

A FILM BY Visra Vichit Vadakan

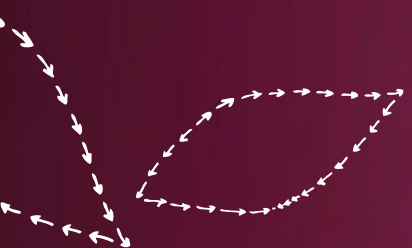
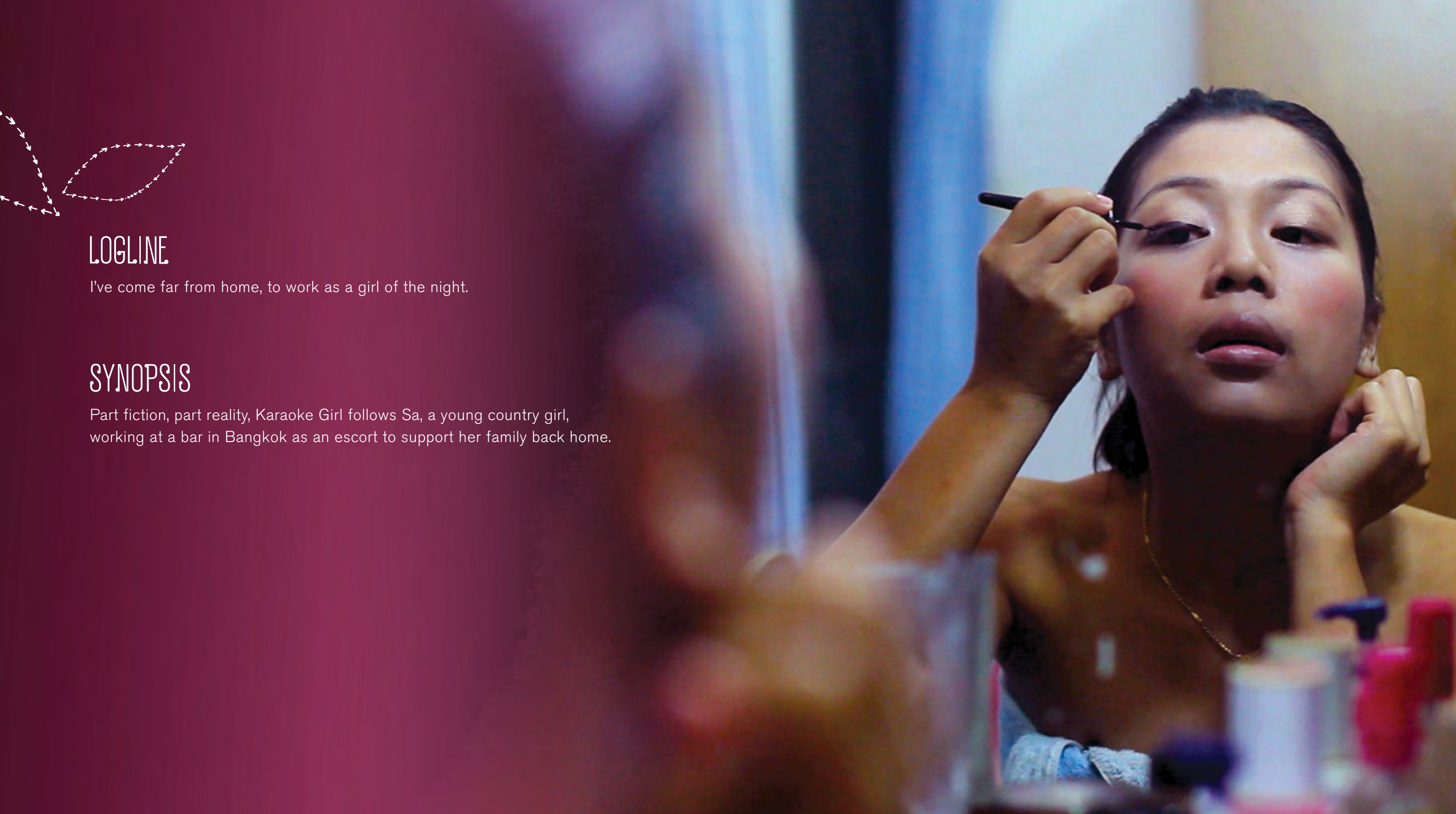
สาวคาราโอเกะ  
**KARAOKE GIRL**

hidden  
rooster  
films

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## LOGLINE

I've come far from home, to work as a girl of the night.

## SYNOPSIS

Part fiction, part reality, Karaoke Girl follows Sa, a young country girl, working at a bar in Bangkok as an escort to support her family back home.







## SA'S STATEMENT

I spent my childhood in the Thai countryside. When I was fifteen my parents and I decided that I would move to Bangkok to make money to send back to the family. I started working in a factory but I did not make enough money to send home. Eventually, I decided to work as a "girl of the night."

I decided to do this because my family was very poor and my parents had a lot of debt. I didn't think that there was any other way to make enough money to take care of them. I often thought about quitting my job but because I was able to give me and my family a better life, I could not.

One day, my friend introduced me to a director named Visra. She was interested in my life story and asked me to be in a documentary and also act in a film based on my life. After a lot of thought, I agreed to do this project with her.

Visra and I went back to the country with a film crew to document my father and mother and my life in the country. Visra became a part of my family. My parents were very happy to have a whole crew of people in our house living together like a big family. Even now, my parents still ask about Visra.

I had never acted in a film before. Before we shot, I rehearsed for two months. Oh my!! It was so hard. In the beginning, I was embarrassed and I wasn't able to express myself. Eventually, I became more confident and was able to act and have fun with it.

What inspired me to quit my job is that I was able to express my true feelings through acting and singing in this film. This let me leave my past behind me.

I would like this film to touch the many people that watch it. I would like them to see that everyone can start over again. It's never too late.

—Sa



## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

KARAOKE GIRL follows a young sex worker in Bangkok through portraits of her daily life, introducing us to the nuances of a vocation borne out of a simple necessity: supporting a family in rural Thailand. The film threads memoirs of her countryside childhood with the complicated reality of her urban life. Cast as herself, 23-year-old Sa is revealed to us in a blend of documentary and fiction, city and country, family and romance. Peering through the lens of one woman's real experience, *Karaoke Girl* humanizes the reality of a class of our social fabric usually painted as flat caricature. Rather than presenting traditional narrative, *Karaoke Girl* offers a personal landscape of this woman who is thoughtful and optimistic despite her difficult past.

This film is Sa's anthem—her way of sharing with me (and you) her fears, hopes, and dreams.

—Visra Vichit Vadakan













## CAST

Sa Sittijun  
The Sittijun family  
Supavich Mepremwattana

## CREW

Director:  
Visra Vichit Vadakan

Producers:  
Pornmanus Rattनाविच and Pran Tadaveerawat

Executive Producers  
Hidden Rooster Films and Sandi Sissel

Co-Producer:  
Samina Akbari

Directors of Photography:  
Sandi Sissel, ASC., and Chananun Chotrungroj

Editors:  
Perry Blackshear and Saranee Wongpan

Production Designer:  
Songwat Asawanonda

Composer:  
Koichi Shimizu

Sound Design:  
Sunij Asvinikul, Tundorn Asvinikul and Pratheep Prakrai





**Kantana**



HIVOS TIGER AWARD COMPETITION

**INTERNATIONAL  
FILM FESTIVAL  
ROTTERDAM**

2013