

With his creative use of the lens a film-maker has held a mirror up to Thai society, and as **Parinyaporn Pajee** reports, he continues to inspire colleagues and audiences alike



Never out of focus

In spite of 35 years in the industry, MC Chatrichalerm “Than Mui” Yukol does not always guarantee box-office success. His ground-breaking film-making through his 25 films however continues to inspire his colleagues and the Thai film industry.

His works are rarely about the elite of society. He loves portraying underprivileged people who are living unnoticed,

both in urban and upcountry areas.

Than Mui has made a number of realistic films about the underprivileged, including one on a prostitute in “Theptida Rongram” (Hotel Angel), a hard-up taxi driver in “Thongpoon Khoke Pho Rasadorn Tem Khan” (Citizen), and the Aids problem in “Sia Dai” (Daughter).

Than Mui grew up in a film-making family. His grandfather

was involved in the early era of film-making in Thailand and had worked with the Hollywood film-maker Merian C Cooper, the co-writer and co-director of the original “King Kong” classic of 1933, and who had shot the movie “Chang” in Thailand in 1927.

Than Mui’s uncle along with his parents founded the La Woe Films Company, known for its classical films including “Ko Sawat Hat Sawan” (The Magic

Island, 1969). He graduated in geology from the University of California in Los Angeles. He met Francis Ford Coppola while taking a film course. Coppola helped him release his epic “Suriyothai” in 2001.

Unlike other directors of his age who cannot catch up with the fast-changing technology, Than Mui follows the latest technical developments and

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