

Document Citation

Title	Ah Ying
Author(s)	
Source	<i>San Francisco International Film Festival</i>
Date	Aug 21
Type	program note
Language	English
Pagination	
No. of Pages	1
Subjects	
Film Subjects	Ah Ying, Fong, Allen, 1983

AH YING

Hong Kong, 1983. Directed by Allen Fong (Fong Yuk-Ping). Written by Sze Yeung-Ping, Peter Wang. A Feng Huang Motion Picture Co. Production. Principal cast: Hui So-Ying, Peter Wang (Wang Zhengfang). 110 min. In Cantonese, Mandarin and English, with English subtitles.

Festivals: Hong Kong, MOMA New Directors 1984.

The Hui family numbers ten, all crowded into a two-room flat in Hong Kong. The parents, Hui Pui and his wife, run a fish stall at the market. Their eldest son is married and drives his own taxi. Of their other five children the only one who agrees to help on the stall is their 22-year-old daughter Ah Ying.

Ah Ying is in many ways unhappy and frustrated. Apart from bed and board, her parents pay her only HK \$ 500 a month for working on the stall. Her boyfriend Ah Hung has just finished with her, saying that he doesn't want to get too deeply involved, and none of her sisters shares her enthusiasm for rock music.

One day Ah Ying impulsively responds to an advertisement for a part-time job at the Film Culture Centre of Hong Kong. She is not paid for her work, but is allowed to attend the Centre's classes free. She decides to join the acting class run by Cheung Chung-Pak, an American Chinese who has come to Hong Kong in the hope of directing a film. Cheung, lame in one leg and much given to soliloquis-

ing, cuts a strange and rather attractive figure. Cheung's western notions of acting and modern teaching methods disorientate most of the students in the class, but Ah Ying responds better than most of the others. She soon strikes up an extracurricular friendship with Cheung, and the two spend an increasing amount of time together. Cheung, who is trying to understand Hong Kong life better for the sake of his filmscript, asks to meet her family and ex-boyfriend. Ah Ying vaguely imagines that she is drifting towards a romance.

Fong's film is substantially based on fact: he depicts the life of the young actress Hui So-Ying; the only role occupied by a professional actor is that of Cheung, who is based on the actual film-maker Koh Wu, a friend of Fong's who died in Hong Kong in 1982. Fong's decision to avoid post-synchronisation was partly a matter of aesthetic choice, but also partly forced on him by the desire to retain the authenticity of the several dialects spoken in the film.

Festival playdate: SAT. 4/21 9:30 pm - Ghirardelli

Press Screening: _____

