THAI GUYS

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December-February 2000-2001

- Three gay festivals
- New Babylon
- The man behind the mask

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The Bangkok Gay Festival 2000 has now happened and it's time to look back on the event and learn for next year. BGF 2000 started off in April with a press launch at The Balcony and there were monthly parties thereafter at DJ Station, Dick's Café, ICON the Club, and Freeman's Dance Arena. September saw a Gay Charity Bowling contest and October was the start of the BGF Art Exhibition.

Then, at the end of October, came the first of the major events in the main and final week of the festival. Drag Queen...
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Venues took to the road in a display of light, sound and colour—the banners and paraphernalia of such parades were waved and thrown liberally.

After the parade came the final party, officially at ICON in Silom Soi 4, but other parties were also happening at every venue in the Silom area. At ICON, awards were given by the Soi 4 venues for 'The Best Drag Queen of the Parade', the Best Boy, the Best Couple and the Best Costume.

After the awards came the ICON show, specially prepared for the big night of the festival and rehearsed relentlessly to perfection. Highlight of the evening was the Tamara show from Switzerland that was a spectacle of European Drag in its most professional form. Then as the evening drew on and to a close the disco beat continued at ICON until the wee hours and we all went home elated, exhausted and delighted with the success that had been the gay community's day of pride.

It's easy to concentrate on what went well for the event, to dress it up as an unequivocal success, but what is more important is to look at the mistakes made during the festival, what was not well organized and what was a flop, so that next year we can come together as
a community to put on an even better celebration.
Firstly, in this writer’s mind, is the parade itself. It was not as big as in the first year; there were fewer floats even though

the crowd was probably bigger than in 1999. The problem seems to stem from the police control of the parade. Now, we are not saying that the police should not control parades like this; it’s their job—all we ask for is that they make a decision and then stick to it. Initially, the police gave permission for the parade back in April so everyone thought there would be no problems. With only two weeks to go, a change of heart had the police banning the parade citing traffic congestion as the cause. Then on November 1st with only a few days to go the BGF committee were again given the go-ahead to stage the parade. It takes time and planning to make up these parade floats, to get the costumes ready, to hire the vehicles, to print the banners etc etc. With the parade having been banned two weeks before and then allowed just four days before the event, many who had been planning floats had cancelled vehicle hire and were unable to rehire in such a short time frame. Next year maybe we should petition the Bangkok Governor for support in the same way that he canvassed the gay vote during his election.

Next is the issue of sponsorship. This year the sponsors were (in alphabetical order): Absolut Vodka, Aqua Spa Club,

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The question is Why so few? The Gay Festival should be a time when the whole community comes together as one in a show of unity. Instead this year we have heard recriminations about prominent venues which did not sponsor being ‘freeloaders’, others saying that they

Balcony, Dick’s Café, DJ Station, Dreaded Ned Web Sites, Duo Condoms, Freeman’s Dance Arena, ICON, Rock Records, Sphinx, Tarntawan Place Hotel and Utopia Tours.

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I cannot imagine the task of bringing together such a diverse group of people to perform to coordinate this multitude of folk from around the world, with their differing requirements and fables is a task beyond my capabilities.

So, very well done Khun Pakorn. But where do we go from here? Is it time for the Bangkok Gay Festival to become a more formal entity? So far the BGF has been coordinated by a group of friends in an informal environment. This has not been the cause of a lack of success in the past but it has caused some gay businesses to ignore the festival because of lack of consultation and clear accountability. Others, like the current sponsors, have given unequivocal support regardless of the organization. If BGF is to be universally supported by the Bangkok gay business community then perhaps we need to structure it in a similar way to the Phuket gay festival with a formally elected committee, open public meetings and universal consultation.

However, to be fair to the organizers, most of the bitching seems to have come from the Farang community. What we don’t seem to be able to come to terms with is that this is a Thai gay festival—it’s not Sydney or San Francisco and so there must be a large element: a predominant element of local Thai organization. There is no objection to Farang giving advice or seeking to help with the festival but for the festival to take place at all and for the necessary co-ordination with local authorities it must be Thai led and managed. This year Khun Pakorn managed the parties and the parade brilliantly.
"Urgent," she screamed. "Urgent, we need it now." It was my Swiss publisher yet again. I was right in the middle of my dissertation on The Linguistic Patterns of Bangkok Money Boys and had been told to submit it by deadline. That Blue Star were putting on their Grand Pre-opening rendition of their Sexy Circus, and I had to be there because they didn't have anyone else. I thought well why not hit two birds with one stone and do a bit of research on the linguistic patois being employed by a Blue Star.

I dressed down which is always difficult for me. Conservative. Tasteful. Understated... so that I would send the right signals out to one of the young men as he crept within striking distance, to admire my pearls. I tried to achieve a happy blend of academia and sluttishness. Instead of my contacts, I put on a pair of Christian Dior specs with a cord to let them hang seductively in my cleavage. I wended my way towards Soi Twilight and made a beeline for Blue Star. They'd done a nice job of gussying the place up and as I blew in wrapped in a pink ostrich boa, the line-up of potential subjects for my research seemed oddly deflated by my arrival. But when I positioned myself decorously at their feet and displayed an ample thigh in mesh nylon, a couple of the more strapping...
into the possibilities wherever they might lead. Screw my notebook, I thought.

But my little book was already out with Bic poised. I glanced away from my chosen, hoping that he wouldn’t think I was too desperate. After all, I had a dual mission: a duty to Thai Guys and of course my dissertation. I felt the vinyl sofa sink to my right and a rough hand caress my mesh stocking. “Like you sweet water.” He purred in my ear. Now what on earth was the lad getting at, I asked myself. I plumbed the depths of my Talking Dic, but there was no equivalent to this poetic compliment. Then I realized he was commenting on the fake Yves St. Laurent “Opium” fragrance I had doused myself with prior to exiting my cold water flat. What a wonderful dexterity with language. This definitely required verbatim recording.

Specimens rolled their eyes lewdly and began nudging each other hoyishly.

They were just so cutey-cute. Soon their chorus line moved off and the lead charger cantered slowly down off the stage and headed in my direction. He stood off for few seconds eying me and acting shy. I batted my false eyelashes in his direction and he flexed his pectorals. I did it again. He did it again. But soon he was inching his way toward my sofa. He was an ideal candidate for my linguistic research. I recognised him as having been in the bar for several months and had asked the Mama-san about his features. She had motioned in the air holding up her two index fingers about a foot apart. “No silly, I didn’t want to know if he liked to go fishing.” Silly tart. She wandered off looking confused. Anyway, I waited as the succulent bait drew ever nearer. As he edged closer I was getting close to abandoning my research and just diving...
I reached into my purse and pushed the record button on my mini-recorder.

"You sexy farang katesey," he said getting completely into his role. I sunk further into my pink boa and strands of feather got caught on my lip-gloss. His hand moved further up my lap and I could feel rivulets of perspiration dribble down my sides. "What name you?" he asked huskily while nibbling at the tattoo of a house lizard on my shoulder.

"Gerda" I responded, not wanting to use my real drag name on research assignments.

"Me name Aik," he said smiling and displaying a missing front tooth while guiding my hand down to dally under his loin cloth. I let out a tiny shriek and the chorus line stopped frozen in unison, squinting to eye what was happening in the back row with Aik, the obvious leader of the pack. But now I understood exactly what the Mama-san had been talking about. Things were getting very warm in certain regions of my anatomy and I asked if we could take our research to a more salubrious situation. "Go room upstairs?" I said in my fluent bartalk. Aik nodded vigorously and escorted me like the diva I am to the door in the corner.

Leading me upstairs we found a very cozy little room with a mirror and satin drapes, but then I was so intent on continuing my research with Aik it was all a blur hours later when I fumbled out into a darkened bar, long deserted of customers and entertainers. I went across to the Surawong Coffee shop to get a cup of something reviving. As I stumbled in, some nasty raptors made snickering comment on my mesh stockings which had unfortunately caught on a nail on the ceiling of the room when Aik and I, in the course of our research, employed an interesting swing contraption suspended from the ceiling. There was an ugly run on my inner left thigh stocking. Anyway, I ordered a Sangtip cocktail with lemon, and in a discrete corner, put the recorder to my ear to take down the nuances and cadences of Aik’s fascinating patter. Suddenly a earth-shaking scream of ecstasy poured out of that mini-machine. I realised at once I’d forgotten to shut it off during, well, the heavier moments of research. The tired knowing eyes in the coffee shop turned and watched me closely, saliva dribbling from the corners of their twitching lips. I quickly shut it off and sipped my Sangtip oblivious to their disgusting lust. I would have to wait for a more private moment to hear the careful modulations and turns of phrase of my one and only Blue Star.
Saunas

Babylon Bangkok 2000 - Absolutely Fabulous

By Alberta Gortex

Isn’t it refreshing to walk into a place and feel absolutely ecstatic. From the moment one steps through the massive front doors into the new Babylon, there is the feeling of being in a mini-palace completely dedicated to making you feel special. The old Babylon was known all over the world for its taste and elegance, not to speak of the beauties that were drawn to strut their stuff through its various salons and corridors; its replacement makes the old place just a distant memory. Babylon 2000 sports all the necessary pleasure points but with extra allure. The Jacuzzi for example is off the shower rooms on the main floor. One has to wend one’s way round a rough central column and physically descend into the bubbly set in an appropriately dim cavern beyond. On my visit, most occupants were already into heavy petting. One hippopotamus was taking liberties with a nubile giraffe to my right. Several of the denizens were definitely herd animals anxious for other occupants to join in their boompapa. This shower room (there are no shower curtains here) and the Jacuzzi are positioned just off an open courtyard with tall palms, a bar and a fountain. The beauty of this is planning. One can sit under the palms sipping a cool one, smoking a Marlborough

baht) to be sipped at small tables arranged under the trees. To one side of the pool is a huge glassed in gym with all the latest equipment. The restaurant serves Babylon’s diverse selection of very good and inexpensive main course specials: roast lamb with noodles and veggies - 190 baht; desserts like Babylon Pumkin Pie - 40 baht a slice; Cherry glazed coffee cake - 40 baht a slice. Beer runs 60 baht Singha or 70 baht Carlsberg. The entrance fee is 220 baht weekdays and 250 baht Saturday and Sunday.

Up above this lavish collection of facilities, beautifully designed and finished I might add, are four floors of hotel rooms. Most of the rooms are “without frills” and are doubles. Prices are rumoured to be 1500 baht. There are no rooms with showers. All the showers are communal!!! So this is not your regular hotel. Called the “Barracks”, there are, for those who want something a bit more upscale and are prepared to pay for it, the Baroness Suites. These were not available for review but if the rest of the place leaves anything to go by, patrons will not be disappointed. This is the kind of place where one could even visualize spending the weekend, even if resident here, since it is completely self-contained, with a 24 hour coffee shop to while away the wee hours. And unlike the old place, people here seem to linger longer.

In the old place, you felt like a bit of a prune, staying beyond 10:30 PM. And so much for your reputation if you stumbled into Telephone Pub later at around 11:30 only to be greeted by a bitter tiller. But the new place no. Closing is at around midnight and if you do go in after 10:30 you can get in for 150 baht.

So Bangkok boys, breathe a sigh of relief. Babylon Bangkok 2000 is finally open. It’s been a long wait but we’re all the better for it. And it sure was worth waiting for.

Utopia Hands Out Awards to the Stars of Gay 2000

When information was minimal. And he did it with courage.

The second Utopia Award went to the Anjarae Group. Up to the 1980's there was little public information about lesbianism in Thailand. There was a general refusal to believe that lesbian relationships could be legitimate or meaningful. Thai lesbians suffered both in terms of their sense of self-worth and the recognition they were denied by the majority culture. In the early 1980's Anjana Suwananonda and a small number of other Thai lesbians established

1980's when AIDS was rising rapidly along with a huge upsurge in misinformation. In the early 1990's they published a regular newsletter, Giula Gay and for a period operated Thailand's first gay community centre, called FACT House. Fact's most enduring successes were in the area of AIDS education activities for gay men, a group that has been overlooked by Thai government programs. They started up the White Line Dance Troupe, which performed in bars and saunas at first, but soon, branched out to perform in factories, schools and shopping malls. Currently they focus on education for high risk groups, particularly men who have sex with men in outdoor venues in Bangkok and who are marginalized to some extent even by the gay community. Khun Natee was portrayed by Prof. Sanders as a true hero who decided to use his artistic talent to help fellow Thais at risk from AIDS realise what they were doing. He did it at a time the Anjarae Group to raise public awareness of the existence of lesbians in Thai society. The Group aimed at giving a public voice to the issues that were of concern to them and to organise activities for women who love women. Because they were the first gay-oriented group to go public they did much to bring the issues of concern to gay men and transgender people before the Thai public. As a result of their efforts, Thai lesbians today hold a much higher public profile and have gained wider public acceptance.

The third Utopia Award went to Floating Lotus, a small publishing house established in Bangkok in 1986. Floating Lotus publishes English-language books which presented the reality of gay and lesbian life in Thailand and other Asian countries. One of its first successful titles, Peter Jackson's study of Letters to Uncle Go, which was also published as 'Homosexuality in Thailand', was nominated for an American Library Association Award in 1996. Floating Lotus is perhaps best known for publishing gay and lesbian travel guides, including 'Men of Thailand' and 'The Men of Vietnam'. Its efforts have brought information to both foreign and Thai readers and have increased the sense of identity of the growing gay community in Thailand. Most significantly, its books have raised the consciousness of the foreign community to the unique cultural place the gay and lesbian communities of Thailand have claimed. The award was gratefully accepted by Samorn Chaiyana and Eric Allyn.

The final and fourth Utopia Award went to Yongyoot Thongkongtong. Khun Yongyoot showed courage and determination in bringing before the Thai movie-going public the story of Thailand's champion volleyball team from Lampang in the North. The movie Satree Lex has been shown in several international film festivals abroad and became the second highest grossing Thai film of all time. It combined an earthy dialogue with the enduring themes of inclusiveness and tolerance. It showed Thai gays as loving and life-confirming people who deserve greater recognition and acceptance in mainstream Thai society. Khun Yongyoot was the director of this pioneering gay movie which for the first time in a long time, portrayed gay Thai characters in a positive light, rising all the way to the pinnacle of their sport.
A Winning Place in the Sun

In a blazing Phuket sun, the November 12th Grand Parade for the Phuket Gay Festival 2000 colourfully danced its way through the streets of Patong in front of large crowds, arriving home at the Royal Paradise Hotel area for a stunning all-clubs street party that went on well into the night. This was the crowning event of the four-day festival that attracted many new faces to Phuket.

Among the Highlights:  
- The hard fought Club Bamboo Volleyball Tournament.
- A fun and popular ocean island trip to the nearby island, Koh Kai.
- A Saturday Night Paradise Party and Beauty Contest
- The Grand Parade Finale and Street Party.

The stunning attendance from all over the world, especially from Bangkok.

Straight Friendly
A most satisfying situation was the crossover audience. At all of the events, there were so many straight people joining in, the festival was dubbed “Straight Friendly.” There were so many people having so much fun, with the most often heard comment, “where did all these people come from.” It just worked out well for Phuket.

Volleyball
Thursday afternoon opened the volleyball tournament, setting up the final levels that were played on Friday, with the Bangkok All Stars winning the championship match from Phuket’s Heaven Bar. The long matches finished in a late dusk, under a full moon, on the beach-side volleyball court at Beach Resort Hotel. The heat on the beach reached 40-41 degrees during the middle of each day, forcing the teams to take several breaks. The four final teams, Bangkok All Stars, Pattaya Flamingo, Phuket Heaven Bar and Phuket Tangmo Cabaret were all strong teams. Bangkok was led by Khun Yothina, a very powerful player that pretty much dominated the final two games, leading...
on your own in Patong, and something to be said for that. There was not a drop of rain, Phuket Post Card Perfect weather, and most of the clubs stayed open very late, pushing the curfews with the boom boom of the sub-woofers not allowing anyone to go to sleep too early. It was not just the big clubs attracting the crowds; even the small clubs usually in the shadows were decked out in colour and hosted fair sized crowds that were in the festival spirit, full speed. Many visitors that had not been here before were surprised and satisfied with the planning and cooperation of the festival members, and the scale of the Festival. It was a big festival. The night crowd at the Loi Krathong party and Beauty Contest, was huge, with several thousand people seated and standing, watching the stage show in the centre arcade of the Paradise.

**Patong Mayor donates arch and Royal Paradise Hotel joins in**

The Mayor of Patong generously donated an electronic illuminated arch way that welcomed the rest of the community to the event.

The management of the Royal Paradise Hotel, the 5 star landmark in the area, had meetings with the Festival organizers, and agreed to be known as a gay friendly hotel in the future, warming up nearly a ten year...
and the machine from Matrix. I jest, it is really just a few hundred yards of electric cable and a multitude of giant squid-like suction pads.

The Body Builder, according to the copywriters, is suitable for all types of people (I doubt they had moi in mind), "to keep fit, build muscles or tone up for a specific sport." Here's an encouraging bit, "... martial arts or boxing ... you will be able to produce more speed and explosive power." Wow!

These same prolific copywriters note that "Science has made many advances over the years." I can think of a few: the internal combustion engine, mustard gas, the hydrogen bomb, biological engineered foods and caller waiting. But they are referring to "a deeper understanding of how the muscles operate." Apparently, if I understand correctly, we are constructed like a computer chip, of a number of on-off switches. To operate our muscles an electric pulse is sent to the relevant switch, which duly pops open and operates the muscle until its switched off again. I wonder if alcohol is a good transmitter of electrical current? That would explain why I am so twitchy on a Sunday morning after a night on the town on Saturday!

The Body Builder can be used for Body Toning, when "your muscle definition will be enhanced and you will become more relaxed and confident". I can't wait. Also for Body Building where you can "increase muscle size, strength and definition." It can also be used not only for toning and building, but for Shiatsu massage (whatever that is) to assist when strained or sprained (my perpetual condition), help with wasted muscles (all of mine), and even when pregnant (at least I'm not likely to be that again if I look like it!), for backache and sciatica and rheumatism and arthritis. What a machine!

I've got to the bit where it promises me that I will see results after one week of daily sessions so, without bothering to read the rest, I'm off to get mine before they're all sold out. Want to meet a chap with a 6-pack stomach and bulging abs next week? Ask Thai Guys for my number.

The Rio Body Builder is distributed by Tok & Tahi Co Ltd., Tel/Fax 02 253 5907 and email tokhai@infonews.co.th. Or, for more information and a FREE test, please call (652) 652 1777.

Buoyed by the success of the Bangkok Gay Festival and the even more successful one in Phuket, Pattaya plans to revive the Festival in Pattaya—making it bigger and better than both.

The inexhaustible Jimmy Lumsden of Boyz Town fame, who has arranged the annual Christmas Snow Show in Pattaya Soi III for the last two years, so much enjoyed by so many of the nostalgic Europeans and Americans in Pattaya over the festive season, is now turning his energies to a unified festival effort.

TG: Why have you decided to stage a Gay Festival in Pattaya now, rather than joining in with the first Bangkok and Phuket festivals?
J: I have wanted to put on such a festival even before the first Bangkok one, but was not able to arouse sufficient enthusiasm amongst my fellow bar owners at that time. Now that they can see the enormous benefits of the festival after the successes of the last two years, I think they will be more conducive to co-

**Pattaya Plans Superlative Gay Festival**

A Provisional Working Committee consisting of 4 Thai and 4 new-Thai members representing each area of the Gay Community in Pattaya has been elected.

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operating. Certainly those to whom I've already spoken are.

TG: Don't you think that three festivals one after the other will be a little exhausting for both the participants and the people attending?

J: Oh no! My intention is not to stage it as part of the other two festivals, but to put it on at a separate time so that it can attract a completely different crowd, perhaps though, some of those who also enjoyed the other two.

TG: Do you not intend to involve Bangkok and Phuket gay venues then?

J: Certainly, if they wish to participate. Some of our clubs participate in their festivals and will continue to do so. I, at least, hope that they will actively join in ours too. But I am not the sole arbiter; all the other clubs will have their say.

TG: Will you be forming a committee then, and if so, are all the owners participating?

J: I have written letters to ALL the owners inviting them to a meeting and have, or am in the process of, personally delivering them to avoid anyone saying that they did not get invited. We need a unified approach if we are to achieve a spectacular show. There is no place in this effort for petty rivalries. I believe the meeting will result in an organizing or co-ordinating committee and I expect that this committee will include some pretty influential people.

TG: To whom are you referring?

J: I cannot say exactly until I get their approval—but it is no secret that big companies like Tiffany's (from where the Queen of the Gay Universe comes), Alcazar and Simon's will greatly benefit. Indeed, the whole business community of Pattaya will benefit—as they do in Sydney, San Francisco, Rio and, of course, Bangkok and Phuket. This being the case I would be surprised if we don't get the whole-hearted backing of the Mayor and the city fathers too, and of the new police chief who, during his last term, proved to be cooperative to our efforts. The "boys" in the shows are definitely madly excited by the prospect.

TG: You said you do not want to conflict with Bangkok and Phuket. When do you expect to stage the event?

J: That will be up to the committee, but I would favour a date not at the height of the season (when everywhere is already full) but just before or after, while the weather is still good, so we may attract more people to come to Pattaya for a longer time and (chuckling) spend more money of course. Perhaps mid December, just before the usual big crowd arrives. I mean 2001, naturally.

TG: Why do you think that the Pattaya festival can be better than both Bangkok's and Phuket's? Bangkok has a much stronger gay community and larger population and Phuket seems to have been able to get all the clubs to act as one big happy family, something we have not, I believe, seen in Pattaya before?

J: On the contrary! We have had unified efforts as far back as 1994. For two years we staged the "Pattaya Gay Games", with a week of events including volleyball, football, running and other games, mostly held in the very suitable grounds of the Muang Pattaya 8 (Pattaya Nukul) School on the junction of 2nd Road and Pattaya South Road, culminating in a parade along beach road up through Pattayaaland and finishing in the school grounds. Most, if not all clubs participated and the events were a great success and enjoyed by the club boys and visitors.

TG: Why was the event not repeated?

J: Several clubs moved and new ones were coming in and it just became too difficult to organise.

TG: In that respect, will not the new emerging gay centre in Sunee Plaza and Soi Day Night conflict, as it is some way from Pattayaaland, where you are?

J: I don't think so at all. None of the clubs are big enough to put on the sort of show I expect for the culminating party anyway. This will probably be held in some other place like a ballroom, or disco, or even outside in marquees. As for the parade, that must pass along Pattaya Beach Road-from there it is a natural progression to Pattayaaland and thence to Pattaya Nukul. School grounds, which have already proved so suitable in previous years. Other events, like the games, will be probably be held there or on the beach, so they will not be excluded at all. I expect there will be party nights in the bigger clubs in that area too.

TG: Do you expect the straight tourists to join in the fun?

J: Certainly I do! Who do you think makes up the crowd in Sydney and San Francisco, or Bangkok and Phuket for that matter? Straights. They are the ones cheering on the performers and click, click, clicking away with their cameras. Family parties from Asia could even make up half the crowd. I know there are a lot of us around darling, there are not that many! Straight visitors often come to the gay clubs and enjoy themselves without participating and, anyway, at least 50% of the boys are straight too!
TG: You often mention Sydney and San Francisco. Do you think that you can stage an event in Pattaya to rival the sophistication of these?

J: Absolutely! We have an enormous fund of creative talent amongst out boys-mostly, of course, the lady boys-and who can deny that our lads are more beautiful than the hairy buggers in the other places? We don't have as big a population or as grand a view, but we can attract enough people and I expect the gay and straight businesses will dig deep into their pockets because the rewards will be so great. If we can make this as internationally famous as the other festivals-and I'm sure we can-it could be a prime earner for Pattaya.

TG: Is the prime reason of staging the event for profit then?

J: Not at all. Profit, naturally, is a consideration, we have to eat don't we dearie? But I would rather like to think of it of as bloody great party, bringing us all together with our visitors to have a good time and, of course, to raise funds for various charities such as AIDS, orphans, the disabled and street kids. All the events we have staged so far raised considerable funds for these charities. If we hold it during the festive season, we can hope that the warm, fuzzy, seasonal emotions will make people contribute even more. Perhaps we can involve these charities from the beginning, and other NGOs that will be up to the committee.

TG: It is not possible to stage the event before December next year?

J: I don't think so. There is an enormous amount to organise. The news of the event must be disseminated amongst all the overseas organisations and travel agencies so that it can gain momentum. We must involve popular travel companies like Utopia, web sites like Dreaded Ned and I have already bought the www.Pattayagayfestival.com site-but there is nothing there yet, awaiting the results of our first meeting. But look out for it in the future.

However, I am reviving the Pattayaland Soi III Christmas Snow Show. I hope to make it even better this year. (I wish I could ship over some of that stuff they don't want in Buffalo, New York instead of having to pay so many thousands for it!) This will also be in aid of charity and we hope to have the Redemptorist Kids to perform for us, if the school will agree.

TG: Thanks Jimmy. We will keep in touch as things advance and we certainly look forward, both to your Christmas Snow Show and the Festival next year.

Subsequent to this interview, the scheduled meeting took place and participants exhibited enthusiasm, making the meeting a considerable success and resulting in the appointment of a Provisional Working Committee consisting of 4 Thai and 4 non-Thai members representing each area of the Gay Community in Pattaya. Their approach to the event is one of complete professionalism, which bodes well to make it a highlight in the developing history of the resort.

A committee meeting will be held on 3 December, and a general meeting of all participating venues (hoped to be all and other Pattaya businesses) will follow.

In the meantime you are invited to send any suggestions you may have for making this a special annual event for the Pattaya Gay Community. Please send suggestions to Jim Lumsden, Ambience Hotel or email lumsdenj@loxinfo.co.th
THE PREMIER GAY VENUE IN PATTAYA

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"From The Balcony Chalkboard"

-is A HARD MAN GOOD TO FIND

Q. What do you call a hooker with a runny nose? A. Full

INCEST

A GAME FOR ALL THE FAMILY

Disembowling - It Takes Some Guts

The Taste of Things to Come

SMILE!
It will Worry Someone

Q. Have You Been Faithful To Me Darling
A. Frequently

Give Masochists A Fair Crack of The Whip

Q. What do you call a man with his cock between 2 cheese biscuits?
A. Fucking Crackers

Celibacy is not Hereditary

Body Language:
Masturbation is often a sign of arousal

Please Stand Closer
It's Smaller Than You Think

Seduction: The Art of Genital Persuasion

Who Gives A Damn About Apathy?

Q. What do you call a boomerang that doesn't come back
A. A Stick
Silom comments

Aqua Spa (41)

Balcony Club (4)
Lowest price drinks and food in Silom Soi 4. Early evening and late night happy hours every day. Bar, Restaurant and Karaoke with large street terrace. Talent nights 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month and lucky draw every Tuesday. Very popular.

Boys of Bangkok (24)
One of the boldest shows in town.

Dick’s Café (20)
Stylish bar and café with European style sandwiches and Thai snacks. Very pleasant for an afternoon coffee or a late night snack and nightcap.

DJ Station (13)

Freeman (7)
New place with cruising area upstairs and good show. Already very popular.

Icon (22)
The well-known Icon Club from Pattaya has taken over Rome Club. Fabulous shows, a real asset to Silom Soi 4.

Sphinx (3)
Located deep down in Soi 4. Famous and popular.

Pharaoh’s (38)
Popular gay Karaoke in Silom Soi 4.

Surinwongse Hotel & Coffee Shop (21)
The Coffee Shop of the Surinwong Hotel is a popular meeting place before and after hours. Open 24 hours.

Tarntawan Place Hotel (31)
The stylish, comfortable, gay friendly hotel—not noisy although right in the heart of the action.

Tawan (32)
Recently doubled in size in a place where size matters! Very popular.

Telephone (1)
Stylish, newly decorated telephone contact bar. See someone you fancy? Just dial the table number. For years one of the most popular bars in Silom Soi 4.

Utopia Tours (42)
The first gay travel agent in Bangkok individual and group tours throughout Thailand and the region. Located at the Tarntawan Place Hotel.

Via Convent (5)

Blue Star (25)
Funny sexy shows. Totally renovated.

THAI GUYS

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To subscribe to Thai guys in Thailand just issue a cheque to OPQRS Co., Ltd. for 600 Baht (12 issues) and send to:
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Please send your credit card number, expiry date, reason of payment, amount to our address (of course including your address). Don’t be surprised: The amount will be credited to Amigo Tailor in Pattaya.
Sukhumvit Map Legend

1. Albury
2. Big Bay
3. Cat
4. Inter Mustache's House
5. Crepes & Co
6. No Body
7. Nice Guy's
8. Jet Set
9. Dammsak Mae Sol
10. Rasi Sayam
11. Turning Point
12. Mercury
13. Momo
14. Momo's executive hotel
15. Smart Fashion
16. Colony
17. Hero
18. Le Bordeaux Restaurant
19. Cat

Sukhumvit Comments

Albury (3)
Well-managed and fashionable men's club, gym and restaurant. A wide choice of muscle-bound masseurs.

Big Bay (2)
A bit sleazy but check it out yourself.

Colony (20)
Well-established sauna and bar set in a villa with a fine garden. Massage available.

Hero (21)
The brand new venue with restaurant, massage, dark room, jail, tropic garden bar, cruising area and sauna.

Le Bordeaux (22)
Excellent French cuisine in a stylish atmosphere.

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For all your travel needs

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THAILAND LAOS CAMBODIA MYANMAR and flight tickets
### Chiang Mai Map Legend

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### Chiang Mai Comments

**Adam's Apple Club (16)**
Biggest bar in town with karaoke, pub, restaurant and somewhat raunchy shows.

**Night Bazaar Bars (21-26)**
Great central location. A row of drinks bars frequented by freelancers and a very young clientele. A favorite with out-of-towners and resident farangs.

**House of Male (2)**
Popular, very friendly sauna. Centrally located in a renovated Thai mansion. Pool, garden, gym and other amenities.

**Spa Roma (18)**
Luxurious sauna popular with young professionals. The ambiance and tasteful décor of Bangkok's famed Babylon sauna. Recently opened at a new location at beyond the airport.

**Fan Club (9)**
Serenading host boys and “special” show.

**The Circle (8)**
Congenial “off” bar with imaginative nightly non-ladyboy shows and a friendly ambiance.

---

The Phuket Gay Festival News is at: [www.gayphuket.com](http://www.gayphuket.com)
Map of Phuket Legend

Phuket
Patong Beach

Phuket Comments

Bicycle Bar (36)
Located at the Ahoonson Complex, just north of the Paradise Complex. Popular bar and restaurant, English and German language no problem, good personal attention. A big draw is the healthy food at all times. Fairly priced drinks and fairly priced wine selection.

Boat Bar (14)
Continues to be absolutely the No.1 in-place for the gay crowd on Phuket Island, and will increase its popularity with the high season. It remains the gay anchor for Phuket with great shows, professionally presented. Stylish, friendly, reasonable prices for the drinks.

Sea Hag (31)
The flagship for high Thai cuisine in Patong, with a broad based crowd, and the strongest gay following. Khun Kenya has become a legend, and the food speaks for itself. Makes it easy to spend a long evening with great food. So very, very, popular, upstairs and downstairs.

Club Bamboo (33)
A very gay-friendly resort type setting 800 meters from the beach. It has fine rooms in a small intimate hotel and separate bungalows, a larger pool and restaurant. An excellent place to get away from the town, sitting in the foothills, and still be minutes away from Patong.
Pattaya comments

Ambiance (53)
The first gay hotel in Pattaya. Well decorated rooms with all necessary amenities. Conveniently located in the heart of Boyz Town.

Boyz Boyz Boyz (1)
One of the first go-go bars in ‘Boyz Town’. Still in same location and thriving. Very popular as a night cruising venue for beachboys.

Bruno’s (8)

Panorama (9)
(Formerly Coco Banana) Open-air pub with many tables to sit with friends and watch the world go by. Newly renovated, the seating highly improved. Game Room upstairs.

Royal House (31)
Stylish massage parlour with a wide variety of masseurs. ‘Try the VIP rooms with video and music.

Patta Patta (51)
Newly updated pub with traditional food by Butcher Hans.

Le Café Royale (3)
A popular gay hotel located in the heart of Boyztown. Rooms recently renovated and all fully equipped. Open 24 hours. Coffee shop, restaurant and Terrace bar-restaurant open 24 hours for breakfast, lunch and dinner. A wide range of European and Thai dishes available.

Piano Bar & Restaurant (3)
Piano Bar open 7.30 pm daily at Le Café Royale. With full range of drinks and food. Live entertainment with pianist to midnight, a singer and group to 4.00 am or later (exclude Sundays).

Charlie Boys (21)
Cosy, music and air conditioning at a bearable level.

Crazy Pub (44)
The first to open in Surin Plaza. Famous for its shows.

Dulio’s (11)
Gay-friendly restaurant conveniently located beside Foodland on Pattaya Central Road. Pleasant ambience for outdoor (and indoor) dining. Italian food “as mama used to make”. Reasonable prices.

Icon, The Club (24)
Stylish club with popular singer and show.

Boy Café Boy, Joe Massage (43)
New gay complex and the only male place in Nakhon. Thai, foot, oil and cream massage by handsome boys, a café bar on terrace. A Go-Go dancing starting.

Splash (52)
The newest venue in Soi Boyz Boyz Boyz. Swimmers in a glass pool. Drop in!

Throb (2)
Go-go with style right in the heart of Boyztown. Great show.

www.gaypattaya.com

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Thailand

www.thaiguys.org
No, no, no: Orgy does not stand for Orgy!
Patta Patta and Butcher Hans

If ever the sum of two parts were greater than the whole, this is true of the new partnership in Sunee Plaza. Whilst the famous restaurateur Butcher Hans, looking like nothing more than a rotund and jovial Friar Tuck, presides over the restaurant part of the establishment, the virile and hospitable Markus greets the guests at the brightly decorated outside bar and sees that they are kept entertained by a staff of interesting young men.

Butcher Hans, so known for his original profession is, as he proudly states on his card, a gastronome—a fact that he proved originally in South Africa where he spent many years and, for the last fifteen, in Thailand. His delectable meat dishes, made so, he maintains, by the specialist knowledge only a butcher may have, are well known in Pattaya, and are likely to become more so as the fame of the new partnership grows.

The reputation of Butcher Hans in South Africa, where he spent 20 years away from his native Switzerland, is such that many South Africans search him out in Pattaya to sample again his superb cooking, especially of meat dishes. South Africa and neighbouring states are meat-eating countries whose people particularly enjoy the hearty quality of Hans's dishes. He is well known by many of the countries leaders, once even having had, by invitation, to prepare a meal for the new parliament. Whilst mourning the loss of "my Zulu boys" who served him so well (presumably in diverse ways) he is very happy in Pattaya.
Come and discover the "way of life" of Kalaë, with plenty of exclusive treasures for your home or for an unique gift!

In the middle of our art shop, you will find our warm and cozy tea-room Kalaë with a new concept full of charm and colours.

Pattaya Grand Opening
16th and 17th of December 2000
Reception starting at 4 pm

- Chinese Antique Furniture
- Silk-Ceramic-Lacquerware
- Stone & Woodcarving
- Decorative Items
- Exclusive designs
- Garden Decoration

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Corner of North Pattaya Road
Benglamung Chonburi 20150
Phone: 01-333.82.24

BANGKOK SHOP
1940 Soi Suwans Soi 17, Arkansongkroh
Sathorn Thai Road Thung Mahamek 10123 Bangkok
Phone: (02) 286.5129

Patta Patta and Butcher Hans is located in Soi VC Sunee Plaza (No. 273/82 Moo 10) is sure to become one of the meeting places of choice in the ever-expanding Sunee Plaza. Both for its cheerful atmosphere, the robust quality of the dishes prepared by Butcher Hans himself as a daily choice or from the a la carte menu—not to mention the lusty and attractive lads who are there to add to your pleasure. Come and try out the innovative dartboard which will take the drudgery out of scoring, doing it all for you automatically. Several of the boys have, as a result, become skilled players worthy of a challenge from Andy Capp himself.

Meet you at Patta Patta and we'll enjoy one of Butcher Hans's great dishes, okay?

Sauna Asia
massage by men
restaurant steam bath enjoy

B.C. Café
friendly meeting place

119/5-10 Floor 2 Surawong Rd., Bangkok, beside Tamtawan Hotel
Tel: 236-3828, Fax: 230-1384
Calvin—contemporary Chinese artist

Li Meng Shun (who prefers to be known as Calvin) was born June 27, 1964 in Mainland China. He studied and graduated from the prestigious PLA Art Academy of China in Beijing in 1987.

In 1989, he received a teaching visa to the University of Georgia, USA after an exhibit of his work attracted the attention of their fine arts department. He also won 1st in the show. He taught oil portraiture, and exhibited at the prestigious Athens Art Research Center and CIMA Contemporary Museum of Art Inc. That was a long time ago, and now he is an American citizen, travelling the world to promote his work.

Portrait of the Minister of Singapore

Since 1985 his work has been exhibited in over a dozen countries throughout the world. Some hangs in numerous private, corporate and museum collections, including those of Dr. Armand Hammer, Occidental Petroleum Corporation, IBM, Chinese Arts Academy, and Contemporary International Museum of Art. He has been commissioned to do portraits for the current Prime Minister of Singapore and corporate chief executives in Asia and North America. This will be the first exhibit of his work in Thailand. He says he loves Bangkok, which is so different from New York. His family still lives in China and he makes a point to return every year.

Asian males aspire to be nude models

He currently resides in New York City where he operates his own studio. Mr. Li is an obviously successful painter of commissioned portraits and landscapes, so much so that his website: (http://limingshun.com) has attracted aspiring models mostly from Asia who see his work, especially his male figures, and offer to be candidates for portraits.

This business is growing and so is the market for Asian male models. He has interested major design houses like Gap in his models but has not yet pushed this aspect of his career, content to work on a heavy order load for his paintings. He is meticulous in his work, but that takes time and he estimates that he is only able to finish about 40 paintings a
Royal House
Massage for men by men

Many handsome boys are waiting for you in their beautiful surroundings and bar.

Oil massage, cream massage, oil body scrub, herbal body scrub in air conditioned rooms, luxury VIP rooms with video and music

Open daily from 13:00 till 24:00 hrs.
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Tel.: (033) 723 086, (01) 344 9045
http://www.royalhousepattaya.com E-Mail: Royalhouse_th@hotmail.com

A place in eternity
He describes his art as reflecting his Chinese background but also his newfound home. “All through the history of art,” he says, referring to the fact that his current show in Bangkok features male nudes, “there has always been a certain objection to nudity and although the world has become more liberal, there is still a segment of its people who still object to this type of art. Needless to say, this type of art was objectionable during the Middle Ages, but today we have become more sophisticated and there is a greater interest in art than there has ever been before. As far as nudity is concerned, you can walk through the Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York City), and you will encounter an array of nudes, both male and female, statues and paintings being viewed and admired. My pictures are painfully planned and painted not only to create a picture but to create my interpretation of what I consider the epitome of beauty in the flesh with all its elegance. If you study my pictures you will notice the many highlights whether on the face or other parts of the anatomy that bring out every drop of beauty that I find as I paint these models. The faces in my paintings have layers of different colors and shades that I believe give the ‘master look’. I find expression in all my paintings; it is not just the copying of a figure but rather the bringing of it to life and employing all my feeling to the depths of my soul. I love these beautiful men and women in youth or old age. And I hope my work gives them a place in eternity.”

Some of his work can be seen either on the Telephone Pub website: www.telephonepub.com or on Thai Guys website: www.thaiguys.org. His show of over 25 charcoal and oil male nudes is being shown at Telephone Pub Nov.15 to 30th. Any commissions from sales will be donated to Doctors without Borders AIDS Outreach Project.

WARNING: BIG THINGS COMING!
The BICYCLE BAR, Phuket, is upgrading. New name, new decor, new concept, new hotel — more atmosphere, more boys, more muscle, bigger men and lots lots more. See next Thai Guys for full details. YOU’LL WANT TO COME!
Gay & Lesbian Businesses Form New Tourism Organization

Tourism and hospitality businesses throughout Thailand are in the process of establishing the country's first trade organization to promote Thailand to the worldwide gay and lesbian market. With the founding of Thailand Alternative Travel Association ("TATA"), Thailand joins the ranks of countries like Hong Kong, Australia, and the Netherlands that actively promote to attract gay and lesbian visitors.

TATA is the brainchild of Utopia Tours, a Bangkok tour operator specializing in gay holidays around Southeast Asia.

"Even the Hong Kong Tourist Board has a budget for promoting to the gay market. British Airways, Lufthansa, United Airlines and Singapore Airlines all have marketing executives who are responsible for developing the gay market. So why not the TAT and Thai Airways?" said Douglas Thompson, one of Utopia's partners.

"Although there is tremendous interest in Thailand, most gay travel agents and consumers really do not know enough about Thailand and often cannot see past its reputation as a 'sex tourism' destination. This image probably does as much to discourage gay visitors as it does to attract them. We want to improve promotion of Thailand to the global gay and lesbian community and improve Thailand's image."

Positive response from travel companies

According to organizers, response to the TATA idea has been very positive. By the time the group held its first meeting on September 12th at Dick's Café they had received positive responses from travel companies and hotels in Bangkok, Phuket, Pattaya and Chiang Mai. The October meeting at ICON also included numerous restaurants and pubs.

Most small tourism companies in Thailand cannot afford to travel to North America or Europe to represent their business at gay travel trade shows and consumer expositions. TATA also hopes to be able to represent all of its members at consumer and trade shows in other countries. TATA will give all members a way to promote their businesses at important gay tourism events, like next year's International Gay & Lesbian Travel Association (IGLTA) convention in Munich.

Visit Gay Thailand

Even though the group is still in the process of organizing, initial marketing efforts are already beginning to pay off. Thompson recently made a presentation to the directors of the International Federation of Gay Games in Sydney to invite them to hold their 2001 annual meeting in Bangkok. Group members hosted several gay journalists during the Bangkok and Phuket gay festivals. Thompson is already discussing "Visit Thailand" issues with several gay travel magazines in Europe and North America.

According to Utopia's John Goss, one of TATA's most ambitious projects will be to
organize support for the Bangkok and Phuket gay festivals.

"Thailand's gay festivals can attract tens of thousands of visitors to Thailand. Our purpose is not to take over the festivals. But we can give organizers logistical and organizational support and promote the events to visitors around the world."

**TAT co-operative**

TATA representatives have already met with highly placed directors of the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT).

“They were very encouraging and open to building a future relationship,” said Thompson. “TAT officials have incorporated niche marketing into their master plan. We hope they will soon officially recognize the potential for gay and lesbian visitors to contribute billions of baht to the Thai economy by including us in their promotional plans. With a little cooperation our Bangkok and Phuket parades can quickly compete with Sydney and San Francisco.” The Sydney Mardi Gras contributes about AS250 million to the local economy every year.

TATA will soon be established and formally registered as a juristic entity under Thai law. Organizational meetings are open to the public. The group hopes to hold meetings in Pattaya, Phuket and Chiang Mai before the end of the year.

Members must be committed to promoting a positive image for gay and lesbian visitors to Thailand and publicly subscribe to TATA’s code of ethics regarding child prostitution.

For more information contact Douglas Thompson, Director of Marketing at Utopia Tours in Bangkok. Phone 238-3227 or email TATA@utopia-tours.com

---

**Lucky draw**

"Barrel Boy", popular Burmese Khae for of Panorama in Pattaya and owner Brian Arnold from England departs the winning ticket in the midnight traffic.
Mastership

Who Was That Masked Man?

Readers of a certain vintage will remember watching their 12inch black and white TVs back in the late 1950s seeing actor Clayton Moore playing the Lone Ranger. At the end of most episodes a recently saved cowpoke would scratch his head and say, "Who was that masked man, I'd like to thank him?"

Those of us who watched the Bangkok Gay Festival parade this year could not help but notice a strapping young man in an all green costume with a magnificent mask and headdress sporting long feathers and canes, perched atop one of the floats. Later on that night he won the award for the best costume of the parade. Who was that masked man? None other than the latest exhibitor at Dick's Cafe.

Now 30 years old, Hutcha has been making masks for about one year. Starting initially as a hobby, he now spends much of his spare time at home making...
masks. Eventually, he wants to give up his busy life as a tour guide and open a shop selling his masks and the equipment people need to make their own masks and costumes.

Each of the masks on display at Dicks Café took two to three days to make. The base material is papier-mâché and, after painting, the decoration is applied. What is the decoration made from—“just about anything I can lay my hands on,” says the artist. Pratunam market is a favourite haunt for the sequins, lace, false hair and bits of material but he is also ingenious and resourceful with his materials. One mask on display is decorated with a variety of seeds and pulses. The green mask and headdress that won him the prize at the gay festival was made from shaved peacock feathers with green cloth, fur and foil.

The exhibition started at Dick’s on 11 November and will last for six weeks... and if you need something to wear for next year’s gay festival parade, or just want something unusual to decorate your walls, the masks are on sale for about Baht 2,500 each.
Boat Bar
THE ONLY GAY DISCO IN TOWN
YOUR CRAZY BAR IN PHUKET
Showtime: Midnight

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www.boatbar.com