starring: Anchalee Saisoontorn Supphasit Kansan

Featuring:

Dul Yaambunying

Sorawit Poolsawat

Prateep Hanudomlap

Chatchai Sae-aong

Panumas Sae-bae

Piyanut Pakdeechat

Noppong Sae-aong

Aroon Uisakul

Written and Directed by: Aditya Assarat

Producers: Soros Sukhum Jetnipith Teerakulchanyut

Cinematographer: Umpornpol Yugala

Production Designer: Karanyapas Khamsin

Assistant Director: Monaiya Tarasak

Costume Designer: Thanon Songsil

Editor: Lee Chatametikool

Sound Designer: Akritchalerm Kalayanamitr

Original Music Score: Koichi Shimizu Zai Kuning



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