

TONY JAA WARRIOR KING

IN CINEMAS FROM
28th JULY 06

VISIT [HTTP://WWW.WARRIORKINGMOVIE.CO.UK](http://www.warriorkingmovie.co.uk)

SHAMONGKOLFILM INTERNATIONAL
PRESENTS

A BAA-RAM-EWE PRODUCTION

TONY JAA
IN
"TOM - YUM - GOONG"

PHETTHAI WONGKHAMLAO, BONGKOD KONGMALAI, JIN XING, TRI NGUYEN
NATHAN B JONES, LATEEF CROWDER, JONATHAN PATRICK FOO

PRODUCTION DESIGNER
AKADECH KAEWKOT

COSTUME DESIGNER
EKABHUME NGANCHAMANG

ORIGINAL SCORE BY
ZOMKIAT ARIYACHAIPANICH
SASIS MILLINDAVANIJ

EDITOR
MARUT SEELACHAROEN

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY
NUTTAWUT KITTIKUN

MARTIAL ARTS AND STUNT CHOREOGRAPHY BY
PANNA RITHIKRAI
TONY JAA

STORY BY
PRACHYA PINKAEW

WRITTEN BY
NAPALEE PIYAROS THONGDEE, JOE WANNAPIN
KONGDEJ JATURANRASMEE

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER
SITA VOSBIEN

PRODUCERS
PRACHYA PINKAEW AND SUKANYA VONGSTHAPAT

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER
SOMSAK TECHARATANAPRASERT

DIRECTED BY
PRACHYA PINKAEW

Running time: 110 mins

INTERNATIONAL SALES
GOLDEN NETWORK ASIA LIMITED

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Cast

Kham.....Tony Jaa
Sergeant Mark.....Phetthai Wongkhamlao
Pla..... Bongkod Kongmalai
Goong.....Amonphan Gongtragan
Madame Rose.....Jin Xing
T K..... Nathan B Jones
Johnny..... Tri Nguyen
Vincent.....Damain De Montemas
Officer Rick..... David Chatchavan Asavanod
Madame Rose's Lead Capoeira Fighter..... Lateef Crowder
Madame Rose's Lead Wu Shu Fighter Jonathan Patrick Foo
Kham's Father..... Sotorn Rungruaeng
Fortune Teller..... Winai Poonpermonsiri
Kham (9 Years old)..... Nutdanai Kong
Por Yai (Bull Elephant).....Sambat the Elephant
Korn (Elephant Calf).....Yoyo and Singha

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The characters

Kham played by Tony JAA

Kham is a young villager in his early twenties. He lives in a simple yet happy way with his father and their two elephants. Kham is an honest, sincere and diligent man. His ancestry traces back to an elite group of soldiers known as the Jaturungkabart, who fought alongside the Thai Sovereignty in many great wars. The knowledge and martial arts gained by these great warriors was passed down through the eons until it eventually came to rest on one man, Kham, the last remaining Jaturungkabart.

Sergeant Mark played by Phetthai WONGKHAMLAO

Sergeant Mark is an experienced Australia-based Thai policeman; Sergeant Mark's primary task during his long career has been to take care of Asian immigrants living in and around the Australian city of Sydney. He is a down-to-earth guy who uses his experience and instincts to cope with the problems he confronts every day. Though his methods are unorthodox, he believes totally in the justice system.

Pla played by Bongkod KONGMALAI (Tuk)

Pla is a beautiful, young Thai student living in Sydney who has been forced into a life of prostitution. It's her tragedy that the life she leads has brought her into contact with the wrong side of the law. Pla is a victim of circumstance who seizes the chance to change her fate.

Madame Rose played by JIN Xing

The villainous Madame Rose is a transsexual and godmother of the Sydney underworld. She was born male but always felt like a woman trapped in a man's body. Her drive to become a fully fledged woman led to her having an operation which completely transformed her body and appearance. Madame Rose is obsessed with things of beauty, but actually her heart is evil and as cold as ice. She is highly skilled in martial arts and has a large crew of henchmen to back her up. Madame Rose plans to kill Mister Sim, her very own uncle, and take over the family's crime empire.

Johnny played by Tri NGUYEN

Johnny is of Vietnamese descent and is employed as one of Madame Rose's underlings; his main duty is to take care of the Tom-Yum-Goong Restaurant using any means necessary. He is a compulsive liar who will use every dirty trick in the book to get what he wants. He has a long history of undertaking illegal activities under the guidance of Madame Rose.

Officer Rick played by David Chatchavan ASAVANOD

Rick is Sergeant Mark's partner, one of a new breed of police officers. He is very sincere, honest and always goes by the book.

TK played by Nathan B. JONES

TK is Madame Rose's private bodyguard. An intimidating, almost machine-like figure, TK is physically huge, and a man of few words. He has a high level of knowledge of various fighting techniques.

Por Yai played by Sambat the Elephant

Por Yai is an elephant who has been raised by Kham and his father. He is a magnificent beast of almost perfect proportions, so wondrous that he resembles an elephant owned by Thai royalty.

Korn played by the Elephants Yoyo and Singha

Korn is Por Yai's calf. Korn has also been raised by Kham and his father, but has an even closer bond with Kham. Kham and Korn seem to consider each other brothers as they have never left each other's side since the day Korn was born.

Madame Rose's Henchman #1 played by Lateef CROWDER

One of Madame Rose's bodyguards. Exceptional in the art of Capoeira.

Madame Rose's Henchman #2 played by Jonathan Patrick FOO

One of Madame Rose's bodyguards. Exceptional in the art of Wu Shu.

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The Cast

Tony JAA (Kham)



Ong Bak's success earned Tony Jaa worldwide recognition for his expertise in the art known as Muay Thai. He made his name performing action scenes without wires or stunt doubles. He is now mentioned in the same breath as his idols Bruce LEE, Jackie CHAN and Jet LI.

Tony JAA was born in rural Surin province, about 200 kilometers from Bangkok. His father was a Muay Thai boxer who had boxed in the villages all over Surin. He took up martial arts at age 10. And from the age of 11 or 12, Tony dreamt of being

Jackie Chan. After seeing Chan once in a movie, he knew in his heart that was what he wanted to be. He began practicing martial arts every spare minute.

As he entered Junior High School at the age of 15, he saw something that would change his life forever. It was an action movie named "Born to Fight", the original version made in 1984. The production was both directed by and starred Panna Rithikrai. Now realizing that there were real opportunities for action stars in Thailand, Tony began to study with even more vigor and gusto, sometimes even missing meals just so he could practice that much longer.

After graduating from Junior High, Tony made a clear cut decision that he was going to become an actor. He asked permission from his father to ask Panna Rithikrai, who was shooting in nearby Khon Kaen province, if he could become his student. The very next day, at The Hotel Kan Inn, Tony got his first chance to meet his idol, Panna. Panna suggested that Tony should first concentrate on finishing his studies, but if Tony wanted to, he would be welcome to join Panna for training sessions during his mid and end of term breaks.

Over the next 3 years, Tony gained much experience from being on location with Panna. He started as the water boy, and then moved his way up to best boy on location. In between his duties, Tony still found plenty of time to concentrate on his Martial Arts training.

After graduating from Senior High, Panna suggested that Tony should further his education at the University of Physical Education in Sarakam Province. Whilst at University Tony studied various different forms of martial arts including Taekwondo, Muay Thai, Stick and Sword Fighting, and gymnastics as well as many other kinds of sports. Furthermore, every weekend Tony would still find time to travel to Khon Kaen and train with Panna. Panna realized that Tony had enormous potential and offered him the chance to become a stuntman on his team.

Tony managed to combine the artistic elements of film with the martial arts he learned at university into a seamless whole. By using the basic gymnastics that can be found in all forms of action, he redefined Muay Thai and used this new art form in unison with traditional Thai weapons. He

formed a team which gave performances throughout various high schools in the north eastern provinces of Thailand. He created and became the chairman of a local sword team and later became an exchange student in China, gaining the scholarship because of his expertise in Thai martial arts. He also became the University of Physical Education's representative throughout the north-eastern part of Thailand and the city of Bangkok. For several years he won gold medals for the staff, sword, gymnastics and track & field events (sprinting, long jump and high jump).

During this time he was offered his first chance to play a bit part in a feature movie. He performed stunt work on the Thai TV series "Golden Eagle", and doubled for Robin SHOU in the shot-in-Thailand "Mortal Kombat: Annihilation". He has also starred in "Sing Siam" (1991), Directed by Panna Rithikrai

"Ong Bak" is his first starring role. Tony finally added his native sport to his physical repertoire, and began training in ancient Muay Thai four years ago, specifically for his role in "Ong Bak". On its release, the film, on which he also worked as fight choreographer, became a smash hit and it established Tony as Thailand's top action actor.

His screen name Tony Jaa was given by Director Prachya Pinkaew. The 'T' in Tony comes from Thailand and 'JAA' is his nickname in Thai. He is more known as 'JAA Panom' in Thailand than Tony Jaa. The word 'JAA' comes from a language in the northeastern part of Thailand, from a group of people that migrated to the area. 'JAA' is similar to the sound made when calling out to someone. The name 'Panom' comes from the word meaning to clasp both hands together.

People across the globe are waiting to see what new forms of extreme Muay Thai Tony Jaa will come up with in the forthcoming "Warrior King"

Phetthai WONGKHAMLAO (Sergeant Mark)

Phetthai Wongkhamlao entered the entertainment world on the Thai Thep Pongam comedy circuit before starting his own comedy troupe. This enterprise secured a successful future for him and also provided opportunities for many youngsters in the field.

Over the years, Phetthai has appeared in a number of comedic ghost stories which, though aimed at the lower end of the market, succeeded in bringing his name to the forefront of the industry.



His talent was finally rewarded when he was given the chance to work in a higher budget action comedy named "Killer Tattoo". It was after this success that Phetthai, now a household name, starred in "Ong Bak".

The next year Phetthai Wongkhamlao was given the chance to direct his own picture, the extremely funny and very popular, "The Bodyguard".

His role as a police sergeant in "Warrior King" has once again proven to the audience that Phetthai Wongkhamlao is one of the best comedians in Thailand.



Tuk Bongkod KONGMALAI (Pla)

Tuk began her movie career with a major role in the period action film, Thanit JITNUKUL's blockbuster "Bang Rajan" (2001), when she was only 15 years old and "Kunpan" (2002) from the same director.

She became famous very quickly in her native Thailand thanks to her sensational curves and the sensuous love scenes that have become her trademark. However, it was her genuine acting talent that gave her the career she has today.

In "Warrior King", Tuk will shed her 'historical' look and be transformed into a beautiful, young girl who has fallen on hard times, finding herself trapped in a dangerous and heartbreaking profession.

Her other credits include Thanakorn PONGSUWAN 's "The Story of X-Circle" (2004), Sanajit BANGSAPAN's "Hitman File" (2005) and PANG BROTHERS' "The Eye 10" (Hong Kong, 2005).

David Chatchavan ASAVANOD (Officer Rick)

David gained his bachelor's degree in America, majoring in psychology. A rising star on the Thai entertainment scene, he debuts in the film "Warrior King" and he works very well alongside one of Thailand's greatest comedians, Phetthai Wongkhamlao.

Besides starring in movies, David is a model, DJ, TV presenter, credits including presenting for Living Fashion, D1 & Only, and Fashion Update all on the Chic Channel. He does advertising campaigns for UBC Inside, Toshiba and Buddy Dean. He also has a role in a Thai TV series, "Fead Pii Faad Nong".



JIN Xing (Madame Rose)



Jin Xing the son of Korean immigrants was born in 1969 in Liaoning, Shenyang, China. He entered the Chinese military academy at the tender age of 9 on a classical dancing scholarship. At first his parents were against the move, but after much persuasion Jin Xing managed to convince them to let him go. Apart from the standard training one receives at the military academy Jin Xing also studied Russian ballet, classical Chinese dancing and acrobatics. But, Jin Xing was suffering. Even when he was a child Jin Xing knew that he was a girl trapped inside a boy's body. It took Jin Xing an immense amount of time, courage, patience and rejection before he could eventually persuade the extremely conservative Chinese government to allow him to become a fully fledged woman.

Jin Xing quickly worked his way up through the military and at the young age of 17 had already attained the rank of Colonel. On a personal level Jin Xing was officially regarded as China's

paramount dancer. In 1988 Jin Xing's life changed dramatically when he received a one-year scholarship from the Modern Dance Company in New York. Whilst there he had the opportunity to study under some of the greatest theatrical artists of the time such as Merce Cunningham, Martha Graham, Murry Louise and Jose Limon.

After receiving accolade after accolade in The United States Jin Xing took a teaching position at The Centre for Expressive Dancing in Rome. After his tenure in Rome expired at the end of 1993 Jin Xing began touring the world as a dancer / choreographer. In 1994 Jin Xing founded the Beijing Modern Dance Ensemble which was followed in 2000 by the Shanghai Jin Xing Dance Theatre.

Now she is a ballerina and contemporary dancer, well known in China and Europe and whose Ballet troupe performs in China, France and countries all over the world.

Dancer, choreographer, and entrepreneur, but above all, the most celebrated transsexual in China, Jin Xing was a man until 1995 when he made the momentous decision to become a woman at the age of 27, now she is 36.

In the film "Warrior King" she plays Madame Rose, a mafia boss based in Australia. She is the reason Tony Jaa finds himself fighting for his life in a foreign land.

Her film credits include, "Resurrection of the Little Match Girl", a film by JANG Sun-woo, South Korea (2002); "Colonel Jin Xing", a documentary video by Sylvie LEVEY, France (2001) and "Miss Jin Xing", a film by ZHANG Yuan, China, (2000) Warrior King (2005)

Tri NGUYEN (Johnny)

Tri Nguyen is of mixed Vietnamese-European descent. He is very talented in the arts of Wu Shu, Aikido, Kung Fu, Tai Chi, Fencing and is skilled with many weapons, including the sword and lance. He was a member of US National Wu Shu Team for 2 consecutive terms. In 1998 he was awarded gold medals at Pan America Games in the category of Form and Swordmanship.



He first joined the film industry as a stunt double, working on such TV series as "Mortal Kombat: Conquest" (1998), and Hollywood films such as "Spiderman" (2002) and "Spiderman 2" (2004). Johnny is also a stunt co-coordinator for "Nudity Required: (2003). Johnny went on to play minor roles in "We Were Soldiers" (2002), "Cradle 2 the Grave" (2003), "Ella Enchanted" (2004), "Spiderman 2" (2004) and Max Havoc: Curse of the Dragon" (2004). He also appeared in TV shows such as "Alias"; and "Buffy: The Vampire Slayer"

Nathan B. JONES (T.K.)



A 35 year old Australian wrestler and known in his hometown as 'Megaman'. He has won the Scottish Highland Games and in April 7, 2002, he won the WWA Heavyweight title. He is a member of World Wrestling Association (WWA) and Union of Professional Wrestlers (UPW). He represented Australia in "The World's Strongest Man" contest in the United States. Whilst in the US, Nathan studied wrestling at the world renowned WWF wrestling camp, but eventually decided he would prefer to live in his home country of Australia.

His first break in the film industry came when he appeared in Jackie CHAN's "First Strike" (1997). Later he would perform in many televised wrestling programs. Nathan's recent roles include the giant that Brad PITT defeats in the first scene of the epic "Troy" (2004) and in Jet LI's "Fearless" (2006)

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a PRACHYA PINKAEW film

Production Notes

Introduction

Sahamongkolfilm International and Baa-Ram-Ewe jointly present the eagerly awaited action film of 2005: "Warrior King"

The movie reunites the hit team from "Ong Bak", including executive producer Somsak TECHARATANAPRASERT, director Prachya PINKAEW, martial arts and stunt choreographer Panna RITHIKRAI, comic star Phetthai WONGKHAMLAO and our action hero Tony JAA. In terms of overall production value, "Warrior King" will be even bigger and better than "Ong Bak".

"Ong Bak" has become a legend, with its outstanding display of stunt work and stunning depiction of the awesome art of Muay Thai. It was an instant hit with audiences all over the world, attracting great recognition and making Tony Jaa an overnight sensation.

"Ong Bak" received awards in the Best Asian Action Film category at the 2004 Festival Du Film Asiatique De Deauville in France, and won the Best Asian Film Award at the Sitges Fantastic Film Festival 2003 in Spain.

In 2003, after earning more 6 million USD gross box office takings during its Thai theatrical release, the blockbuster "Ong Bak" went on to gross 6.5 million USD in France; 4.73 million USD in North America; over 4 million USD in Japan; over 2 million USD in Spain; 1.3 million USD in Hong Kong, and near 1 million USD in Korea.

In order to continue this new tradition of Thai action cinema, the dream team on "Ong Bak" dedicated themselves to creating a production that would outdo its predecessor. This reunion of talent will bring to the screen a production more powerful than any previous martial arts film and once again raise the bar in terms of high impact international cinema.

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Background

'Tom Yum Goong' is a very famous and delicious soup in Thailand, it is hot and sour, served with prawns and lemongrass-and thought of as the classic Thai dish. In the movie, it is the name of the restaurant in Sydney, Australia, which is run by Madame Rose.

The movie "Warrior King" stresses the cultural relationship between man and elephant, the elephant being just as important as Muay Thai as a symbol of Thailand. In "Warrior King", Tony Jaa will perform a lot of Muay Thai moves that he didn't do in "Ong Bak".

"Warrior King" is the story of a young man named Kham (Tony Jaa) whose life is turned upside down when an international mafia syndicate, based in Australia, captures his two beloved elephants and smuggles them thousands of kilometers away to Sydney. The two elephants are far more than mere animals to Kham and his father. They are part of the family and were being prepared to be presented as a token of devotion to his Majesty the King of Thailand. The only way Kham can possibly save the animals is by venturing into a foreign land for the first time.

Taking on a mafia group to rescue two elephants from a foreign country presents a huge challenge, even for a martial arts master like Kham. Despite the help of Sergeant Mark (Phetthai Wongkhamlao), a Thai police Sergeant based in Australia, and Pla (Bongkod Kongmalai), a Thai girl forced into modern day slavery, the going gets tough. They must take on the ruthless gang of Madame Rose (Jin Xing), whose henchmen include Johnny (Tri Nguyen), a Vietnamese thief and martial arts expert, and the hulking TK (Nathan B Jones).

Kham has no choice but to risk his own life for the animals he loves...

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Synopsis



As a young boy, Kham had only his father and the elephants for family. Kham treated 'Por Yai' the bull elephant like a surrogate father and 'Korn' the calf like his own brother. The four of them lead a simple but happy village life, living from day to day. Por Yai is a majestic animal, big and powerful yet tender and loving. Kham's father would often say it would be a dream come true if he could one day present Por Yai to his Majesty the King of Thailand as a token of his esteemed devotion. Kham learned much from his father, who taught him the way of the Jaturungkabart, which his ancestors had followed for hundreds of years. A Jaturungkabart was one of the most revered soldiers in the Thai Army: they would stand proudly at each leg of all the royal elephants guarding them from cowardly attacks by enemy soldiers. Sat upon one of these proud elephants would be the reigning king; if any of the legs were struck by enemy soldiers the life of the king would most definitely be in great danger. The Jaturungkabart were masters of weaponry and Muay Thai. From his earliest memory, Kham can recall watching his father practicing the ancient moves of his ancestors.

Kham's father had become quite excited in the days before the Thai Water Festival, Songkran. He was so certain his beloved elephant was majestic enough to enter the royal gardens that he went to the village headman, Sia Suthep, to ask for his opinion. Unbeknownst to Kham's father, Sia Suthep was heavily involved with organised crime, and particularly with smuggling endangered animals overseas. Sia Suthep manages to convince Kham's aging father that, though the elephant may be fine enough to present to the king, it must first be thoroughly checked to see if it matches all the right criteria. Sia Suthep uses this as a ploy to get Kham's father and the elephant to an area where he could eventually steal the elephant, even if it costs the old man his life.

Kham learns of this treachery and burning with rage, eventually discovers the location of Sia Suthep's Bangkok hideout. A battle ensues in which Kham discovers the intended destination of his beloved elephants.....Australia.

Kham travels to the unfamiliar environment of Sydney in search of the elephants which are now in the possession of Madame Rose, a ruthless mafia boss with a fetish for rare and endangered creatures. Kham comes into contact with a Thai police officer, Mark, and an unfortunate Thai working girl, Pla. Kham enlists the aid of Mark to help rescue his elephants and bring down the mafia figures who stole them. Pla learns that the thugs who stole Kham's elephants are the same ones who forced her into prostitution. Now Kham is her only hope in her bid to once again lead a normal life.

On his search for Por Yai and Korn, Kham is confronted by numerous thugs, hooligans, henchmen and even corrupt police officers. He has to fight his way through a horde of extreme sports enthusiasts, multitudes of martial arts experts, and a giant Australian fighter and even, in a single 4 minute shot, a brothel full of clients.

Finally Kham reaches Madame Rose, the mastermind behind the theft of his animals and the slavery of hundreds of young Thai girls. Once more he is blocked by the burly Australian T.K. but this time T.K. has brought help. In the final scene, Kham is surrounded by Madame Rose's best bodyguards and henchmen. Though already exhausted, Kham is forced to draw on the strength of his Jaturungkabarn ancestors. His refusal to give in, despite the odds, leads to an epic, brutal battle.

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Perceptions by the Crew

Prachya Pinkaew

Prachya Pinkaew explains the concept behind “Warrior King”

“Warrior King” is a reminder, it’s there to help Thai people think of their homeland. When we produced “Ong Bak”, it was all about Muay Thai and the things which Thai people respect or hold in high regard. This time round it’s all about culture. Of course, Muay Thai is a part of our culture but this is about the elephants and how, long ago, both elephants and Muay Thai were intermingled with each other and in turn were a part of our kingdom’s heritage. For his part, Tony Jaa will show a side of Muay Thai that was not seen in “Ong Bak”. The story is still relevant today and the audience will have a chance to see combat between Muay Thai and ‘K1’ style fighting, but this time the preparation has been much longer, harder and more intense than for “Ong Bak”, creating new moves as well as reviving some moves that had been previously lost.”



Prachya goes on to explain the technicalities of making “Warrior King” in Australia.

“A good proportion of the movie was shot in Sydney. We wanted to create something with more of an international feel to it and we wanted to capture the essence of the relationships between Thais and other nationalities. The first country that came to my mind was Australia. The ambience, setting and status of Sydney were perfect for what I had in mind as a truly global city. I flew out twice, searching for the right locations and contacting different production companies. I had numerous meetings on how I thought the movie should be made, including the locations and of course what supplies we needed to accomplish the concept that was in my mind. Most of the story was set in Sydney so we had to do the shooting there.”

“Once the decision was made to shoot in Sydney we knew we had to work under their rules and regulations. They are so different from our own, especially the union restrictions. At least 50% of the crew must be Australian, which meant we had to adapt our normal style of shooting quite a bit. There were many rules, regulations and restrictions that we were frankly not used to, but we had to become familiar with them. Once we understood how everything worked, there weren’t really any problems. We did manage to shoot everything within the schedule but I must admit a lot of time was consumed in endless meetings!”

The director turns his attention to the breathtaking locations which he and his team used and the impact which they will have when shown on the cinema screen.

“The first place anyone thinks about when they hear the word Australia is either the Sydney Opera House or Sydney Harbour Bridge, or both. The beauty of these two structures makes it almost obligatory to have them in our story. Almost every movie that has ever been shot in Sydney has at least one shot of them and they have been filmed from every conceivable angle, except one. For “Warrior King” I wanted to make something a bit more exciting, but I am not going to give the game away quite so soon. If you want to know what it is, you will have to watch the movie! Some of the other wonderful locations which we used were Darling Harbour, another Sydney landmark and a haven for tourists, as well as Thaitown and Chinatown, which are conveniently located quite near each other which made our lives a little bit easier.

Prachya gives us a glimpse into his personal feelings about the movie.

“Warrior King” is literally a dream come true for me. It has been extremely hard work but I wouldn’t change a thing. Everyone might be expecting a second “Ong Bak” but this is not it. “Warrior King” is very different. The roots are still there and, of course, we still aren’t using any wires or stunt doubles, but that is really where the similarity with “Ong Bak” ends. This is such an extreme film with such an amazing storyline. I am really proud of what has been accomplished. Everyone from every department did an amazing job.

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Perceptions by the Crew

Panna Rithikrai

Panna Rithikrai describes the concept behind “Warrior King”.

“Basically, the underlying concept is similar to “Ong Bak” in that there are ‘No wires, No CGI and No stunt doubles’ however there is one big difference: the budget. This time we could let our imaginations fly, anything that we thought of or dreamt up we could make happen. We used Sydney for most of the film and we wanted to see Tony Jaa jump really high with the Harbour Bridge as backdrop. Before, that would have been impossible, and even today it was extremely difficult, but after a lot of planning, we finally managed to get permission from the authorities in Australia to do the shot and I think the results are stunning. We did a lot of research into an ancient form of Muay Thai used by a very special band of soldiers known as the ‘Jaturungkabart’. The Jaturungkabart were soldiers who would stand at each leg of a royal elephant and whose task it was to protect the King, who would be sitting upon the elephant, whilst in battle. These soldiers were extremely skilled in martial arts; they were unsurpassed in their time. I found these ancient soldiers and their techniques to be fascinating and decided that they should be brought back to life which is why many of their techniques have been incorporated into “Warrior King”.



“Warrior King” is a hard hitting, super-charged, action picture and one scene in particular epitomizes the strength and determination that went into making “Warrior King”. ‘The four minute take’ shows off movie action at its most raw. Kham, played by Tony Jaa, is determined to confront the villains who have stolen his majestic elephants. To do so, he must first battle a barrage of assailants as he punches, kicks, jumps and throws his way up a four storey building. Panna Rithikrai explains more.

“We realized that the audience would have high hopes for “Warrior King”, both in terms of the storyline and the action scenes and we were not going to disappoint them. After a lot of preparation, everyone on the team came together to produce a 4 minute, non-stop, unedited action

sequence: that is extremely rare. Many movies do have what we call a long take, a long shot without cutting, but this one is different. Our long take concentrates on action not words; it's a full-blown martial arts scene which has never been attempted before. It is extremely difficult to try and keep the quality of the shot high whilst doing a long take like this. Great care and attention must be given to every part of the process, especially the actors' cues. If one person misses one cue then everything must start again and, as it is all about action and timing, the complexity is multiplied. A cameraman holding a single camera has to follow Tony's every step and everyone has to work in harmony. This scene was the hardest thing any of us had ever done and to be totally honest I wasn't sure if even someone as capable as Tony could do it, but in the end he pulled it off and it is a superb scene."

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Perceptions by the Crew

Tony Jaa



Tony Jaa explains how he feels about his previous success, in Ong Bak, and his upcoming movie “Warrior King”.

“Ong Bak” helped me to transform people’s perception of Muay Thai and the Thai Film Industry. The slogan ‘No wires, No stand-ins’ made people stand up and notice Ancient Muay Thai and in the process made me what I am today. I owe a considerable amount of gratitude to those who inspired me, including Bruce Lee, Jet Li, Jackie Chan and, of course, my instructor Panna Rithikrai. Before I could start filming “Warrior King”, I had to go through a rigorous 2-year training program. I had to learn thousands of new moves, blocks, kicks and jumps, perfecting them so that I might be able to capture their beauty and elegance on the screen. For Thai people and, indeed, everyone in every corner of the world, we have given our hearts and souls to this production: relying on the beauty, elegance and prowess that is Ancient Muay Thai, an art never before seen on film, and drawing on its magic to create “Warrior King”.’

Tony Jaa goes on to explain why he feels elephants are so important.

Ever since I was a child I have lived my life in harmony with elephants. They really are wonderful animals. Where I come from in Surin I actually have two elephants one is called ‘Leaf’ and the other is called ‘Flower’. Most people think that we treat elephants like large pets, but truthfully, they are more than pets, they are family. They are strong, friendly and caring. For me, the chance to show to the world how precious these giant animals are is extremely rewarding. One of my biggest ambitions is to eventually open a sanctuary for all elephants that are either abandoned or their owners no longer have the money to take care of them.

TONY JAA WARRIOR KING

IN CINEMAS FROM
28th JULY 06

VISIT [HTTP://WWW.WARRIORKINGMOVIE.CO.UK](http://www.warriorkingmovie.co.uk)

The crew

Director: Prachya Pinkaew



Born 2nd September 1962, Prachya graduated from Nakornratsima Technology College in 1985, majoring in Architecture.

Prachya Pinkaew began his career in 1990, working at Pack Shot Entertainment first as an art director and later as creative director. In 1992, he became a director for music videos and subsequently won several Best Music Video Awards at the Golden Television Awards in Thailand.

In 1992, Prachya had the opportunity to direct his first feature film, "The Magic Shoes" followed in 1994 by his second film "Romantic Blues".

Prachya's third movie, "Ong Bak", received a standing ovation at the Midnight Madness programme for the first time in the history of the Toronto Film Festival (2003). It was awarded the Action Asia Award at the Deauville Asian Film Festival (2004) and the Orient Express Award at the Catalonian International Film Festival, Sitges (2003). "Ong Bak" was the highest-grossing Thai film of 2003 and Prachya is considered a new leader in commercial Thai cinema. His fourth film, "Warrior King" is due to be released in 2005.

Since 1998, Prachya has focused on producing. He is the head of an independent production house, Baa-Ram-Ewe, which has an output deal with Sahamongkolfilm International Company Limited.

Filmography as Director:

1992	The Magic Shoes
1994	Romantic Blues
2003	Ong Bak
2005	Warrior King

Selected Filmography as Producer

2002	Body Jumper
2003	7's Heaven
2003	999-9999
2003	Sayew
2003	Unborn aka The Mother
2003	Takien
2004	Pisaj
2004	The Bodyguard
2004	Born To Fight
2005	7 Street Fighters
2005	Midnight My Love
2005	Crying Tiger
2005	Mercury Man
2005	Warrior King

Executive Producer: Somsak Techaratanaprasert



If not for the determination of Somsak Techaratanaprasert, the founder of Sahamongkolfilm International, “Ong Bak” might never have been made. Tony Jaa was originally under contract to another company for several years, however, that Production Company did not believe that Tony could handle a leading role and didn’t want to risk financing a picture featuring him. But Somsak deeply believed in Tony and agreed to buy his contract back from the company and help Tony make “Ong Bak” with Prachya and Panna.

Somsak Techaratanaprasert was born on October 25th, 1943 in Verng Nakhonkasem, Thailand; he began his career in 1970. He is a prolific producer who has delivered on his promise to produce top quality, innovative Thai movies.

For more than three decades, he has played a major role in the building of the Thai motion picture industry. He has been the elected Chairman of the Thai Film Federation since 2002. He also supports the Little Giant Program which nurtures young creative directors and has created such hits as ‘Pisaj’ and ‘Crying Tiger’.

With his involvement in the production, distribution and promotion of hit films, Sahamongkolfilm International has become one of the most successful Thai Film enterprises ever, thanks to the success of the many box office hits it has produced and released, such as “Ong Bak”, “Body Guard”, “Born to Fight”, “The Overture” and “The Letter”.

In 2005 to 2006, Somsak Techaratanaprasert has been throwing himself headlong into the challenge of producing very big projects such as the much anticipated “Warrior King”, Peter Chan and Nonzee’s ocean going epic, “The Queen of Pattani part I”; a superhero “Mercury Man” who has the power control anything containing metal - from the same action team as “Ong Bak”- and the tentative title, “Sword” featuring Tony Jaa as an ancient sword fighter.

Festival Accolades as Executive Producer

“The Overture” (2004)

Best Picture

Supannahongsa Awards, Thai Film Federation, 2004

6 other major awards

Best Picture

Surassawadee Awards, 2004 (Thai Oscars)

9 other major awards

Additionally, it won 7 major Awards at the Star Entertainment Awards, 2004

“Ong Bak: Muay Thai Warrior” (2003)

Best Asian Film, Orient Express Award

Catalonian International Film Festival, Sitges, 2003

Best Action Film

Deauville Asian Film Festival, 2004

“Sayew” (2003)

Asia Trade Winds Award - Honorable Mention Award
Seattle International Film Festival, 2003

“The Macabre Case of Prompiram” (2003)

Best Picture

Supannahongsa Awards, Thai Film Federation, 2003

It also won a total of 11 awards at the same event

“Daughters 2” (1996)

Best Picture

Surassawadee Award, 1996 (Thai Oscar)

‘Daughters 1’ (1995)

Best Picture

Surassawadee Award, 1995 (Thai Oscar)

Martial Arts and Stunt Choreographer: Panna Rithikrai



Panna Rithikrai was born on February 17th 1961 and decided early on that action films were his great love. He pursued this love with passion and gusto, knowing in his heart that one day his dreams would come true, that he would direct a movie of his own. It has been over 25 years since Panna first embarked on his cinematic journey and, since then, Panna Rithikrai has become a household name, recognizable throughout Thailand, bridging the generation gap and popular with both sexes. From irrepressible teenagers to mature grandparents, everyone has heard of Panna Rithikrai, the most outrageous and daring action director to have ever hit Thai screens.

During his 25-year career, Panna has been involved in more than 100 different productions. He has tackled everything from props and set design to choreography, from directing to starring in major movie productions, as well as being involved in his television work. A large portion of his experience came while working on international productions shot in Thailand.

Panna Rithikrai worked in the Thai film industry throughout its golden years as well as during the less prosperous ones. He has had the opportunity to work with some of the all time greats in Thai cinema history, such as Soraphong Chatree and Noppol Gomarachun.

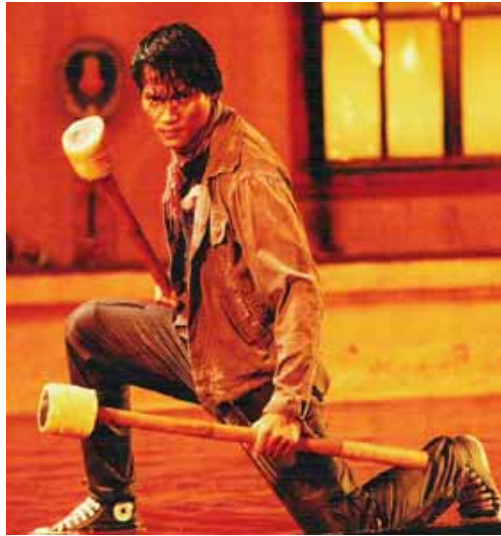
One of his greatest triumphs was when he came across a not terribly handsome youngster by the name of Tony Jaa. Panna could immediately see the raw talent that was etched across the boy's face. It took another 4 years of extensive training and fine tuning before Tony Jaa was finally ready for the lead role in "Ong Bak", a movie that stunned a jaded generation of action fans with its daring lack of stunt doubles, computer graphics or wirework.

The success of such a huge production opened many new doors for Panna and a barrage of offers began flooding in. One such was for the hilarious action/comedy, "The Bodyguard" which netted its producers over 1.54 million USD in Bangkok alone. His latest production, "Warrior King", has the highest ever budget allocated to a Thai action picture. "Warrior King" is the first Thai production in cinema history to have been presold to so many territories whilst still in production.

Filmography as Martial Arts Choreographer and Director:

1986	Born to Fight	Director / Choreographer
1986	Sing Wing Leuy	Director / Choreographer
1987	Plook Kuern Maa Kah	Director / Choreographer
1987	Petch Leuy Pleung	Director / Choreographer
1989	Hode Dam Queue	Director / Choreographer
1990	Gong Tap Tuern	Director / Choreographer
1991	Sing Siam	Director / Choreographer
1991	Payak Rai Cheang Chun Part 1	Director / Choreographer
1992	Peen Gleaw Part 1	Director / Choreographer
1994	Payakrai Cheang Chun Part2	Director/ Choreographer
1994	Kuwang Ter Ma Plon	Director/ Choreographer
1995	Peen Gleaw Part 2	Director/ Choreographer
1995	Peen Gleaw Part 3	Director/ Choreographer
1995	Khon Luk Toong	Director/ Choreographer
2002	Ong Bak	Choreographer
2004	The Bodyguard	Choreographer
2004	Born to Fight	Director / Choreographer
2005	Warrior King	Choreographer

Martial Arts and Stunt Choreographer: Tony Jaa



After becoming a provincial gold medallist in martial arts, Tony Jaa entered the world of entertainment. He started out as a stuntman for both local and foreign productions, later making his acting debut in the phenomenally successful action picture, “Ong Bak”. Not content with just being on screen, Tony Jaa designed many of the stunts for both “Ong Bak” and “Warrior King”.

After 7 years’ training, Tony and Panna pooled their resources to buy used film stock so that they could make a demo reel showing off Tony's extraordinary skills. They presented the reel to Prachya Pinkaew and subsequently to Somsak Techaratanaprasert, and the rest, as they say, is history. It was the genesis of one of the biggest projects in Thai action films. The picture centered on Muay Thai and its production was going to prove to be a huge challenge. First, they had to set up a workshop so they had the space to create the style of action scenes that Panna and Tony demanded. There they had to train constantly for 4 years until the dream eventually became a reality. The end result was Ong Bak, a phenomenal success that shot Tony to stardom.

To Tony’s immense delight, the film caught the attention of, and gained resounding approval from, one of the biggest production companies in Europe, TF1, who will certainly help build Tony into an international star.

Together with Panna Rithikrai, Tony Jaa choreographed many stunning action scenes in “Warrior King”.

Accomplishments:

Athletic Gold Medalist in the province of Surin, Thailand

Chairman of the Sword Club, Maharakam College of Physical Education

Speaker for Maharakam College of Physical Education on Thai Martial Arts, helping to develop interest in sports amongst children at high school

Thai Martial Arts Exchange Student in China

Athletic Gold Medalist for consecutive years at the National College of Physical Education in Sword-fighting, Gymnastics (Track & Field, Long Jump and High Jump)

Representative for the National College of Physical Education to publicize martial arts in eastern provinces

Martial Arts and Stunt Choreography in “Ong Bak”

Martial Arts and Stunt Choreography in “Warrior King”

Director of Photography: Nathawut Kittikun



Born in 1959, Natawut graduated in film production from Bangkok Technical College.

He has been director of photography on such high profile Thai releases as “Nang Nak”, “Tears of the Black Tiger”, “Jan Dara” and “Ong Bak”.

Selected Filmography as Director of Photography:

1999	Nang Nak
2000	Tears of the Black Tiger
2001	Goal Club
2001	Jan Dara
2003	7’s Heaven
2003	Anguilamala
2003	Takien
2003	Ong-Bak
2005	Warrior King

Script Writer: Kongdej Jaturanrasamee

Selected Filmography:

1999	Jaeng (Short Film)	Director
2001	Chamai Porn Sorn Rak (Short Film)	Director
2003	Sayew	Scriptwriter/Director
2004	The Letter	Scriptwriter
2005	Warrior King	Scriptwriter
2005	Midnight, My Love	Script-Writer/Director

Producer: Sukanya Wongsathapat

Selected Filmography:

2002	Body Jumper	Line Producer
2003	7’s Heaven	Line Producer
2003	Fake	Producer
2003	Unborn aka The Mother	Producer
2003	Takien	Producer
2004	The Bodyguard	Producer
2004	Pisaj	Producer
2004	Born To Fight	Producer
2004	The Story of X- Circle	Producer
2005	7 Street Fighters	Producer

2005	Midnight, My Love	Producer
2005	Warrior King	Producer

Production Designer: Akadech Kaewkot

Selected Filmography:

1997	Dang Bireley's and The Young Gangsters	Assistant Art Director
1999	Nang Nak	Assistant Art Director
2000	Tears of the Black Tiger	Art Director
2001	Jan Dara	Art Director
2003	Ong Bak	Production Designer
2003	My Girl	Production Designer
2005	Warrior King	Production Designer

Costume Designer: Ekabhume Nganchamang

For over ten years Ekabhume Nganchamang and Surface Company have been recognized as the best designers in Thailand. They have supplied costumes and outfits for music videos, films and for celebrities' personal use. An Ekabhume design is a frequent sight on the red carpet and at any opening ceremony.

Costumes in Advertising: Lux, Citra, Nescafe

Selected Filmography:

1992	Ku-Kam	Best Costume, Surassawadee Award
2005	Zee-Oui	
2005	Warrior King	