

\$15

**MILLION** is the budget of Francis Ford Coppola's new movie "Tetro", which will premiere during the Directors' Fortnight at the Cannes Film Festival.



**BEA ARTHUR**, the statuesque, husky-voiced actress who starred in the American TV series "The Golden Girls", died on Saturday in Los Angeles. She was 86.



A dangerous place

**Bengal big cats** cool off amid last week's scorching heat at Kanchanaburi's Tiger Temple. The wat – one of the few places in the world that allows visitors to touch tigers – is a popular tourist attraction, but it has seen a significant drop in visitor numbers since the political clashes in Bangkok sparked travel warnings overseas.

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Wardrobe in a shoebox

**Actor Pattarapon "Paul" Sinlapajan** always dresses smart in movies and TV shows, so it comes as a surprise that he's downright care-free when it comes to fashion.



On days off he just wears jeans and a plain T-shirt – no brand names, please – plus a cap to "give his hair a rest". And Paul only has two pairs of shoes he wears when he goes out, one white and one black. He was wearing the white ones on TrueVision's "Speak Out" show the other day.

"The black pair is almost worn out, but they're comfortable and I love them," he said. He must be a lot of fun to go shopping with – not. "I go shopping twice a year!" he said with the defensiveness of a cave-dwelling ascetic.

Honest opinion

**Hugh "Wolverine" Jackman** is actually quite tolerant. His wife, fellow Australian actor Deborra-Lee Furness, has fallen asleep at screenings of "every movie I've ever done", Jackman tells *Parade* magazine.

"At one premiere, this big-time producer growled down at me, 'Wake your wife up!'"



**Deborra-Lee Furness**, left, in one of her more lucid moments with hubby Hugh Jackman. (He's the one on the right.)

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Earth-friendly fittings

**THE CONCERN** for Mother Earth has extended rapidly into the world of fashion with two brands, Levi's and Lacoste, releasing environmentally friendly collections.

The jeans maker will unveil its limited-edition Levi's 501s made of 100 per cent organic cotton on May 1. And instead of the usual leather label, these denim trousers have a cloth tag. Only 600 pairs will be made available in Thailand at price of Bt7,900 each.

French brand Lacoste goes *au naturale* with a line of shoes made from recycled and Earth-friendly materials. It also makes them exclusively chic, because the irregularities and imperfections in the fabrics and materials means that each shoe is unique.

For men, the Paris Trace model uses natural dyes like walnut shells, fruits and bark. Natural oils and waxes like soybean and carnuba are used to give the leathers their softness and feel. There's also the men's Observe Trace, made from recycled materials and available in moonmist and cashew colours.



The women's Lotea Trace features a rubber-stitched sole with leather uppers made from super soft "Eco-Sport" leathers, which boast a 15-per-cent reduction in energy use, 60-per-cent reduction in water consumption and an 85-per-cent reduction in pollutant chemicals over ordinary shoes. –

DAILY XPRESS



'BITTER/SWEET'

Caffeinated love

Thai-Hollywood romantic drama wins two awards at WorldFest in Houston

By Lekha J Shankar  
SPECIAL TO DAILY XPRESS

The Thai-US production "Bitter/Sweet" won two prizes at the 42nd WorldFest-Houston International Film and Video Festival, which concluded on Sunday.

Directed by Jeff Hare, "Bitter/Sweet" won a Grand Remi Award for Best Picture and a Golden Remi for best director.

The romantic drama is set on a coffee plantation in Krabi and features a cast of Thai stars and Hollywood players, led by Napakpapha "Mamee" Nakprasitte as a headstrong public-relations executive who at first clashes but ultimately falls in love with an American coffee buyer, portrayed by Kip Pardue.

Other stars include James Brolin, Spencer Garret and



Kip Pardue and Napakpapha 'Mamee' Nakprasitte star in 'Bitter/Sweet'.

Laura Sorenson as well as Thai actors Akara Amarttayakul, Pakkaramai Potranan and Kalorin Nemayothin. Singer Tata Young makes a cameo.

A co-production of Bangkok-based Swiss businessman Urs Brunner's Angel and Bear Productions and American producer Jon Karas' Capital Motion Pictures, "Bitter/Sweet" was filmed in Krabi last year.

Brunner, also chief executive of the BonCafe coffee brand, hopes to release the film in Thailand later in the year. "For me, Thailand won. This award is for the beautiful country, people and Thai cast of the film."