**Entertainment Venues**

1. **Aksra Theatre**
   - Located in the Pullman King Power hotel complex downtown, the Aksra Theatre's puppet shows feature stunning set designs and elaborate Thai puppets costumed in traditional dress. Performances include the Hindu epic Ramakien, Thai folk dances, and Japanese songs.
   - Address: 8/1 Rangnam Road, Thanon Phayathai, Ratchathewi • Map T5 • (02) 677 8888 • Show 7:30pm Mon–Wed
   - Adm • www.aksratheatre.com

2. **Siam Niramit**
   - This cultural extravaganza designed for tourists presents an idealized vision of ancient Siam using hi-tech special effects, lavish costumes, and a cast of hundreds.
   - Address: Ratchada Theater, 19 Tiam Ruammit Road • Map T5 • (02) 649 9222 • Show 8pm daily • Adm • www.siamniramit.com

3. **National Theatre**
   - Impressive productions of Thai classical drama and khon (masked theater) with skilled actors and sumptuous costumes are staged at the National Theatre on the last Friday of every month.

4. **Patravadi Theatre**
   - One of Thailand’s leading venues for the performing arts, this theater particularly supports works that are rooted in Thai tradition yet embrace international elements. The theater was started by acclaimed dancer, producer, and director, Patravadi Mejudhon.
   - Address: 8/1 Soi Wat Rakhang, Thonburi • Map A4 • (02) 412 7287–8 • Dinner theater: 7:30pm Fri & Sat • www.patravaditheatre.com

5. **Silom Village**
   - A show featuring various forms of Thai dance and martial arts demonstrations, accompanied by dinner, is staged at Silom Village. The standard of the performance and quality of the food make it a good choice for an evening’s entertainment.
   - Address: Silom Road • Map N5 • (02) 234 4448 • Indoor show with set dinner 8:20–9:15pm daily • Adm

6. **Thailand Cultural Centre**
   - Bangkok’s main center for the performing arts, this state-run facility is home to the Bangkok Symphony Orchestra. It also hosts the annual International Festival of Dance and Music. International artists also perform here during world tours, so check for upcoming events.
   - Address: Rachadaphisek Road • Map T5 • (02) 247 0028 • www.thaiculturalcenter.com

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Dinner theater offers a restaurant meal combined with a staged play.

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7 Sala Rim Nam
This dinner theater operated by the Oriental Hotel (see p79) is a custom-built facility offering a classy show of traditional Thai dance accompanied by a gourmet dinner. Prices are above average but the event is memorable.

- Oriental Hotel • (02) 437 3080
- Lunch: noon–2pm daily; dinner theater: 7–10pm daily; show: 8:30–9:30pm daily
- www.mandarinoriental.com

8 Calypso Cabaret
Cabarets performed by transvestites are popular in Thailand. This show involves a cast of glamorous lookers in lavish costumes, lip-syncing to pop songs, and posing for pictures.

- Asia Hotel: 296 Phaya Thai Road • Map P1 • (02) 653 3960–62 • Show 8:15pm, 9:45pm daily
- www.calypsocabaret.com

9 Ratchadamnoen Boxing Stadium
It is worth attending an evening of muay Thai, or Thai boxing (see p54), at this stadium, not only for the excitement of watching the contestants punching and kicking each other around the ring, but also to see how worked up the Thai spectators get during the bouts. Add the strange dances performed by the boxers to the accompaniment of wailing instruments before each bout, and you have an evening of exotic, Oriental entertainment.

- 1 Ratchadamnoen Nok Road • Map E2 • (02) 281 4205 • Bouts: 6:30–11pm Mon, Wed, Thu; 5–8pm and 8:30pm–midnight Sun • Adm • www.rajadamnern.com

10 Sala Chalermkrong Royal Theatre
Built in 1933 by Rama VII, this was Thailand’s first theater to be built with the intention of screening “talking pictures.” Today it is used for staging khon (masked theater) and for live performances by singers and musicians.

- Charoen Krung Road • Map C5 • (02) 222 0434 • Khon: 8:30pm Fri & Sat • www.salahalermkrong.com

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