



# E-saew singer has seen it all

Her early performances were rather vulgar, but as **Phoowadon Duangmee** writes, this performer now keeps it clean

**H**er real name, Kliaw Sedkij, might not ring a bell even among her fans. She performs as Kwanchit Sriprachan and is a living legend of folk and country music.

Kwanchit Sriprachan was born in 1947 at Suphan Buri, the central province that has produced many country singers. Over four decades Kwanchit has done for Thailand what Dolly Parton has done for the United States – she has captured the soul and spirit of the Thai countryside through her wonderful performances.

The “E-saew” song is the Kwanchit trademark.

Kwanchit, now a successful E-saew singer and country performer, started out by picking a lyric piece and learning it by heart. Her songs have strong elements of the countryside spirit and are based on her upbringing in the peaceful countryside. For those of the MTV generation who have never heard of E-saew, it is a country performance which emerged in the central provinces before the arrival of rock ‘n roll and pop music. This was about bringing fun and entertainment to the countryside. Wild and wicked as country men and women are, E-saew songs mostly appeal to the audience through vulgarity and smutty innuendo.

“In the old days, E-saew performances were full of smut,” the 59-year-old Kwanchit said in her unique Suphan Buri dialect. “The dirtier and smuttier you could play, the more fans you would win over.”

Kwanchit began singing and performing when she was only 15. It all began with her learning the songs by heart, instead of practising with the masters of E-saew. Her father did not want her to become a professional E-saew singer. “Dad said it would never end well for a female singer. Sooner rather than later, your life would be screwed up by sex and scandal,” said Kwanchit.

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