

HAN YEW KWANG, 33 FILM

Born in Singapore in 1975, Mr Han Yew Kwang was a prolific film writer and director in the television and film industry in Singapore. He penned and directed nine television series as well as two feature films over the past 10 years. He had also garnered 15 nominations in film and television festivals locally and abroad, and won a total of nine awards from these.

For his Advanced Diploma in Film Production course (1999-2001) at Ngee Ann Polytechnic, Yew Kwang took on the subject matter of alienation and loneliness in his thesis film, *The Call Home* (2002). Shot entirely in Tamil, the bold venture bagged the Best Short Film award at the 15th Singapore International Film Festival (2002) and made it to the official selection of the 32nd Rotterdam International Film Festival (2003). This win eventually led to the making of his debut feature film, *Unarmed Combat*, which is described as “a quirky comedy about human obsessions”. This film was in the main competition at the 2005 Berlin Asia-Pacific Film Festival and nominated for Best ASEAN Film Award at the 2006 Bangkok International Film Festival.

In 2008, Yew Kwang released his second feature film, a romantic comedy entitled *18 Grams of Love*. It won the Public Award for Best Film (Bronze) and the Young Jury Award (Silver) at the 13th Lyon Asian Film Festival (2007), and the Public Award at the 5th Ofensiva International Film Festival (2007). It was also in main competition at the Asian Film Festival of Rome (2008) and nominated for Asian New Talent Award at 11th Shanghai International Film Festival (2008).

He also served as writer for SPH MediaWorks' Channel U series, *Back to Basics* (2002), *Pass It Forward* (2002) and *Tonight I Will Tell* (2003), which was awarded the Certificate of Distinction for TV Drama at the New York Festivals (2003). He also created, wrote and directed the highly-acclaimed Mandarin sitcom, *Folks Jump Over the Wall* (2008), in collaboration with Boku Films.

Yew Kwang recently set up his own production company, 18g Pictures. The aim is to produce film and television programmes with a unique brand of comedy. Its first feature project will be the quirky romantic comedy, *When Hainan Meets Teochew* (2010).