

## ROYAL ANTHEM

In Thailand, the Royal Anthem (*Sansoen Phra Barami*) is shown before the start of each film. The audience is required to stand for the duration of the song out of respect for the king. This tradition dates back to the earliest days of cinema in Thailand. In the 1900s, a still image of King Chulalongkorn (Rama V) would be projected onto the screen via a magic lantern slide, while a band played the song. During the reign of the fascist-leaning Field Marshal Plaek Phibulsongkram, when the monarchy was at its all-time nadir, an image of the prime minister was projected onto movie screens in the same manner. But since the beginning of the reign of King Bhumibol (Rama IX) in 1946, the reigning monarch has been the sole figure screened before films.

