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Adding to the present boom of film festivals in Bangkok _ the Bangkok Film Festival, the Asian Film Festival, the Asian Pacific Film Festival and the French Film Festival _ here is the latest newcomer: the Social Film Festival.

The festival is organised by Thammasat University, the Fight for Democracy association, the committee for the opening ceremony of the October 6, 1976 monument and the committee for the commemoration of the October events. The festival aims to raise funds for the opening ceremony of the October 6, 1976 historical wall, as well as the commemoration of the October events, which will be held between October 6 and 15 at Thammasat's Tha Phra Chan campus.

Nine films will be shown, Thai and foreign films, selected courtesy of EGV for their illustration of ideals such as sacrifice and social responsibility. The programme includes Nixon, Jakob the Liar, Sathree Lex, Wag the Dog, The Insider, Luk Ba Thiew La Sud (The Mad Kid's Last Round), Primary Colors, Animal Farm and Thep Thida Rong Gnan (The Factory's Angel).

Discussions will take place before each showing, conducted by film critics, researchers and politicians, including Dome Sukwong, Prof Chalidapon Songsumpan and Prof Jai Ungpakorn.

"Politics is lessening in popularity nowadays. Some of these films stress corruption, make a laughing stock of politics or simply give us strength in order to keep going, but they all give rise to some reflection on politics," commented Acharn Adissorn Phuengchompu, the festival chairman.

"The festival will help us raise funds for the October 6 memorial day, but should also draw young people's attention towards movies, and stimulate their intellects in order to see beyond a given message," he commented.

The Social Film Festival 2000 will be on from Friday, September 29 to Monday, October 1 at Thammasat University's Tha Phra Chan campus, at the small auditorium.

Tickets are 300 baht for three screenings, and can be purchased after August 19 from Nai In Shop (Tha Pra Chan, Ramkhamhaeng and Chokchai 4 branches), Central Department Stores at Chidlom, Lat Phrao, Pin Klao and Silom Complex, Robinson Department Stores at Rachada, Victory Monument, Silom and Rangsit, or at the film festival venue on the day of the showing. For more information or ticket reservations, call 931-3050-5 or fax 931-3058.