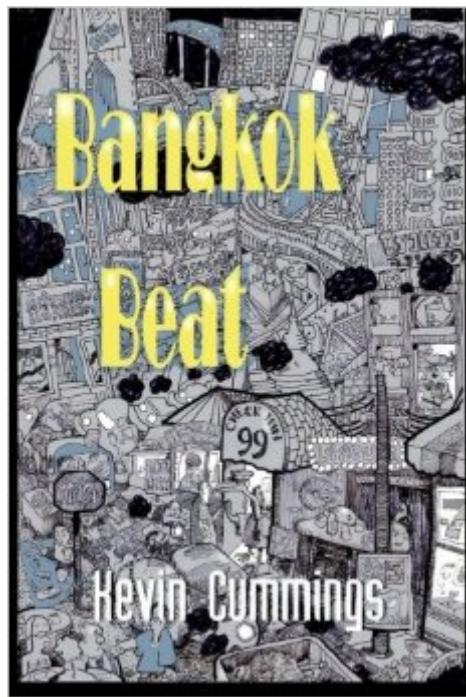


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# Bangkok Beat



## Synopsis

"Bangkok Beat is a celebration of a movement, a group of irregulars who have taken a different path. [Cummings'] tour inside is like the first version of the *Lonely Planet*; a first-hand, on the ground description of the expats and locals bonded through creativity, artistic expression, the bliss that comes from following your own demons and angels through the layers of heaven and hell." Christopher G. Moore, Shamus Award winning author of *Asia Hand* "Bangkok Beat is a flashlight in the dark." *The Sunday Nation* "[T]his is a fun read, told in a warm and humble voice devoid of literary pretensions or highfalutin prose, reminding readers of one of Bangkok's chief virtues: It's teeming with all sorts of eccentric expat characters endowed with hugely entertaining backstories." Jim Algie, *Bangkok 101 Magazine* book reviewer and author of *Bizarre Thailand* Cummings pools interviews with well-known brilliant creative individuals and ties that in with his own Californian childhood memories and his love of jazz. Read now or refer to later to find insights into some iconic expats who reside in a kind of Asian Montparnasse district." Chad Evans, author of *Vincent Calvino's World* "Then there is Gop; a fictional frog who Kevin has interviewing a fictional detective, a truly surreal moment that, for me, personifies the surrealness that relocating to SE Asia can often produce." Iain Donnelly, Editor of *The Weekly Phnom Penh* magazine for *The Khmer Times* Bangkok Beat is a compilation of short stories, interviews, literature reviews and author profiles, plus the previously unpublished history and pictures of the iconic Bangkok cabaret nightclub, Checkinn99 located on Sukhumvit Road. In reading Bangkok Beat you will get up close with many well-known and not so well-known expats and characters staying in Thailand and Southeast Asia. You'll also find a section of noir poems by John Gartland, in which the author depicts life in the city's dark zone. Between the covers of Bangkok Beat you will get to know: champion male and female Muay Thai boxers, a surfing historian, a legendary mamasan, Chris Coles - noted expressionist artist of the Bangkok night, and a gold chain snatching ladyboy. You'll also encounter the inside of Baccara Bar on Soi Cowboy, an Australian front man for a Khmer band, a smiling waitress named Mook, a spirit house for a Hollywood screenwriter and producer, and the biographer for Jim Morrison and Elvis Presley. Plus world class musicians including Jason Mraz and a saxophone playing psychologist. In addition you'll find interviews and profiles of many well known novelists living in and writing about Thailand and Southeast Asia and one magician. This book of non-fiction is ably assisted with an introduction by Bangkok pulp fiction author, James A. Newman, a short story by T Hunt Locke titled *The Beauty of Isaan* and a chapter of noir verse written by the poet noir, John Gartland. Many of the 54 black and white photographs found in Bangkok Beat were taken by professional photographers

Eric Nelson, Alasdair McLeod, and Jonathan van Smit.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I usually have a fair idea about whether I'm going to enjoy a book after reading the introduction. My assumption on this is not always correct, but quite often it is. I knew that after the terrific introduction by author James Newman that I could relax, nestle into the couch and say.... That sounds great.... Bring it on." Develop an interest in life as you see it, the people, things, literature, music - the world is so rich, simply throbbing with rich treasures, beautiful souls and interesting people. Forget yourself. " Henry MillerKevin Cummings the author of " Bangkok Beat " is a big fan of the above quote and In my opinion this quote is the essence of the book as the author goes in search and finds interesting people, things, literature and music by the score.Bangkok Beat to me is like a who's who of Bangkok's wonderful characters and talent that are brought to life by a combination short stories, interviews, profiles, literature reviews, poems and terrific photographs.The author leaves no stone unturned in his pursuit to track down and interview some of Bangkok's finest. He meets authors, artists, musicians, poets, Thai Boxers, photographers and takes in large helpings of jazz, other live music and even musical productions.A lot of the interviews seemed to be centred around Check Inn 99 which is located at the lower end of Sukhumvit road and the home of the jazz, other live music and musical productions that I was talking about. You quickly learn there is a reason for that and it's not just because it's one of the authors favourite entertainment venue's.

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