



Bangkok Dangerous

**Oxide Pang,
Danny Pang**

THAILAND, 2000

105 minutes ■ Colour/35mm
Production Company: **Film Bangkok**
Executive Producer: **Pracha Maleenot,
Brian L. Marcar, Adirek Wattaleela**
Producer: **Nonzee Nimibutr**
Screenplay: **Oxide Pang, Danny Pang**
Cinematographer: **Decha Srimantra**
Editor: **Oxide Pang, Danny Pang**
Production Designer: **Wut Chaoslip**
Principal Cast: **Pawalit Mongkolpisit,
Pramsinee Ratanasopha, Patharawarin
Timkul, Pisek Intrakanchit**

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The impressive arrival of Thai cinema on the international scene gets a major exclamation mark in this richly textured, aching beautiful gangster film. Directed by twin brothers Oxide and Danny Pang, who began their careers as film technicians in Hong Kong, *Bangkok Dangerous* will most certainly be compared to early Wong Kar-wai. While this description is not unfair – the film is packed full of visual experimentation and displays an effortless cool throughout – it is also misleading. The Pang Brothers are both immersed in and in love with the specific rhythms of Bangkok, not Hong Kong. The upfront sleaze and hidden mysteries of this oft-visited yet rarely understood place provide the context to this gorgeous and accomplished film.

Kong, a professional killer, has been mute since childhood. He works the city's toughest streets, silence his only response to the killings he performs. He is numb, acting with a sociopathic coldness as he brings down his steady, impersonal revenge on the world. Ultimately, the chance for his transformation (and redemption) arrives in the form of a girl. She is able to provide the only tenderness and warmth he's ever known. Suddenly stricken with remorse and guilt for his past actions, he fights back against those who would force him to remain a killing machine.

Because the film's main character cannot speak, the Pang Brothers have chosen to keep the film mostly silent. Long stretches

pass without a word being uttered. The effect is magical, investing the poetic images with even more depth and despair. In the ever more sophisticated process of transforming genre in Asian cinema *Bangkok Dangerous* stands as a serious leap forward.

■ **Noah Cowan**

Oxide and **Danny Pang** are twin brothers as well as co-directors. Danny began his career as a film editor, while Oxide works as Senior Colourist at the Oriental Post Co. *Bangkok Dangerous* (00) is their first feature film.

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