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German TV does a feature on German expats on Samui

By J.B. HOLDEN

A GERMAN television crew was on Koh Samui last month and did a feature on the life of some German expatriates on the island.

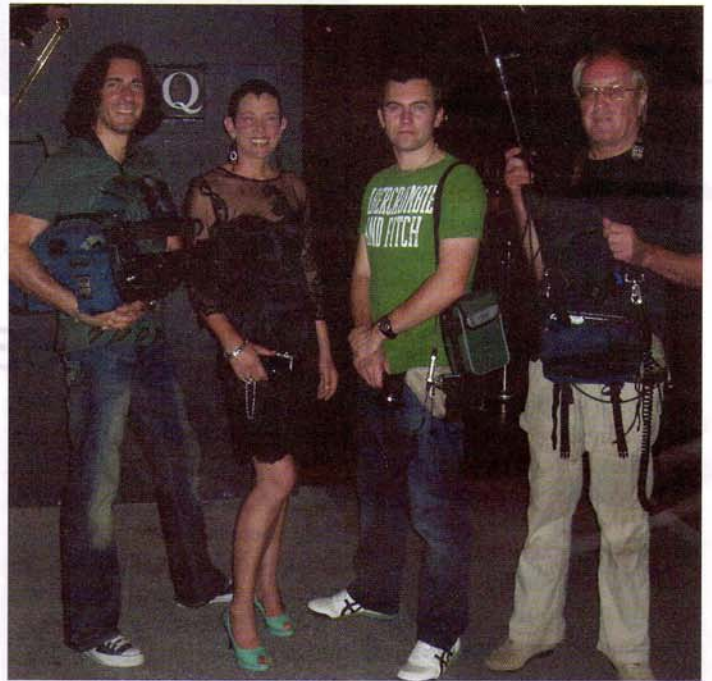
Among those chosen to be featured were Thai translator and interpreter Liz Luxen; Elvis impersonator Ritchie Newton; Muay Thai boxer Kai Bartl; bakery owner Sonya Diwo; Eddy Murray; and a German expat known as Computer Bernd.

TV producer Markus Zwilling said the TV feature sought to show the lives of the German expats under different conditions. The film crew represented a German daily TV show "Sat1 Magazin," which affords viewers in Germany, Switzerland and Austria a peek into the lives of successful as well as not-so-successful German expats in different parts of the world. The program is shown on primetime.

About 2 million viewers watch the show in Germany, Switzerland and Austria, Mr. Zwilling said.

Ms. Luxen said the filming was quite interesting. She was filmed while in her Liz Luxen Translations and Interpretations office. Luxen provides translation service and is Samui municipality's official Thai court translator and interpreter, among other things.

One of the scenes showed her receiving John Ens from Rocky Resort, who came by with Thai documents for translation, and Eddy Grötzing



The TV crew with Liz Luxen going to file a fraud case at Nathon police station.

Another scene showed her receiving Dave Covey, the British consul, who brought books, as is his custom, for her to give to the prisoners when she visits the court house.

In addition to filming her at work, the crew filmed her son, Lavoy, who is a professional child model, while getting ready for school, having breakfast and being picked up by the school bus.

Later in the day, after Liz changed to a spiffy black dress for an evening out clubbing in Chaweng, the crew filmed her at Q Bar. The crew also filmed her with her beautiful orchid plants. She said, "While filming some of my 80 plus orchids, I received a call from the Koh Samui Municipality."

in regards to a German lady who was murdered last Jan. 11. They filmed my phone call to the public prosecution office and then followed me as I took the books to the prison."

Mr. Zwilling said, "Samui is a wonderful island but it is not easy to live here when you really need to work."

When asked if the showing of this program would help Samui, Markus said, "I have no idea if this will bring more tourists to the island, but I am sure we will show some really nice segments of life on Samui and many of the benefits of visiting this beautiful island."

Zwilling added, "Unfortunately there was no interest by the office of Samui tourism in the program."