SYNOPSIS

The film, 'Becoming Royston', is a story of “self exploration, discovery and liberation, which explores relationships between people, conflicts, insecurities, hopes and dreams, you and me.”

The story revolves around the coming of age of Tan Boon Huat (Alvin Neo), the middle child of a prawn farmer whose family resides on an island town. Nicknamed ‘Hei Bee’ (shrimp in Hokkien, a Chinese dialect) Boon Huat’s time as a child to adolescence was one that was filled with oppression, often receiving harsh treatment from his own father (William Chua). Boon Huat eventually leaves the island with the help of his friend and confidant, the island boatman (Tay Kay Chin). On the mainland, he meets a girl (Oon Shu An) while working in a video shop. Boon Huat starts to discover his dream of becoming a filmmaker with the help of his new found ‘love’.
BACKGROUND & KEY CREDITS

‘Becoming Royston’ is the first full length film from the award winning team of ‘I’ll Live A Day For You’, Nicholas Chee and Randy Ang. The story was inspired by an original story ‘Becoming Capa’ written by Tay Kay Chin in 1992. The screenplay was written by Terence Teo and Nicholas Chee. Ken Minehan who was the director of photography from Originasian Pictures’ earlier short film, reprises his role. Producers are April Tong and Jolene Teng. Art direction and production design was provided by Randy Ang. Featuring original music by Joan Chew, Nicholas Chee, Roy Lim and Shirlyn Tan. The film is directed by Nicholas Chee.

This film features many first time actors selected specially for the roles. (see CAST section)

Originasian Pictures received a grant from MDA’s Synthesis Initiative for the online content strategy of the film in early 2006. Partnering the production were Apple Singapore, Adobe Singapore, Apostrophe Films, The Shooting Gallery, Infinite Frameworks, Company X, design agency Caffeine Creative & web design company EADC. The film was shot on High Definition (HD) using Panasonic’s AG-HVX200 DVCPRO HD.

The official website is www.becomingroyston.com.
CAST

20-year old **ALVIN NEO** plays Tan Boon Huat “Hei Bee”. This is Alvin’s first full length film. He is currently studying full time and is President of the Temasek Polytechnic Student Council.

**WILLIAM CHUA** plays Boon Huat’s father. William previously starred in ‘I Live A Day For You’. He is the proud father of four children and runs Simple Digital, a printing service bureau at Bras Basah Complex.

**TAY KAY CHIN** wrote the original story that inspired the film. Kay Chin is one of Singapore’s most prolific photographers. He lectures at the Nanyang Technological University. This is his first acting role in a film.

20-year old **OON SHU AN** plays Boon Huat’s love interest ‘Ah-Girl’. This is Shu An’s first film. She has just completed her A-levels and is starting Drama School with LaSalle.
CAST

9-year old Snowden Chua
plays Young Boon Huat.
Snowden is William's third child.

Marilyn Lee plays the mother and
journalist Loretta Shu. Her acting credits
includes 'Unarmed Combat' and various
Singaporean productions. Marilyn is a DJ
hosting Tuckshop with Radio 91.3.

Charles David
plays Balaji, the
video shop owner.

Shirlyn Tan plays Ah-Girl's colleague.
Shirlyn is the lead singer of the band, The
UnXpected. She is also contributing to the
music of the film with her song 'Windows'.

Other Cast Members

Young Father .......... Fish Chaar
Young Boatman .......... Edward Sey
Young Elder Sister .......... Sybil Chua
Elder Sister .......... Maggie Tan
Younger Sister .......... Clarissa Soon
Young Elder Sister's Friend .......... Chanel Lim Wei Xuan
Elder Sister's Friend .......... Tracy Bay
Teacher/Mother's Cousin .......... Alfred Lim Wei Xuan
Young Village Head's Grandson .......... Dexter Chua
Village Head's Grandson .......... Sean Koh
Bully #01 .......... Ng Pin Hwee
Bully #02 .......... Tan Wei Long
Classmate #01 .......... Yap Jian Jie
Classmate #02 .......... Soh Kiat Ser
Nurse .......... April Tong
Provision Shop Owner .......... Boi Kwong
Editor .......... Richard Merrells
Video Shop Patron #01 .......... Ong Kho TEE
Video Shop Patron #02 .......... Hong Zhili
Young Boon Huat's Classmates .......... Heidi Mah
NG See Min
Samantha Barnes
Johnathan Chan
Royston Tan

As Himself
BIOGRAPHIES

DIRECTOR, EXECUTIVE PRODUCER, SCREENPLAY, MUSIC COMPOSITION

Award-winning photo artist/filmmaker NICHOLAS CHEE has been in the forefront of Digital Imaging. Having being trained in both traditional and digital photography as well as graphic design, he is a graduate of Temasek Design School’s Visual Communications program in Singapore. On the commercial front, he has been commissioned to shoot for major international clients such as SWISS Air, Fendi, Intercontinental Bali, Sony and Bum Equipment. Nic now consults for professional photographers on digital darkroom and workflow conversion and implementation. He works with leading Digital Imaging vendors such as Apple, Adobe, Epson and X-Rite to develop solutions for the market. Nic also teaches both the Craft and Art of Photography and is a strong advocate of the need for visual literacy. He directed and won both the Judges’ Choice and Audiences’ Choice Award at the Fly-by-Night short film competition with ‘I’ll Live A Day For You’. This is his first full length film. Nic is the co-founder of Originasian Pictures.

ART DIRECTOR, EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

RANDY ANG is the co-founder and creative director of Singapore based design agency Caffeine Creative. Since 2001, he has serviced clients with the likes of the Esplanade, Epson, Panasonic, Singapore Sports Council, Singapore Health Services, Procter & Gamble, The Picturehouse, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Communications & the Arts. He is a graduate from the Temasek Design School, Visual Communication Programme, majoring in graphic design & advertising. He was awarded with the Medallion for Design Excellence and also Overall Best Design Award for his graduating project. Other accolades include awards in the Singapore Design Awards, Creative Circle Awards and the Conqueror Awards. He is also a member of the 1819Supermovement. He co-produced the award winning short film ‘I’ll Live A Day For You’. Randy is the co-founder of Originasian Pictures.

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

KEN MINEHAN is graduate with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Film and Television studies from the Queensland University of Technology. He wrote, produced and directed the award winning ‘Out of the Ashes’, a documentary about the Hiroshima bombing. He has worked as the Director of Photography in various Australian productions including the indie feature ‘Sunset at Noon’ as well as television commercials and corporate videos. He currently resides and works in Singapore as a Director/Director of Photography with Apostrophe Films. Ken was the Director of Photography for ‘I’ll Live A Day For You’.
BIographies

SCREENPLAY, STILLS PHOTOGRAPHY

TERENCE TEO turned to photography/scriptwriting full-time in 2003 after several unrewarding years in the teaching profession. He is now a freelance photographer. His breakthrough came with the ‘Glimpses of Light’ exhibition in March 2005 as part of the team sent to the tsunami-hit town of Meulaboh.

ORIGINAL STORY

TAY KAY CHIN, a photographer and educator, spent more than a decade in newspapers in Singapore as well as the United States. A photojournalism graduate of University of Missouri-Columbia, he joined The Straits Times as a photographer, before becoming its Picture Editor in 1999, later, paper’s web edition. In Oct 1999, he quit the paper to become a freelance photographer. His works are collected by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore, the European House of Photography in Paris, and private collectors. He has participated in group and solo exhibitions in Dhaka, Bangladesh, Sydney, and Singapore. In 2003, Hasselblad selected him as a Hasselblad Master. He is also a Epson Stylus Professional. He teaches desktop publishing at Nanyang Technological University, and volunteers for non-profit organizations such as Mercy Relief. Kay Chin wrote the original story in 1992 titled ‘Becoming Capa’, a story about a Japanese man journey of discovery of becoming his favourite photographer, Robert Capa.

PRODUCER, LEAD EDITOR

An experienced video editor, APRIL TONG has been involved in various projects for MediaCorp’s Channel News Asia, Channel 5 and Channel 8, and SPH Media Works’ Ch i. A graduate with a Bachelor of Arts Degree, April is also one of the pioneers of motion graphics editing. Her experiences range from TV commercials, like i-weekly, 8Days, Kids Company, Elle, Style, and Kodak (just to name a few), to event videos for Cycle and Carriage, Tan Tock Seng Hospital and MediaCorp Radio.
CREDITS

Director ............. NICHOLAS CHEE
Executive Producers  ............. RANDY ANG, NICHOLAS CHEE, JACOB GAY
Producers ............. APRIL TONG, JOLENE TENG
Screenplay ............. NICHOLAS CHEE, TERENCE TEO
Original Story ............. TAY KAY CHIN
Director of Photography ............. KEN MINEHAN
Art Director ............. RANDY ANG
Lead Editor ............. APRIL TONG
Editors ............. JOLENE TENG, APATSRA TAWADEE TAN, CHRISTINA CHOO
Assistant Directors ............. BOI KWONG, CHRISTINA CHOO
Camera Assistants ............. NIC CHU, MIKE CHEW
Original Music ............. NICHOLAS CHEE, JOAN CHEW
Original Soundtrack ............. ROY LIM, SHIRLYN TAN
Sound Design ............. MATTHEW KOH
Gaffer ............. BRANDON LEE
Key Grip ............. JERROLD SPENCER MAXIMILIAN
Grips ............. BERNARD TAN, LINUS KONG, SUDDERUDDIN K HANSHEN, ADRIAN QUEK
Best Boy ............. YEH JONG DIING
Boom Operator ............. HAIRULIZAD (LULU) Yacob, RANJEET RAJAN
Still Photography ............. DARREN SOH, TERENCE TEO, GRACE TEOH, KEVIN YANG
Location Manager ............. CHING TENG SHANG
Property Manager ............. GRACE TEOH
Wardrobe ............. YODOLYN YONG, HONG ZHILI
Make-up ............. JOHNATHAN LIM
P2 Card Technical Manager ............. ALFRED CHOONG
Production Assistants ............. WONG JIAN WEI, ANDY LIM, TAN WEI LONG, SOH KIAT SER, MARCUS GOH, JEREMY ONG, JONATHAN LIM, AYLWIN TEO, SIMON
With Support from ............. MEDIA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE, APPLE SINGAPORE, ADOBE SINGAPORE, APOSTROPHE FILMS, THE SHOOTING GALLERY, INFINITE FRAMEWORKS, COMPANY X
Design ............. CAFFEINE CREATIVE
Web Design ............. BADC

This film was shot on High Definition (HD) using Panasonic’s AG-HVX200 DVCPRO HD and edited on Apple Final Cut Pro HD.
KEY ART

Posters

Wallpapers
BECOMING ROYSTON ONLINE

To market and drive the hype of the film ‘Becoming Royston’, Originasian Pictures is adopting a fresh approach of using the web to provide glimpses into the film. Exploring the possibilities of web interactivity and to increase repeat audience to the site through releases of webisodes of a specially edited shorten version of the feature. Through a period of three months, audience will be treated to about 30mins of the film, free, on the official site [www.becomingroyston.com](http://www.becomingroyston.com) from June 2006.

We will be plugging the site through viral means with the help from the active Singapore and regional blogging community. An online forwarding form offering the chance to win limited edition film merchandise will also be made available.

The use of a free and popular medium, the web, as a viable alternative to traditional print and broadcast media. Which is not to say that the web will be the primary and only form of promotional material; we will be using the internet as an equal partner in the promoting of this film – as opposed to being the poorer cousin to traditional forms of marketing. We’re also taking the advantage of the infrastructure of developed countries with regards to advancements in telco / internet technology, to promote this film. Mobisodes are also currently in consideration.

Much like the actual film, the concept of the site explores possibilities and potential.

As of August 2006 (the site was launched on 1 June 2006), [www.becomingroyston.com](http://www.becomingroyston.com) has received over 190,000 hits. The videos online are non-downloadable.
Ode to a bad boy

Are they on their way to becoming Royston? Two budding film-makers pay tribute to the indie director in their film

Lee Sze Yong

Disaffected youth, heartlander angst, the loss of childhood – yet another Royston Tan movie, you might think.

Actually, no. A new film with these ingredients – and creating a buzz even though it hasn’t been released yet – is not one made by Singapore’s bad-boy film-maker, but one inspired by him.

Two budding home-grown filmmakers, Nicholas Chee, 28, and Randy Ang, 27, have paid a tribute to the 30-year-old award-winning indie director (inset) by making a feature-length film, Becoming Royston.

The film – funded by the two guys themselves on a shoestring $40,000 budget, and now in post-production – is about a young man who, inspired by Tan, leaves home to be a film-maker.

Chee, a digital imaging consultant who is also the film’s director, screenplay writer and music composer, says: “Royston paved the way for local films to be bold and different. From his earlier shorts like Sons to the recent 4:30, he has shown us that there are many stories out there to be captured on camera.”

Tan himself told Life! he was “shocked and surprised” when Chee first told him about the project – but was so won over by the passion of the young crew that he now has a cameo role in it, playing himself, naturally.

Busy with the production of A Stranger: At Home, a stage play at the Singapore Arts Festival, he recalls: “I was thinking, ‘Are you sure you want a film with my name, and get into trouble at the same time?’

After all, he is known for raising the ire of the authorities, such as with his swipe at censors in his 12-minute satire Cut.

But the media darling and errant artist’s name seems a big drawback, whether on the film credits as director or in the actual title.

That’s judging by early response to Becoming Royston. Chee and Ang put up “webisodes”, or short clips of the film, on its website, www.becomingroyston.com. Since the website’s launch on June 1, it has registered over 12,000 hits, crashing one server already. It has been replaced with one with bigger bandwidth.

Chee says in glee: “I’m looking forward to crashing more servers.”

He and Ang are making Becoming Royston – shot entirely on high-definition format – under the name of a start-up they founded, Originasian Pictures.

The tale is based loosely on a short story, Becoming Capa, by former Straits Times photographer Tay Kay Chin.

Chee and Ang have already won awards in a local short film competition, Fly By Night Video Challenge 2005, for a spoof on Stephen Chow’s Kungfu Hustle.

While Originasian is looking for distributors here, it hopes to take part in European film festivals once the movie is completed later this year.

> szeyong@sph.com.sg
PRESS COVERAGE
Zao Bao zbNOW, 16 June 2006
Indie production garners cult following
Originasian Pictures set on ‘Becoming Royston’

By MAGZ OSBORNE

As talented young helmer Royston Tan garners plaudits for movies like ‘15’ and ‘0430,’ exciting indie project from Originasian Pictures ‘Becoming Royston’ is gaining momentum.

Launched on June 1, by June 9th www.becomingroyston.com had received over 22,000 hits with over 10GB of traffic transmitted - the on-line videos are non-downloadable.

The finished project will comprise three products: 5-parts in webcode format, a 30-minute short and an 85 minute feature-length version.

Both the short and feature version will have alternate endings, with short’s release slated for September and feature’s for Nov-Dec 2006. The plan is to tour the festival circuits with both versions.

"Much like the actual film, the concept of the Web-site explores possibilities and potential," say the two main guys behind the project, Randy Ang, executive producer, producer and art director - and Nicholas Chee who is the executive producer, writer, director and co-composer of the original score.

"This project came about after we ask a friend, Tay Kay Chan (former Straits Times Picture Editor) for a story for a new film. It is based on his original short story ‘Becoming Capa,’ explains Chee. ‘I re-wrote it together with Scriptwriter, Terence To to fit the Singaporean context.”

Nic Chee, Randy Ang and Royston Tan all studied together at Temasek Design School albeit graduating in different years.

“We chose Royston because we knew him and all his works ranging from ‘Smot’ to the latest feature ‘0430’ and he is a true blue Singapore boy made good. I had briefly asked him when we started planning for it somewhere in January 2006," adds Chee.

Ang currently runs creative agency, Caffeine Creative while Chee runs a Digital Imaging Solutions consultancy and teaches Photography. Due to start his MA Photography in London back in January 2006, Chee deferred until January 2007 to complete “Becoming Royston”
High-Definition Hereafter
Collaboration with Apple Computer South Asia PTE LTD & Panasonic Asia Pacific PTE LTD

As part of Temasek Polytechnic's strategy to be at the forefront of education and training technology, Temasek Design School formally agreed with Apple Computer South Asia Pte Ltd and Panasonic Asia Pacific Pte Ltd on 26 Jul 2006 to set up the first fully equipped High Definition Post Production Facility (HPPF) in the region using Apple's HD workflow and Panasonic’s technology. This facility is expected to be fully operational by end 2006. The launch of the High Definition Post Production Facility utilising Apple's workflow will make TP the first institute of higher learning in the region to set up a complete Apple HD workflow with state-of-the-art HD post-production editing suites. Hardware aside, this collaboration with industry giants (Apple and Panasonic) will once again affirm Temasek Design School’s strength in design education and training.

The ceremony was attended by Selu Lok Yih, Director, Industry Development Division, Media Development Authority, Mr Edward Fun, General Manager, Apple Computer South Asia, Mr Eugene Chan, Executive Director, Panasonic Asia Pacific Pte Ltd, Managing Director, Panasonic Systems Asia Pacific and other industry guests.

Also present at the event were alumni of Temasek Design School (TDS) and local filmmakers, Mr Nicholas Choe, Director/Writer and Mr Randy Aung, Executive Producer of the much talked about local film, 'Blooming Royalet', which is filmed in HD format. The story is about a boy’s dream of becoming one of Asia’s most talented filmmakers, Royston Tan, who is also a TDS graduate. Nicholas and Randy are amongst the first to produce local movies using HD technology.

Aply named Hereafter; this post production facility opens up a whole new world of digital film making to our budding talents, offering unparalleled opportunities for them to showcase their work in HD - ready to enter the industry, to hit the ground running and ready to grow Singapore’s name as a regional media hub. See also...
PRESS COVERAGE


Interested in 'Becoming Royston'?

Temasek Polytechnic Design School's (TDS) Diploma in Visual Communication (VC) seems to have a knack for producing filmmakers. Ever since Royston Tan shot to fame after his critically acclaimed feature film - '15', TDS has once again produced 2 other filmmakers.

Nicholas Chee and Randy Ang of Originasia Pictures - a film production house that comprises mainly Temasek Polytechnic graduates - are set to take the Singapore film scene by storm by being the first local filmmakers to be using Panasonic’s latest tapeless, high-definition (HD) format cameras to shoot ‘Becoming Royston’.

The film is about a simple village boy who is frustrated with his life and dreams of becoming Singapore’s most talked about filmmaker, Royston Tan, also a TDS graduate. Nicholas, Randy and Royston are amongst the first to produce local movies using HD technology. With this new technology, filmmakers can shoot and edit on the go, significantly reducing post-production time.

An adaptation of “Becoming Capal” - a book written by local photographer Tay Kay Chin. The story revolves around the struggles one faces as he tries to find his own identity.

The film was titled ‘Becoming Royston’ because Royston Tan is seen as a role model for many filmmakers in Singapore today, coming from humble beginnings and working very hard to get to where he is today. Also, having been named as one of the Top 20 Asian Heroes by Time magazine, Royston seemed to be the perfect choice for any young filmmaker to follow after.

Fate brought ‘Becoming Royston’ director Nicholas Chee and executive producer Randy Ang together when they met in Objectifs - a photography and filmmaking centre. Randy was in charge of designing the graphics for Objectifs when he met Nicholas, one of the photography instructors. From then, according to Nicholas, they were like “2 single atoms that were bouncing around aimlessly till they found each other and stabilised”.

‘Becoming Royston’ is expected to be released in early 2007.

(From L to R) Randy Ang and Nicholas Chee with the new tapeless, Panasonic P2 High-Definition camera that was used to shoot ‘Becoming Royston’.

Randy and Nicholas posing with the new Apple HD workflow system, in conjunction with the HD Revolution that’s spearheaded by Temasek Design School.
PRESS COVERAGE
The Newspaper, 8 Aug 2006

First job & a poly family
By Veena Bharwani
August 10, 2006

SHE thought she was going to help make a short home video.
Little did 20-year-old Jolene Tang realize she was sinking her teeth into a mammoth project—and that she would get a full-time job out of it.
The graduate from Temasek Polytechnic (TP) first got involved in the making of local film Becoming Royston as a location manager.
Two months later, she bagged a full-time job as producer for the film.
The movie, which is now in postproduction, is about a young man who, inspired by local film maker Royston Tan, leaves home to pursue his celluloid dreams.
More than 15 people involved in the making of this full-length feature are either former or current TP students.
They work in various departments, from production to editing, to directing and acting.
Even the inspiration for the movie Royston Tan is a former TP student. He graduated with a diploma in visual communication in 1997.
Said Miss Tang, who has a diploma in interactive media design: "In May, I went to tell the producer that a bunch of people are making this 'short online film' and they needed a location manager."
"I hadn't graduated then and I thought, why not get some experience making a short film as I had done video production in polytechnic.
She added: "My other classmates have had to switch fields. I'm lucky - I got to stick to video production.
I had the opportunity to learn film-making from very experienced people and then gain experience by getting this job."
She earns $1,500 as a producer.
The movie, also known as a high definition format (see report on page two), is made by former TP students Nicholas Chee and Randy Ang.
The duo are making the film under OriginAsian Pictures, a startup they founded.
Mr Chee said: "I started out innocently as just a five-episode film to put up on the Internet."
"But two days into shooting, we realised we had enough to make a full-length 80-minute feature film and show it on the big screen."
Mr Chee and Mr Ang put up 'webisodes' or short clips of the film, on its website and are now working on producing the feature film.
HELP FROM ALMA MATER
The duo hardly had problems getting help. All they did was make a few calls to their former poly classmates and many people from various disciplines were at their disposal.
Said Mr Ang, 23: "Of course, being from the same school, we have a certain connection and we are on the same frequency."
"It's like being with your BMT [basic military training] buddies...with girls involved, he added with a chuckle.
Getting the right person from different fields can offer different things to the film."
Added Mr Ang, who runs a design agency: "I roped in two web designers who were my classmates in poly to do the web designing."
"But the first person I called was my classmate April Tang. Coming on board as our producer, she got other TP students involved."
Said Mr Tang, who produced and edited the film: "As a producer, I get more students involved. It's wonderful as we came from the same school and we work so well as a team."
"TP has also recently set up a High Definition (HD) post-production editing facility to train its students—a first in the region."
The first batch of students to be fully trained in the latest HD technology will graduate in 2007.

* Temasek Polytechnic’s website is at www.tp.edu.sg.
PRESS COVERAGE
Cover Story, Asia Image, Sep 2006

Faster for Less
It's time to roll out the 64-bit workstations to really get some work done – and fast!

In The Danger Zone
Cinematographer Laurie Gilbert soc recounts his harrowing brush with death at Mt. Merapi a.k.a. 'The Mountain of Fire'.

The Singapore Focus
Upcoming feature films Becoming Royston and Singapore Dreaming reveal new perspectives about life in the island city.
Becoming Web Filmmakers

Got an independent movie to plug? Let Nicholas Chee and Randy Ang show you how they attracted an online cult following for their movie Becoming Royston.

Singapore's bad boy director, Royston Tan, is in the headlines again. But this time, it's not because he tipped an award at some film festival or saved the government with another of his signature style-accented short films. Actually, his name has been invited for a new movie by filmmakers from his alma mater, Temasek Polytechnic (Singapore). Randy Ang and Nicholas Chee, the filmmakers of Becoming Royston, conveniently borrowed Tan's name for a clever public relations spin, which nevertheless must compare with the author's own antics. Royston's been known to pull some outlandish PR stunts of his own, including that of dressing a bunny suit to promote his national anti-swanshiap short called Cut.

Inspired by an original story “Becoming Cyax” written by Tie Rye Chua in 1996, Becoming Royston is about an inland boy who, inspired by Tan, ventures into the city to pursue his dreams of becoming a director. Tai's original story is about a Singaporean man and his journey of discovery to become his favorite photographer; Robert Capa. The screenplay by Terence Tan and Nicholas Chee, was adapted into the Singaporean context for the movie.

As the movie of Becoming Royston was actually lifted from Tan's own life story, Chua, the movie's director admits, “It's still actually, though Royston did mention that he would love to stay on an island and have bored, very much wanting to be Boon Hott, the main character”.

100 thousand hits and counting.
The director managed to convince Royston to play himself in a cameo role, but not before the latter reminded the filmmakers about the dangers of associating the movie with his rambunctious persona. In an interview with the local news (The Straits Times) reporter, Tan was quoted as saying, “I was thinking. Are you sure you want a film with my name, and get into trouble with the same time?”

On the contrary, judging by the response to the movie's official website www.becomingroyston.com, Royston's name has landed considerable mileage towards the film's surrounding hype. Launched on 1 June 2006, the site already has over 150,000 hits within the first month of going live over the internet.

For a period of three months, site visitors were able to view free, a 30-minute version of the film. To further drive the visibility of the film, audiences are able to view free webisodes on the lead up to the actual feature film. Becoming Royston: in 5 Chapters, the 28 min version, is slated for release in September 2006 at The Picturehouse, while the full 80 min version is due for release in late 2006 or early 2007.

Engaging the Singaporean version, Randy enthuses: “It’s like releasing a very long trailer. Steamer Davis, the new film starring Tan’s hero, is taking the same approach by releasing clips of the film online.”

Internet We Trust
Becoming Royston is funded by Ang and Chee themselves on a shoestring budget of $140,000, under their own production company, OriginAsian Pictures. The company had received a Singapore's grant, as part of an online content initiative by the Media Development Authority of Singapore (MDA). The grant which “supports innovative digital productions made for the Web”, was given to the company on account of their audacity.

Both in their late twenties, Ang and Chee are no strangers to the creative fields.

An award-winning photo artist by day, Chee is trained in both traditional and digital photography as well as graphic design. He consults for professional photographers on digital darkroom and workflow conversion and implementation.

Ang is co-founder and creative director of Singapore-based design agency Caffeine Creative. Like Chee, he is a graduate from the Temasek Design School’s Visual Communications Program in Singapore. He co-produced the short film 17 Live A Day For You, which won both the Judges’ Choice and Audience Choice Award at the Fly by Night short film competition. Chee also directed the digital short.

Long-savvy in the public relations game of “giving just enough to keep them interested and guessing”, Chee and his team of creative spin doctors have generated enough media hype to achieve a cult status for the movie – an astounding fact considering their rookie filmmaking credentials, and the fact that...
PRESS COVERAGE
Cover Story, Asia Image, Sep 2006

"It was an amazing experience! Despite having no rehearsals, they managed to nail the shots with minimal hiccups. Having an organic approach helped a lot. They were playing an extension of themselves, not as much acting which made the scenes convincing.

A complete HD workflow
Shots completely in HD using Panasonic’s AG-HVX200 DVCPRO HD; the handheld production flow uses P2 cards. P2 cards offer solid-state recording, with a data transfer rate of up to 640 Mbps and “plug-and-play” connectivity. The film will be released only in digital format, in keeping with the workflow that the self-taughtrockie filmmakers, believe.

Chow recalls the decision to shoot on HD:
"We’ve heard as much about HD before the production began and we were weighing the options between DVCPro and DVCPRO HD. AG-HVX200’s decided to shoot on an HD camera... We chose DSLR’s and we thought the look of the camera was very nice. We thought the colors were very nice... We chose DSLR’s and we thought the look of the camera was very nice. We thought the colors were very nice."

With the help of PJ Technical Manager, Alfred Chung – he helped to refine the system for the crew who faced early woes of adjusting to the transition from standard-definition workflow – the team was able to simply print out the shooting log, then saving time by eliminating the process of digitizing the footage.

Working without storyboards, Chow revealed that the time was better spent producing an accurate shot list, “I’ll block out the scenes and actions just before the take.”"
PRESS COVERAGE
Cover Story, Asia Image, Sep 2006

The transformation of the Bond Hotel, which landed the “lions” in the most unlikely of intimate hauteurs, “I wanted to take the characters emotionally to the next level.”

After intense discussions with the DP Kee Minhan, and running through the lines and sequence with the actors, the only instruction that Chee gave was “to make the moment magical.” He got exactly what he bargained for, as the scene made such an impact. “I left the entire crew “almost in tears.” I still get comments like, “You made the toilet such a sexy place to fall in love.”

Even though they were armed with state-of-the-art technology, the boys still had to be convinced that it was really that easy to shoot and complete a full movie. Worried that they were not as equipped as some of the more HD-ready facilities in Singapore, the boys were reassured by experts from Panasonic and Apple, who convinced them that the movie could be posted on a DVD.

“Today, it’s even more how we managed to complete the whole movie and the ‘full color’ grading in Final Cut Pro right in our office. I even composed the music using GarageBand.”

Describing his own directorial style as being akin to an “organic surgeon,” the Wong Kar Wai fan waxed on the other doesn’t behind the magic-making.

“I believe that when the right elements are in place, magic will happen. I place a lot of emphasis on casting and dialogue work during production. During pre-production, I would make sure that the characters were ‘ripe’ and developed. I have to thank Terence Tao who did the screenplay with me. He made sure that everything’s logical and truthful.

As for how he rates his maiden efforts as a feature film director, Chee replies:

“It’s been such a huge learning curve for me with no formal training whatsoever in film and video production. I have to thank each and every member of the cast and crew who gave 100%, commitment and who believed in this project. Given a chance to do it again, we would do it the same way.

‘Of course, having more budget would be better.”
For more information, please contact:
Originasian Pictures LLP
42 Ean Kiam Place Singapore 429127 (office)
22A Rowell Road Singapore 207980 (studio)

Nicholas Chee  +65 9383 6305
Randy Ang  +65 9060 9624
Email  film@originasian.com