

ONLY GOD FORGIVES



➤ MuayThai World Series and Chang Beer reps with Michael Buble



- why did you pick this location?
The location is well hidden away in the more rural and underground streets of Bangkok, so we could create a real non-commercial image.



➤ Rangsit Stadium, Bangkok

Lorne Castle recently attended a screening of **Only God Forgives**, courtesy of **Chang Beer**, where he met the film's director, **Nicolas Winding Refn** (Drive).

August 2013 saw the brutal Art of MuayThai hit Hollywood screens again in **Nicolas Winding Refn's** [Valhalla Rising, Drive] dark portrayal of the underground life that lives in the streets of Bangkok. **Chang Beer** exclusively invited MuayThai superstar, **Denise Castle** (S1 and WBC world champion) and the team from *MuayThai World Series* to the press pre-screening in the exclusive **Dolby Studios** situated in the middle of Soho Square, London - along with musical superstar, **Michael Buble** (himself, an avid fan of superhero movies and fight scenes).

The film's story is based around the character of Julian [Ryan Gosling], the son of a drug smuggling baroness [Kristen Scott-Thomas] who launders drug money through running a MuayThai gym. In an already very dark world, his life gets darker when his brother is killed leading to his

mother coming to Bangkok looking for revenge. With Ryan Gosling playing the part of Julian it is a high profile film to showcase MuayThai, which was the perfect art for the underground streets of Bangkok, according to the film's director. In an exclusive interview, MuayThai World Series director, Lorne Castle spoke with Nicolas about the film...

Lorne Castle: What did you particularly want to portray about MuayThai within the film?

Nicolas Winding Refn: Really, I loved its viciousness - we spent time with fighters of all ages and became amazed with how it's not about an accumulation of shots, but about waiting to land that one strike that would kill.

You filmed this in Rangsit Stadium just outside Bangkok - which we have fought in, so know it well!



➤ Director Nicolas Winding Refn with Denise Castle (S1 and WBC champ)

How did your actors adapt to the training? What did Ryan go through to understand the character of a MuayThai Gym owner in Bangkok?

Exhausting! They found it exhausting. Ryan is a fit guy and went through a three month training programme prior to starting the filming, but was shattered after each session. His rival, officer Chang (played by **Vithaya Pansringarm** - from *Hangover II*) actually went through a year of training to learn the movement and sword work...

After watching the movie I can say, personally, Rangsit Stadium was a perfect setting. When Denise fought on the Queen's Birthday there in 2008, we were amazed with its coldness and hard structure. Add to that its entrance, which is decorated with pictures of champions through

the ages, and it has a real authentic feel that cannot be recreated. The film itself shows a side of Bangkok that I am glad to say I have not ever witnessed in any of my many trips there, so don't be scared of going if you watch this before ever visiting Thailand.

Michael Buble was very excited about watching real action scenes, rather than CGI and admitted to being a big superhero and comic fan - he was so easy to talk with about fight scenes. On looking through the pictures on his mobile phone, I was amazed to see that he actually has loads of comic book and film superheroes.

We must express our sincerest thanks to **Chang Beer** who arranged this exclusive. **LORNE CASTLE** [Director of *MuayThai World Series* events]



➤ Denise with singer and action fan, Michael Buble