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THE TRUTH BE TOLD

the cases against Supinya Klangnarong

Documentary feature film
2007, 110 minutes
Digital, Colour, in Thai with English subtitles

Produced and conceived by:	Pimpaka Towira
Cinematographers:	Nitivat Cholvanichsiri, Uruphong Raksasad, Oraporn Laksanakorn, Pattana Chirawong
Production Manager:	Panita Ruengdej
Editor:	Pimpaka Towira
Sound:	Patarapool Wimolsilapin
Sound Mixing:	Sirote Tulsook
Colourist:	Guy Vajropala
Post-Production Support by:	The Post Bangkok Cinematic Studio

Synopsis:

A chronicle of the crucial moment in the life of Supinya Klangnarong, a Thai media activist and Secretary-General of the Campaign for Popular Media Reform (CPMR), in her fight against the 2003 defamation charges from Shin Corporation, the telecommunication giant owned at the time by the family of former Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra. The case was filed against her and the daily newspaper Thai Post following her published article which suggests a conflict of interest due to the government's beneficiary policies for the corporation. As a result, she faced both criminal and civil libel suits, threatening for 400 million Baht (11 million USD) and imprisonment.

Although the charges were later dropped in March 2006, this vicious lawsuit that had been haunting her life through this 3-year period has become a part of her, as well as serving as a political instrument over the course of the time. Does this victory of hers spark hope for the rest of us, that the freedom of speech may just help bringing about a change in the Thai society and politics?

Or is it just in our thought that it can change?

Production/Distribution/Sales:

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About the director:

Recognised as the first Thai female director to be noticed internationally, Pimpaka Towira is a pioneer on the Thai independent film scene since the early '90s. She studied film at Thammasat University where she was part of an experimental theatre group. Since 1988 she has made a number of experimental short films, mostly depicting women's issues, including, **MAE NAK**, a deconstruction of the popular Thai ghost story "Mae Nak Phra Kanong". Produced in 1997, **MAE NAK**, went on to win a Special Jury Prize at the Image Forum Festival in 1998.

Her debut feature, **ONE NIGHT HUSBAND**, an ambitious attempt to combine an experimental style with an accessible narrative was premiered in the International Forum of New Cinema at the 2003 Berlin International Film Festival. Since then, it had been shown in many international film festivals around the globe.

Apart from film-making, she has also worked as a film writer, film curator, film activist and film lecturer. Additionally, she is an active volunteer for the Thai Film Foundation, as well as the programme director for the 4th Bangkok Film Festival in 2001, organized by The Nation. Moreover, she was also invited as a jury member for many film festivals including Oberhausen International Short Film Festival in 2001 and Yamagata Documentary Film Festival in 2005.

THE TRUTH BE TOLD was produced independently through private investments. The production took place over the course of two and a half years following the lawsuit and its consequences – on Supinya personally as well as on the Thai media and social movements. At the same time, Thailand's political landscape was also going through radical changes, culminating in the 2006 coup d'état and its aftermath.

About Supinya Klangnarong:

Supinya Klangnarong is a Thai journalist, university lecturer and media rights activist. She is currently the Secretary-General of the Campaign for Popular Media Reform, where she regularly works in promoting freedom of speech and human rights.

The 16 July 2003 edition of Thai Post published an article which includes Supinya's comment about how certain Thaksin Shinawatra administration's governmental policies were benefiting the Shin Corporation. The company then filed a criminal libel suit against her and the paper, seeking 400 million Baht in damage among others. The case became Thailand's media sensation, and sparked several reactions and debates over the administration at the time. Shin Corp later made an offer, to which Supinya refused, for an out-of-court settlement, following the sold of its shares to Singapore's Temasek Holdings. In March 2006, the charges were finally dropped after the Criminal Court's verdict deemed that the article is a fair criticism meant for the public's best interest.