


# THAILAND

Partner organizations |  
**Thammasat University**

- 01 **Hoop Takraw:** Unique Thai Ball Game
- 02 **Muay Thai:** Traditional Thai Martial Art
- 03 **Hun Krabok:** Traditional Puppet Theater
- 04 **Thai Fruit Carving**
- 05 **Nang Talung:** Small Shadow Puppet Theater
- 06 **Likay:** Traditional Thai Dance Drama
- 07 **Loy Krathong:** Reverence of the Goddess of Water
- 08 **Tom Yun Kung:** Globally Loved Thai Dish
- 09 **Traditional Thai Kite-flying**
- 10 **Kan:** Traditional Thai Reed Mouth Organ

 Click the icon to watch the video from the YouTube link.

## Hoop Takraw: Unique Thai Ball Game

2019 25:43 Touchchapol Sangaareekul



Takraw is a traditional Thai volleyball that has been a beloved pastime among Thai people since the Ayutthaya era. Teams consisting of six or seven players use various body parts to serve and return a rattan ball. In an evolution in the 1920s, a configuration of three hoops with attached nets was hung at a height of 4–5 m, into which players try to propel the ball. Around the 1950s, Hoop Takraw gained widespread popularity and was formalized, with a tournament held each year during the Thai sports festival season. This video explains the rules of Takraw and demonstrates the acrobatic kicking techniques players use to score points.

## Muay Thai: Traditional Thai Martial Art

2020 25:43 Touchchapol Sangaareekul



Muay Thai is the national sport of Thailand and a traditional martial art that excites audiences around the world. Although Muay Thai was originally a combat art developed for national defense, as peace prevailed it became over time a type of festive entertainment enjoyed by many. Muay Thai fighters train to manifest cosmic energy through body movements known as *yantra* and perform a ritual called *wai khru* before fights to express their gratitude to their instructors. This video shows the true meaning of Muay Thai and the spirit of the Thai people through aspects of Muay Thai training.

## Hun Krabok: Traditional Puppet Theater

2020 25:45 Touchchapol Sangaareekul



Hun Krabok is Thailand's traditional puppet theater, which has endured since the reign of King Narai of the Ayutthaya Kingdom in the seventeenth century. Hun Krabok generally depicts episodes or fables found in literature, with the main puppets classified as *pra*, *nang*, *yak*, *ling*, and *joker*. Each puppet holds a dancing pose in one hand and a weapon in the other. This video depicts the story of a Hun Krabok troupe that is currently facing the risk of closure, as well as the production and performance techniques for the puppets featured in this traditional performing art.

## Thai Fruit Carving

2020 25:43 Touchchapol Sangaareekul



Fruit carving is one of Thailand's traditional craft techniques. It originally began in the Sukhothai Kingdom but saw renewed interest through efforts made during the Rattanakosin Kingdom to rebuild and revive Ayutthaya culture, which further advanced carving techniques in the royal palace in Bangkok. However, this art was not limited to the upper class, but instead became shared as a way to decorate food in the everyday lives of ordinary people. Today, Thai fruit carving is being systematically developed and transmitted through its inclusion in the curriculum of accredited national educational institutes.

## Nang Talung: Small Shadow Puppet Theater

2020 25:35 Touchchapol Sangaareekul



Nang Talung is a traditional style of shadow puppetry from the southern region of Thailand. Records note that Nang Talung originated from Phatthalung, the birthplace of puppet theater, as the people of Phatthalung embraced influences from Indian puppet theater and created new forms. In the past, Nang Talung was an essential part of funerals, but today it is mainly staged as an outdoor performance, although it is gradually diminishing in popularity due to the development of modern media. In response, Nang Talung troupes are attempting various innovations such as adding Western instruments to their performances.

## Likay: Traditional Thai Dance Drama

2020 25:42 Touchchapol Sangaareekul



Likay is one of Thailand's oldest performing arts and is characterized by a high degree of audience participation. The roots of the name Likay can be traced to the Hebrew word *zakhur*, meaning "reciting to praise the Lord." Stories in Likay are often inspired by classical works of literature and include stories of love, deception, and comedic episodes. In modern times, new stories have been added to the art-form as it is now performed at weddings, ordainment ceremonies, funerals, and temple events. This video shows the various essential elements of a Likay performance and the story of the members of a troupe that transmits Likay as a family business.

## Loy Krathong: Reverence of the Goddess of Water

2020 25:43 Touchchapol Sangaareekul



Loy Krathong is a ceremony that expresses reverence for the Goddess of Water. It is held on the night of a full moon during the twelfth lunar month of each year, in fall during November on the Western calendar. The event seeks forgiveness for the use and pollution of water by humans, and participants craft lotus-shaped baskets using banana leaves (krathong), hold them against their foreheads to offer prayers, set them adrift on the river, and make wishes. Held across all of Thailand, Loy Krathong includes a krathong-making contest, which effectively sustains popular interest in traditional Thai crafts and transmits such traditions to future generations.

## Tom Yun Kung: Globally Loved Thai Dish

2020 25:43 Touchchapol Sangaareekul



Tom yung kung is a popular traditional soup dish that is prepared in households across all of Thailand. It often consists of prawns (kung) cooked with galangal, lemongrass, kaffir lime leaves, lemon, and chili peppers, ingredients that are easily obtained in every region of the country. Tom yung kung is a staple menu item in every Thai restaurant from tiny village eateries to fine-dining restaurants, and has garnered worldwide renown. This video describes the flavor of tom yung kung and introduces the entire process from preparing to cooking the ingredients to make the dish.

## Traditional Thai Kite-flying

2020 25:42 Touchchapol Sangaareekul



The people of Thailand enjoy flying kites in March each year. Each region boasts its own type of kite, crafted in various shapes. The tradition of kite-flying began as a key ritual to pray for luck during the Sukhothai Kingdom and became popular among people of all social backgrounds. Although in more recent times it has become somewhat commercialized, it remains a popular traditional game in Thailand. This video describes the method of crafting a kite and the rules and techniques of kite-fighting using Pakpao and Chula kites.

## Kan: Traditional Thai Reed Mouth Organ

2020 25:43 Touchchapol Sangaareekul



The kan is a traditional Thai instrument from the northeastern region of Isan, which can be played solo or as an accompanying instrument. During the reign of King Rama IV, playing the kan was prohibited in Bangkok due to concerns that it might surpass in popularity the traditional Thai ensemble music of the central region. The kan consists of bamboo pipes, a metal reed, and a wind chest (*tao*) made from the root of a hardwood tree. Today, efforts are being made to modernize the kan such as tuning it to the international standard pitch and forming ensembles alongside Western instruments.