

VISRA VICHIT-VADAKAN

Tisch School of the Arts
Master of Fine Arts, May 2010
Film & Television



Visra is an emerging Thai film director, screenwriter, and educator. She is part of a new wave of Thai artists passionate about their individual art, but also dedicated to shaping a community of young people who teach compassion and encourage social action and social responsibility through their work. Visra's artistic influences began at an early age at the Thai National Theater. Her grandfather, Luang Wichitwathakan, a progressive playwright and politician, instilled a sense of responsibility and commitment to a greater social well being in her through his work as an artist and government official.

Visra graduated from Stanford University with a Bachelor of Arts in Human Biology, which provided her with an interdisciplinary approach to understanding the human being from a biological, behavioral, social, and cultural perspective. Visra continued her studies at The Stanford University School of Education, earning a MA in International Education Administration and Policy Analysis, a degree, which later led her to work at an education think tank for the Royal Government of Thailand.

At Stanford, Visra was also a member of Stanford Taiko, a collegiate performing ensemble devoted to bringing awareness of taiko, the art of Japanese drumming, to the greater community. She was Artistic Director of Stanford Taiko in 2003. In 2004, she organized an international tour for the group in Thailand where they performed at schools in Bangkok and Northern Thailand, and also at the National Theater.

When the Asian Tsunami hit Thailand in December 2004, Visra volunteered as a translator for foreign medical rescue teams and victims of the catastrophe. She later worked as a research assistant for the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for South-East Asia (SEARO) where she traveled to areas in Sri Lanka and Thailand to assess SEARO's response to the needs of the local communities affected by the disaster.

After graduating from Stanford University, Visra returned to Thailand and worked for the Royal Government of Thailand under the Office of Knowledge Management and Development (OKMD), a think tank promoting creative distribution of the country's knowledge base through alternative museums and libraries, and through creative learning media including film. Visra worked closely with the Thai Film Foundation on archival projects and youth filmmaking outreach programs. She was also involved with Thailand's first government sponsored educational virtual reality games, intended for distribution to all public schools across the country.

Visra is involved with The Mirror Art Group, a non-profit NGO that works with ethnic hill tribe minority communities to combat issues of drug abuse, cultural erosion, and trafficking of women and children.

Visra began her film career as an actor in an independent film and later moved on to direct her own films. Her first short film, *rise*, was screened at the Thai Short Film and Video Festival in 2006 where it gained the attention of internationally known film critic Jit Phokaew who chose *rise* as one of the top Thai short films that year. She is currently pursuing a Master of Fine Arts in film at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts.

Visra aspires to couple her background in education and film to nurture a community of artists and activists who will act as mentors for the next generations of young emerging filmmakers. She is inspired and committed to creating a network of filmmakers who will use their talents to bring positive social change to their communities.

VISRA VICHIT-VADAKAN

WORK EXPERIENCE

Thailand Knowledge Park, Office of Knowledge Management and Development, Royal Government of Thailand, Bangkok, Thailand

Project Manager, Jan. 2005 – Jan. 2006

- Managed film archival projects, production of learning materials for film, and youth filmmaking outreach programs, and Science film festival
- Managed digital learning content such as an online library and interactive educational computer programs including virtual reality games

Thai Short Film, Bangkok, Thailand

Director – “rise”, 2006

- Screened at the Thai Short Film and Video Festival

World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for South-east Asia (SEARO) and Thammasat University, Bangkok, Thailand

Research Assitant, Sept. 2005- Jan. 2005

- Assessed SEARO’s response to tsunami affected areas, particularly Sri Lanka and Thailand
- Traveled to refugee camps in both countries to interview people affected by the disaster

Director Greg Watkins, San Francisco, CA

Actor- “Even Now”, June – Aug. 2004

The Mirror Art Group, Chiangmai, Thailand

Consultant- Virtual Hill Tribe Museum Project, 2003 – Present

- Travel to ethnic hill tribe areas in Northern Thailand to meet with organization to structure digital content and plan educational strategies and funding strategies

Professor Mark Mancall, Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA

Teaching Assistant for Sophomore College Seminar, “How is a Buddhist?” Aug. 2003

- Traveled with professor Mancall to Bhutan on and overseas studies program in 2005

Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand

Researcher, 2003

- Traveled across Thailand to research the prevalence of smoking in secondary school children

Privy Council, Royal Government of Thailand, Bangkok, Thailand

Intern, June – Aug. 2002

- Assistant to Dr. Kasem Watanachai, advisor on culture an education.

Office of the Minister, Ministry of Education, Royal Government of Thailand, Bangkok, Thailand

Intern, June – Aug. 2001

- Assessed the implementation of new education reform policies in local schools across Thailand

ACTIVITIES

Stanford Taiko, Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA

Performing Artist/Artistic Director (2003), Oct. 2000 – May 2004

- Taught and performed the art of Japanese ensemble drumming
- Organized performance tours in Thailand

EDUCATION

New York University, Tisch School of the Arts, New York, NY

Candidate for Masters of Fine Arts, May 2010

Film and Television

Concentration: Directing

Stanford University, Stanford University School of Education, Palo Alto, CA

Master of Arts, 2005

Concentration: International Education Administration and Policy Analysis

Monograph: "Buddhist and Western Discourses on Measurement and Evaluation: a comparative analysis of two textbooks"

Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA

Bachelor of Arts, 2005

Major: Human Biology

DISTINCTIONS AND AFFILIATIONS

- NYU Reynolds Graduate Fellowship in Social Entrepreneurship, 2008
- Thai-American Intercultural Society, Stanford University, Member and Cultural Chairperson (2003 -2004), September 2000 – May 2005

PUBLICATIONS

- "Prevalence of Smoking and Related Factors in School Students", Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand
- " A Comprehensive Evaluation of the SEARO Response to Southeast Asian Region" (SEARO internal publication)