

From Literature to Film and Television Dramas

The modern world has transferred the contents of books into various other forms of entertainment. Previously, readers could only experience each story word by word on the page. Now, audiences are also able to enjoy visual and aural experiences.

Film and television dramas are contemporary forms of entertainment and have wide impacts. For that reason, content from books has been transformed through dramatic arts and presented on the silver screen and small screen. This is particularly true of many literary classics that have long captured readers' hearts.

It's not surprising that the epic *Si Phaen Din* [The Four Reigns] by M.R. Kukrit Pramoj, *Khu Kam* [Ill-Fated Lovers] by Thomayanti (pen name of Khunying Wimol Siriphaibul), and *Bupphe Saniwat* [Destiny] by Rom Phaeng (pen name of Chanyawi Somprida) have all been successfully adapted into film and television dramas and received huge acclaim from viewers.

Si Phaen Din has been adapted countless times for film, television, and the stage. Very few people in Thailand do not recognize the name Mae Ploy, one of the main characters.

Similarly, *Khu Kam* has been adapted in various forms. The Japanese soldier, Kobori, and the young girl from Khlong Bangkok Noi, Angsumalin, remain etched in the minds of the Thai people.

Although *Bupphe Saniwat* has only recently been adapted for Channel 3 TV, it created an unprecedented wave of approval from audiences, thereby becoming a national drama that stamped the words "Or Chao" [you] into the vernacular of the entire country.

Literature not only provides entertainment but also records history. Therefore, film and television dramas that are adapted from literature offer greater opportunities for audiences to appreciate the past.

Si Phaen Din reflects Thai lifestyle and society from the reign of King Chulalongkorn, Rama V, up to the reign of King Ananda Mahidol, Rama VIII. *Khu Kam* gives a glimpse into the crisis of World War II and the unbridled love between two people of different nationalities. *Bupphe Saniwat* takes viewers back to the reign of King Narai the Great of the Ayutthaya Period, thereby showing not only ordinary people's way of life but also the historical backdrop of the relations between Siam and France.