



28th BUSAN  
International Film Festival  
New Currents Competition



# SOLIDS BY THE SEASHORE

ทะเลของฉัน      มีคลื่นเล็กน้อย      ถึงปานกลาง

a film by **PATIPARN BOONTARIG**

Diversion and Mit Out Sound Films  
present  
An Error Brothers production

2023, 93 minutes, Thailand, 1.85, Color, 5.1 Sound,  
in Thai and Southern Thai with English subtitles

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## Synopsis

Southern Thai town. On a once-sandy beach eroded by high tides and now replaced by artificial rock sea walls, two young women meet. Shati is a local Muslim woman from a conservative family. Fon is an activist-turned-visual artist, in town for her new art exhibition. The deeper they get to know each other, the bigger Shati's internal conflict with her traditional roots - that forbids same-sex relationship - becomes. Caught between fear and desire, she is reminded of the old cautionary tales from her childhood told by her late and beloved grandmother.

During Shati's pivotal moment, the strange otherworldly occurrences in the tales of Shati's grandmother gradually start to happen. Whether it's all a dream or not, Shati is making a decision to forge a path for herself, and comes to terms with who she is.

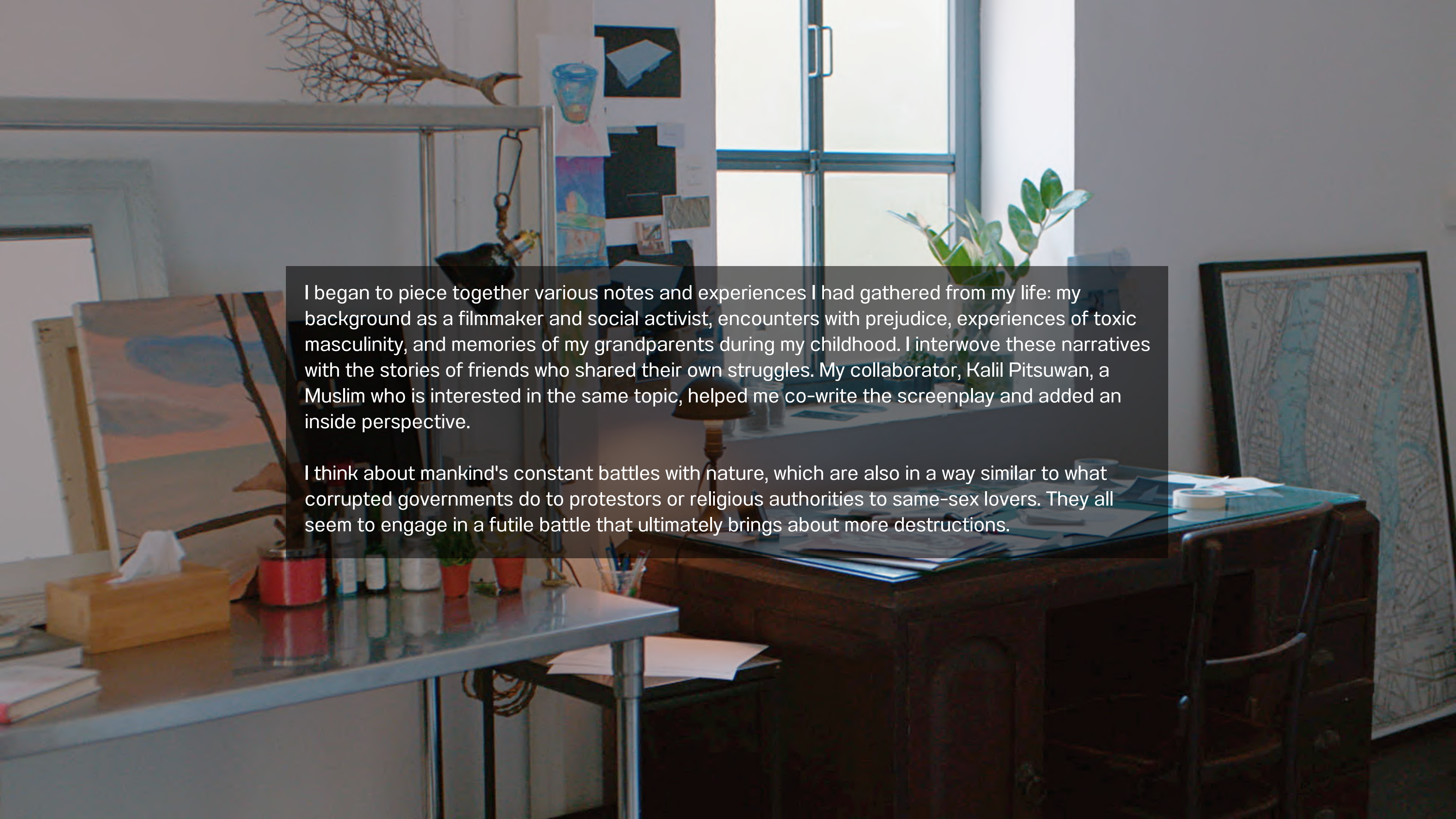
## Director's note

I remember it vividly, as if it happened yesterday—a phone call from a local NGO friend a few years ago.

After graduating from film school in Bangkok, I've spent time in the south making short films and documentaries. One day, while documenting the coastal erosion, my friend called to check on me after having heard of the city mayor's tragic assassination.

Mayor Peera Tantiseranee, whom I had interviewed for the documentary, opposed the government's plan to construct more seawalls along the coast. Ironically, these seawalls, meant to counter erosion, exacerbated the problem, perpetuating a cycle of construction. The mayor's sudden death shook me. I dedicated the documentary, "THE MERMAID'S TEARS" in his memory, and set out to make my first feature film about this issue.

During my time in the south, I became friends with young local writers and artists. Many of them are Muslim and faced identity struggles. Some found themselves in same-sex relationships, concealed from their conservative families. While Thailand may be seen as liberal, the reality is that LGBT rights are restricted, particularly in rural areas. Nevertheless, resilient grassroots movements persevered.

A photograph of a cluttered desk in a room. In the foreground, a metal table holds a wooden tissue box, a red container, and several small potted plants. Behind it, a dark wooden desk is covered with papers, a lamp, and a small plant. A window with a blue frame is in the background, and a framed map is leaning against the wall on the right. A semi-transparent text box is overlaid on the center of the image.

I began to piece together various notes and experiences I had gathered from my life: my background as a filmmaker and social activist, encounters with prejudice, experiences of toxic masculinity, and memories of my grandparents during my childhood. I interwove these narratives with the stories of friends who shared their own struggles. My collaborator, Kalil Pitsuwan, a Muslim who is interested in the same topic, helped me co-write the screenplay and added an inside perspective.

I think about mankind's constant battles with nature, which are also in a way similar to what corrupted governments do to protestors or religious authorities to same-sex lovers. They all seem to engage in a futile battle that ultimately brings about more destructions.

## Director's biography and filmography

**Patiparn Boontarig** graduated in Film and Photography at Thammasat University in Bangkok, and has worked on a number of shorts and documentaries as director and screenwriter. He was assistant director to Phutti Phong Aroonpheng's *MANTA RAY* (2018 Venice Film Festival) and Jakrawal Nilthamrong's *ANATOMY OF TIME* (2021 Tokyo FILMeX Grand Prize). *SOLIDS BY THE SEASHORE* is his first feature film.

### Filmography

2022 **BEHIND THE WALL** Documentary, 8 minutes

CCCL Film Festival, Bangkok, Thailand (Grand Prize, Audience Award)

2019 **THE BLUE CROW**

Short film, 16 minutes

2015 **A SPACE BETWEEN THE OCEAN AND ME** Short film, 14 minutes

Jogja-NETPAC Asian Film Festival Joutomaa Film Festival, Finland

2013 **THE FIREFLY PRINCE** Short film, 30 minutes

Limited theatrical release in Thailand (as part of 3 short films)

**THE MERMAID'S TEARS**

Documentary, 16 minutes Broadcasted on Thai PBS Channel

## Shati

Ilada Pitsuwan is a well-known TV news anchor and talk show host in Thailand. A Thai-Muslim journalist, she has hosted news and current events shows at Channel 3, MCOT, Voice TV and Workpoint TV.

SOLIDS BY THE SEASHORE is her first starring role.



## Fon

Rawipa Srisanguan is a Thai actress who has appeared in several short and independent films. Her best-known role is as a supporting actress in Jakrawal Nilthamrong's film ANATOMY OF TIME, which premiered at 2021 Venice Film Festival.





## Cast & Crew

### Main Cast

Shati  
Fon

Ilada Pitsuwan  
Rawipa Srisanguan

### Crew

Director of Photography

Benjamaporn Rattanaraungdetch

Writer

Kalil Pitsuwan

Editor

Nisarat Meechok

Composer

Apichai Tragoolpadetgrai

Sathapat Teeranitayapap

Producer

Chatchai Chaiyon

Mai Meksawan

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