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Banned in BKK: The Gay Sex Videos of Thunskā Pansittiworakul

In a series of videos produced within the past decade, experimental Thai filmmaker Thunskā Pansittiworakul presents highly personal narratives detailing unrequited love, longing, and desire within the public contexts of Thai political unrest and uncertainty. In such titles as *Unseen Bangkok* (2004), *Middle-Earth* (2007), and *This Area Is under Quarantine* (2008), Pansittiworakul employs explicit depiction of male body parts—most notably, the penis—and gay male sex acts to highlight political repression and cultural censorship. This paper focuses on the ways in which his political critique is launched at the level of film form. It argues that these films destabilize the boundaries between performer and director, documentary and reenactment, and visibility and opacity by making the viewer wholly complicit with the camera's voyeurism *and* exhibitionism. In doing so, they enact a model of queer critique that acknowledges the roles of proximity, complicity, and abjection in the formation of politically dissident and sexually deviant subjects, in contradistinction to the distance, purity, and morality that commonly serve to shore up heteronormative Thai national identity.