

Title: *Phobia / Si Phraeng*
Directors: Banjong Pisanthanakun, Paween Purikitpanya, Yongyoot Thongkongtoon, Parkpoom Wongpoom
Studio: GTH
Year: 2008

Phobia is an anthology consisting of four horror films which last between 20 and 25 minutes each. Prior to this collaboration, the four directors were nationally recognized film-makers: Banjong Pisanthanakun and Parkpoom

Wongpoom both co-directed and wrote the box-office hit *Shutter* (2004); Paween Purikitpanya directed the horror-thriller *Body #19* (2007); while Yongyoot Thongkongtoon was known for popular queer comedies such as *The Iron Ladies* (2000), *The Iron Ladies 2* (2003), and *Metrosexual* (2006). In *Phobia* each of the four stories revolve around the violation of social norms through violence, terror, and fear, with unrelated yet thematically connected plots. By focusing on transgressions of social and religious-cultural norms, the stories comment on the dilemmas and anxieties of modern Thai society.

In the first episode *Happiness*, a young woman Pin (Maneerat Khamuan) is confined to her apartment after breaking her leg in a car accident. The taxi Pin was riding in overturned after hitting a young man, and the trapped Pin was forced to stare into the man's eyes as the life drained out of him. Sitting lonely and bored in her apartment after the accident, Pin starts to exchange text messages, beginning a virtual flirt after receiving a message from an unknown man. This finally results in the ghostly crash victim visiting her, who attacks Pin, leading to her falling from her high-rise apartment building and dying. Pin's failure was glancing into the eyes of a dying person, a taboo that was violated involuntarily, but nevertheless punished by the ghost of the deceased.

Tit for Tat is a revenge tale. A group of violent kids who were kicked out of school abduct their former classmate Ngid (Nattapol Pohphay), whom they blame for their expulsion. They brutally beat Ngid, and accidentally cause his death. The bullied boy then returns as a spectre, using black magic to take his revenge through the cursed pages of an old book which causes its readers to suffer a violent death.

In *In the Middle* a group of young men set out for a jungle camping trip. In the evening, ghost stories circulate. Excited by the tales, one of the boys, Aey (Kantapat Permpoonpatcharasuk), jokingly boasts that if he were dead, he would haunt his friends, starting with the boy sleeping in the middle of the tent. The next day the kayak capsizes, Aey gets lost, and in the coming night no one dares to sleep in the middle. All are relieved when Aey shows up the following day, apparently safe and sound. However, this impression is deceptive, and the boys soon realize that challenging the supernatural has disastrous consequences.

Nang Phi / Nang Sayong Khwan / Horror

The last episode *Last Fright* is about an attractive air steward Pim (Laila Boonyasak). In the past, she had often attended a wealthy prince, with whom she had an affair. This time she had to accompany the prince's new wife alone. Due to a food allergy, the sadistic and hostile princess suffers an accidental death. Pim is assigned to guard the cloth-wrapped corpse on the return flight, falling victim to the attacks of the infuriated ghost punishing her extra-marital sin.

Peter Braeunlein