

'Bitter Sweet' success

Thai film wins two top awards at WorldFest-Houston International Film and Video Festival

The Thai film, *Bitter Sweet*, a co-production of Bangkok-based Angel and Bear Productions, owned by Swiss businessman Urs Brunner, and US production house Capital Motion Pics, owned by Jon Karas, won two top prizes at the 42nd Annual WorldFest-Houston International Film and Video Festival, which concluded on Sunday.

Bitter Sweet won the Grand Jury Award for "Best Picture", and the Golden Remi Award for "Best Director".

The US director of the film, Jeff Hare, won awards for two of his earlier films, also at the Houston festival.

The Thai-US co-production has a big cast from both countries, and stars Thai actress Mamee Napakpapha Nakprasitte in the romantic lead, with dashing US



A scene from 'Bitter Sweet'.

actor Kip Pardue. The other stars in the film include Hollywood artistes James Brolin (the father of Oscar-nominee Josh Brolin and husband of Barbara Streisand), Spencer Garret, Laura Sorenson as well as Thai stars Akara Amarttayakul, Pakkaramai Potranan, Kalorin Nemayothin, with a guest appearance by pop singer Tata Young.

One of the highlights of the film is

that it was shot in the little-seen coffee plantations of Krabi, as coffee is a major theme of the film.

Producer Brunner, who is in the coffee business in Thailand for nearly 20 years now, plans to release the film in Bangkok later in the year, after a possible premiere at one of the film festivals here. The co-producer, Karas, will coordinate the film's release in the US.