



THE FIRST ZEN INSTITUTE OF AMERICA

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會協禪一第國美

Film Series

# Kingdom of War I

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**Starring Sarunyū Wongkrachang**

**Directed by Chatrichalerm Yukol**

**Friday, April 13, 2012 7:30 – 10:15 PM**

**113 East 30<sup>th</sup> Street New York, NY 10016**

*Kingdom of War* is a dramatic re-telling, on a grand-scale, of the story of Naresuan the Great, the Thai King of Ayutthaya from 1590 until 1605. In 1563, the Burmese king of Hanthawaddy (lower Burma) led a massive army against the Thais, defeating Naresuan's father, King Maha Thammarachathirat. Taken hostage as a young boy, Naresuan was forced to live at the Burmese capital, where he became a Buddhist novice, and was tutored in everything – including the arts of war – by a wise Buddhist monk. As prince of the former kingdom of Ayutthaya, he became the natural head of the community of captive Thais living in the Burmese capital. *Kingdom of War* part I is the story of his coming of age. In *Kingdom of War* part II (to be screened at the First Zen Institute in May), Naresuan leads the Thais in rebellion against the Burmese. The two films are an impressive production with lush scenery, intense fighting scenes, historically accurate weaponry and beautiful costumes, palaces and temples – and enough real Buddhist content to make them worth including in our film series. The one drawback to the films is that the court intrigue and shifting alliances are difficult to follow for someone unfamiliar with the historical events portrayed here. Spoken in Thai with English subtitles. *Kingdom of War* part I is approximately 160 minutes.

**Admission is free.**

