

# Cultural Resistance

## International Film Festival of Lebanon

Two Screening by Ing K(anjanavanit)

### Shakespeare Must Die, 2012

Shakespeare Must Die is a 2012 adaptation of William Shakespeare's Macbeth. It was directed by Ing Kanjanavanit. The Thai government banned the film fearing it will cause societal disunity. The Thai-language film tells the story of a theatre group in a fictional country resembling Thailand that is staging a production of Macbeth, in which an ambitious general murders his way to the Scottish throne. One of the film's main characters is a dictator named Dear Leader, who bears a resemblance to former Thai leader Thaksin Shinawatra, who was ousted in a 2006 coup which sparked years of political turmoil between his supporters and critics.



Thursday, November 6th  
6:30 pm  
Irwin Theater

In England, Ing Kanjanavanit, born in Thailand, met Macbeth when she was 15 years old. In 1980 she dropped out of an English art school to volunteer in a UN refugee camp on the Thai-Cambodian border, eventually becoming a journalist and writer. She has five documentaries: Thailand for Sale; Green Menace: The Untold Story of Golf; Casino Cambodia; Citizen Juling; Censor Must Die, and two narrative features: My Teacher Eats Biscuits and Shakespeare Must Die, both of which are banned by the Thai government.

### Censors Must Die, 2013

When Shakespeare Must Die, a Thai film adaptation of Macbeth is banned by the Thai government as a threat to national security, the film's producer treks through the corridors of power to un-ban his Shakespearean horror movie--from the Cultural ministry to the Senate and the National Human Rights Commission, all the way to the Administrative Court where he is suing the government for abuse of power. Wherever he went, amidst political upheaval, his director followed with a camera. The resulting reality cinema is the living story of a struggle for justice and human dignity, for freedom of expression, which Thai filmmakers do not have. A dark cinematic record of democracy in action, in all its farcical, obscene and heartbreaking details.

Friday, November 7th  
6:00 pm  
WKSC 201