

Fall 12-31-2015

# 3 Kings of Bangkok

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## Recommended Citation

Nusser, Alden F., "3 Kings of Bangkok" (2015). *CUNY Academic Works*.  
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## ALDEN

### TREATMENT – 3 KINGS OF BANGKOK

We open on a man in a hotel elevator and a title card that says ELVIS 1. The man walks down a hallway and into a room where he begins getting dressed. The camera focuses on details of his outfit: white shoes, a large belt buckle, glistening rhinestones. By the time we see his profile, the long sideburns and iconic sunglasses, it becomes clear that we're dealing with Elvis. However the voice we hear sounds nothing like what we associate with the King of Rock and Roll. As the man dresses himself, he describes the quasi-mystical relationship shared by Elvis impersonators worldwide: "It's like a radio station and a radio receiver." The man finally comes into focus, fully dressed, staring at the camera. Underneath this image we hear someone singing a familiar tune. The lyrics are garbled, half-hummed, but we recognize it quickly: *Blue Suede Shoes*.

Then we see the man singing it: he's older than the first man, wearing Elvis glasses and a slick pompadour. A title card appears: ELVIS 2. He says he's been performing as Elvis for 20 years and we cut to him walking onstage. He introduces himself as the king of Rock and Roll, and then we cut to a wide, revealing he's onstage at a sparsely attended hotel buffet.

Hard cut to a white gate adorned with musical notes. A moment passes, then suddenly the wall lurches across the screen, revealing a magnificent home. A dapper gentleman in a pink sportcoat stands in the driveway, a fleet of antique cars behind

him. Title card: ELVIS 3. He points out two cars from his collection, and where we might recognize them from: Elvis movies.

We're now in his home, where he explains that he's been a diplomat for 25 years and has performed as Elvis for various heads of state, including the Queen of Thailand. He shows the camera a picture of him in Elvis Attire with the Queen.

From this point on, the three men's voices are interwoven, and they act in concert to embellish on several common themes, separated by chapter.

## 1. GOD

In a flurry of quick cuts between the three men, they speak to Elvis' perfection as a performer, his good looks, and his exceptional significance as a person. The sequence ends on Elvis 3 saying: "Elvis was blessed by God," and there is a hard cut to Elvis 2 walking on the streets of Bangkok and the sound of the Muslim call to prayer: "Allah akbar."

We follow him to his Mosque, and he explains that he goes to pray every night. He also says how being there makes him happy, in contrast to what he experiences occasionally as a performer. Sometimes, he says, he suffers on stage, but hides that from the audience.

## 2. CHANNELING

Elvis 1 continues on this theme of channeling pain as a singer and says that when he learns new songs, he pictures himself as the song's subject and that sometimes makes him cry. Elvis 3 agrees, and says that he can actually feel Elvis' loneliness through his music, and that when he gets onstage can channel those emotions. Elvis 1 says that, for all Elvis impersonators, once they're onstage, it

doesn't matter if they have an audience; they are charged by the presence of their idol: "you can feel the power of the King."

### 3. THE POWER OF THE KING

Elvis 3 explains the importance of the Monarchy in Thai society, and we see archival footage of throngs of Thais worshipping the King on his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. This reverence is borne out of a deeply held respect for cultural institutions and traditions, and Elvis 3 points out how the elaborately decorated costumes in Thai folk theater closely resemble the type of rhinestone-laden jumpsuits worn by Elvis.

### 4. AUGUST 16TH

Jeep explains that on the anniversary of Elvis' death, the three Elvises have a performance scheduled, and we see them converge on stage for the first time. As we watch them perform, each delivers a brief closing remark about what it means to them to perform as the King.

### BUDGET

2 tickets to Bangkok: 3000  
Accommodations: 2000  
Camera and sound equipment: 12000  
Graphics: 1000  
Music: 100  
Shooter/wk: 1000  
Editor: 2000  
Director/Producer: 4000

Total:  
25,100