



PRESS RELEASE

The fifth annual Luang Prabang Film Festival concluded its 5-day program on December 10th, screening to crowds well above 1,500 at its night venue this year.

“My whole family comes to see the films,” said Sai, a local in Luang Prabang. “It is the only chance we have to see films on the big screen and so all year we look forward to this one week when we all can watch.”

Opening night kicked off with the World Premiere of *VIENTIANE IN LOVE*, an omnibus film by Vannaphone Sitthirath, Anysay Keola, Xaisongkham Induangchanthy, and Phanumad Disattha. When the festival’s iconic blue chairs were all full, crowds took their seats on the surrounding grass, with some even climbing trees for better perspective.

In the four nights to follow, films from Thailand, Cambodia, and Laos screened to equally wide audiences with a large draw coming from the popular *PEE MAK PHRAKANONG*, which played big in Thailand as well.

Crowds also packed into the Day Venue over the 5-day event, which, this year, was held in a traditional wooden house at the fabulous Hotel de la Paix. With a capacity of only 60 people, many resorted to standing at the back of the theatre or found seats on the floor in order to watch LPFF’s program this year.

The festival continued its commitment to offering a full range of film-related events for the audience and visiting filmmakers in the form of talks with masters and public panel discussions. Hollywood filmmaker Steve Lim (*BORN ON THE 4TH OF JULY, INSIDE JOB*) led a discussion about his vast industry experience and visiting documentary filmmaker Adrian Belic (*GENGHIS BLUES, BEYOND THE CALL*) was also on hand for one-on-one discussion with Lao filmmakers.

Many of the filmmakers screening their works in this year’s program also participated in Q&As following their films, including Sanif Olek (*SAYANG DISAYANG*) who spoke with passion about Singapore’s broad interpretation of cuisine, and how this inspired his film. Daniel Ziv (*JALANAN*) talked about his own learning curve during the making of his widely played documentary about three musicians making their living on the streets of Jakarta. Keith Deligero (*ISKALAWAGS*) talked about film funding in the Phillipines, Azharr Rudin (*THE BOATBUILDERS OF MERMAID ISLAND*) and Nguyen Thi Tham (*MADAM PHUNG’S LAST JOURNEY*) were also on hand to discuss their process in filmmaking. Major Cineplex led a discussion about film distribution in Thailand and marketing towards the needs of local audiences.

All in all, there were 27 feature films from all over Southeast Asia screened at this year’s festival, as well as four distinct shorts programs that included films from Tropfest Southeast Asia, Chopshots, documentaries about wildlife protection from Laos’ second American Film Week, as well as from the first Mini-Vientianale, a shorts film festival that screens titles exclusively from LPFF’s home country of Lao PDR.

For more information, please see the project’s website (www.lpfilmfest.org), or its Facebook page (www.facebook.com/lpfilmfest).