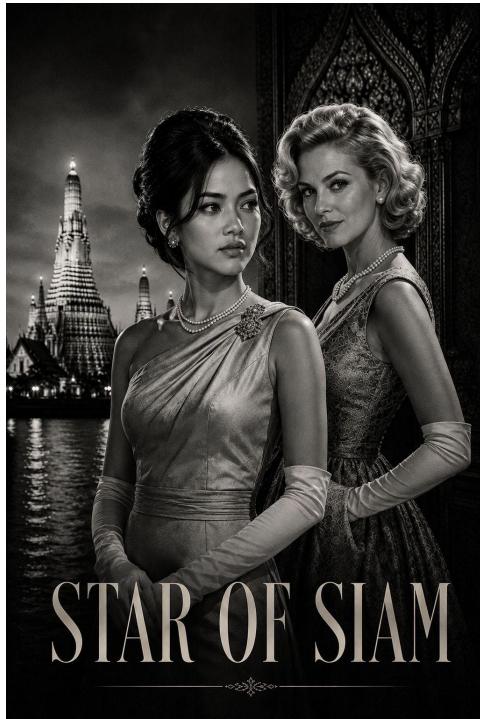




STAR OF SIAM

Created by Eda Benjakul & Marisa Marchitelli

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LOGLINE: In 1962 Bangkok, a Thai CIA asset and her American handler bury evidence of a covert Agent Orange campaign, until the cover-up forces them to choose whether to betray the countries they serve to save each other.

GENRE: Historical Spy Drama / Political Thriller

FORMAT: One-Hour Episodic Series

STATUS: In Development

ACCOLADES: 2022 Sundance Episodic Lab Finalist / 2022 Stowe Story Lab Fellow

COMPS: The Diplomat, Homeland, Tehran, The Americans

Bangkok, 1962. The Americans have arrived, and they've brought money — funding roads, telecommunications, and modernization across the country, including a royal-backed program to lift the northern hill tribes out of the opium economy. Everyone is getting rich, and every opportunity comes wrapped in someone else's agenda. The spread of communism threatens Southeast Asia's stability and pushes America to build a covert war machine in Thailand to fuel the war in Vietnam.

Dara Varnchikul grew up in the margins of a Bangkok that would never claim her — raised by a servant mother, marked by a birth father no one will name. Fulbright-educated and impossible to place, she's learned to use that ambiguity as access. She returns home, a CIA asset working under USIS cover.

Carole Anderson arrives on her husband Robert's arm, but she's the real intelligence behind his OSS legacy — the one who's run the operation for years while he took the credit. When Robert dies at the end of Episode 1, his briefcase lands in her hands, and she doesn't miss a step. What she knows about why Dara was really recruited won't surface until the season's final hour.

Beneath the boom, something else is being built: planes contracted for the Queen's crop program are secretly spraying Agent Orange over Vietnam. Carole's job is to keep it framed as a harmless "defoliation campaign." Dara's job is to get it signed off by the Thai Foreign Ministry — and she believes what she's been told.

A man named Colby, presumed dead since WWII, is alive in the north, running the operation from behind the Queen's cover. He is also, unknown to Dara, her father.

The season ends with Dara at a news desk, ready to broadcast the story Carole built her to tell — the same night she learns who her father is. Whether the words she says next are Carole's narrative or her own is no longer a professional question. She now holds the cards.