

Agrarian Utopia

Sawan baan na

Thailand/2009/35mm/Colour/122'/Thai

Direction, Editing, Screenplay: Uruphong Raksasad

Producer: Pimpaka Towira

Cinematography: Uruphong Raksasad

Cast: Prayad Jumma Somnuek Mongmeung

Awards/ Festivals

Rotterdam International Film Festival 2009.

The film maker revisits his old village after two decades to see how rice is grown by the community and finds that small family farms have all disappeared and mechanized farming have come in place of simpler methods. The film documents the simpler, more sustainable growing methods of an earlier generation. He recruits a handful of local farmers willing to grow a crop using the time-honored techniques of his youth. The film is both a treatise on the value of “obsolete” farming and a celebration of a community that once embraced sustainable and self-sufficient ideals that were good for the earth, the people and the local economy.