

## Document Citation

Title	<b>Ah Ying</b>
Author(s)	Mel Tobias
Source	<i>Variety</i>
Date	1983 Jul 27
Type	review
Language	English
Pagination	
No. of Pages	1
Subjects	
Film Subjects	Ah Ying, Fong, Allen, 1983

**Wednesday, July 27, 1983**

✓ **Ah Ying**

**(HONG KONG-COLOR)**

**Hong Kong, July 17.**

A Feng Huang Motion Picture Co. Production. Released by Sil-Metropole Organization Ltd. Directed by Allen Fong Yuk-Ping. Features entire cast. Screenplay, Sze Yeung-Ping, Peter Wang; camera (color), Chang Lok-Yee; music, Violet Lam; sound recording, Wong Kwok-Hung. Reviewed at Sil-Metropole Organization preview room, Sunbeam Commercial Bld., Kowloon, Hong Kong, July 16, 1983. Running Time: 100 MINS.

Cast: Hui So-Ying, Peter Wang, Hui Piu, Yao Lin-shum, Cheng Chi Hung, Shu Kei, Rachel Zen, Wong Kee-Chee, Charles Ng, Wong Chi.

*(Cantonese, Mandarin, English soundtracks).*

In a money-motivated city like Hong Kong, where films are conceived merely for commerce and are geared to either viewers with young minds or just plain, non-thinking and visually oriented patrons, director Allen Fong is a rarity ... a sort of a gem in a sea of dollar coins. It is even more surprising that his projects manage to get reasonable financing.

Fong Yuk-ping (also known as Allen) is the American-trained filmmaker from Shaukiwan who surprised Hong Kongites in 1981 with "Father and Son," an exquisite domestic drama about an ordinary Chinese family in a resettlement estate. He is unique in the sense that he has the distinction of being the only local filmmaker who's been exposed to western culture yet has managed to retain his "Chineseness" in cinematic expression of feelings, subtlety and sensitivity, attitudes and presentation of things Oriental.

"Ah Ying," the name of a young girl, is the title of Fong's new film. It was supposedly inspired by actress Hui So Ying whose real life became the basis for the pic, then incorporated with the brief Hong Kong sojourn of American-Chinese artist Koh Wu who died in Hong Kong in 1982, a close friend of the director.

Hui and Koh worked together and their platonic relationship serves as the core of this impressive and intimate film that is definitely not in the common mainstream of Cantonese filming.

The lead actress is a non-professional and is a fish vendor in real life. Her entire family appears as her "reel family" and the only professional actor is Peter Wang who portrays the drama coach Cheung. He contributed most of his dialog. For authenticity, Fong used direct sound and for realism, the dialog is a mixture of Cantonese, Mandarin, and English, the three most-used languages in Hong Kong.

Ah Ying earns \$HK500 a month, so she has to suffer the overcrowding at home. Her relationship with the family members is not especially harmonious and her interest in modern music and the arts is not shared by her sisters. Her determination to improve herself emotionally, culturally and artistically leads her to a film society, then to an acting school where she meets her mentor, Cheung Chung Pak, an American-Chinese brought to Hong Kong to make a film. In many ways, Cheung serves as the alter ego of the director.

The film has already been invited to represent Hong Kong in the Manila International Film Festival in 1984. "Ah Ying" is convincing because of its unpretentious naturalness. It has warmth and a lot of humanity. Fong's pic is without gimmick and will survive time because it is basic yet necessary Chinese. —Mel.