

## Document Citation

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As part of its "Gay Asia" survey, the festival is presenting two Thai films, ***The Last Song*** and its sequel, ***Anguished Love***, both directed by Pisan Akkaraseni. I've not yet seen *Last Song*, but it can't be more outrageous than *Anguished Love*—nothing ever could. *Love* begins with a deranged drag queen performing in Bangkok's Tiffany Club. This is a hard act to follow—he cuts off his hair as he sings, then pulls out a gun and blows his brains out. He had, you see, been head-over-high-heels in love with a fortune-hunting country boy whom he had kept in style. The hunky ingrate had ditched him to wed a posh lesbian. And now, who turns up but the drag queen's "straight" twin brother, seeking revenge, but before you can say Vichien Ruengvitchayakul (the wide-screen film's talented cinematographer), *he* also falls in love with the country hunk he'd sworn to destroy. That seems to be the germ of the plot. I guarantee nothing—subtitles are largely incomprehensible. (One character's mother asks, "How does the gay release them self?") Forget Miss Plot and concentrate on the essentials: how these gays release themselves. Such mincing and wincing and haute camping, such wiggling of headdresses and waving of fans during lip-swishing of musical numbers you have never seen. *Anguished Love* is manifestly too rarefied an opus for wide release. Clutch it to your bosom while you can.