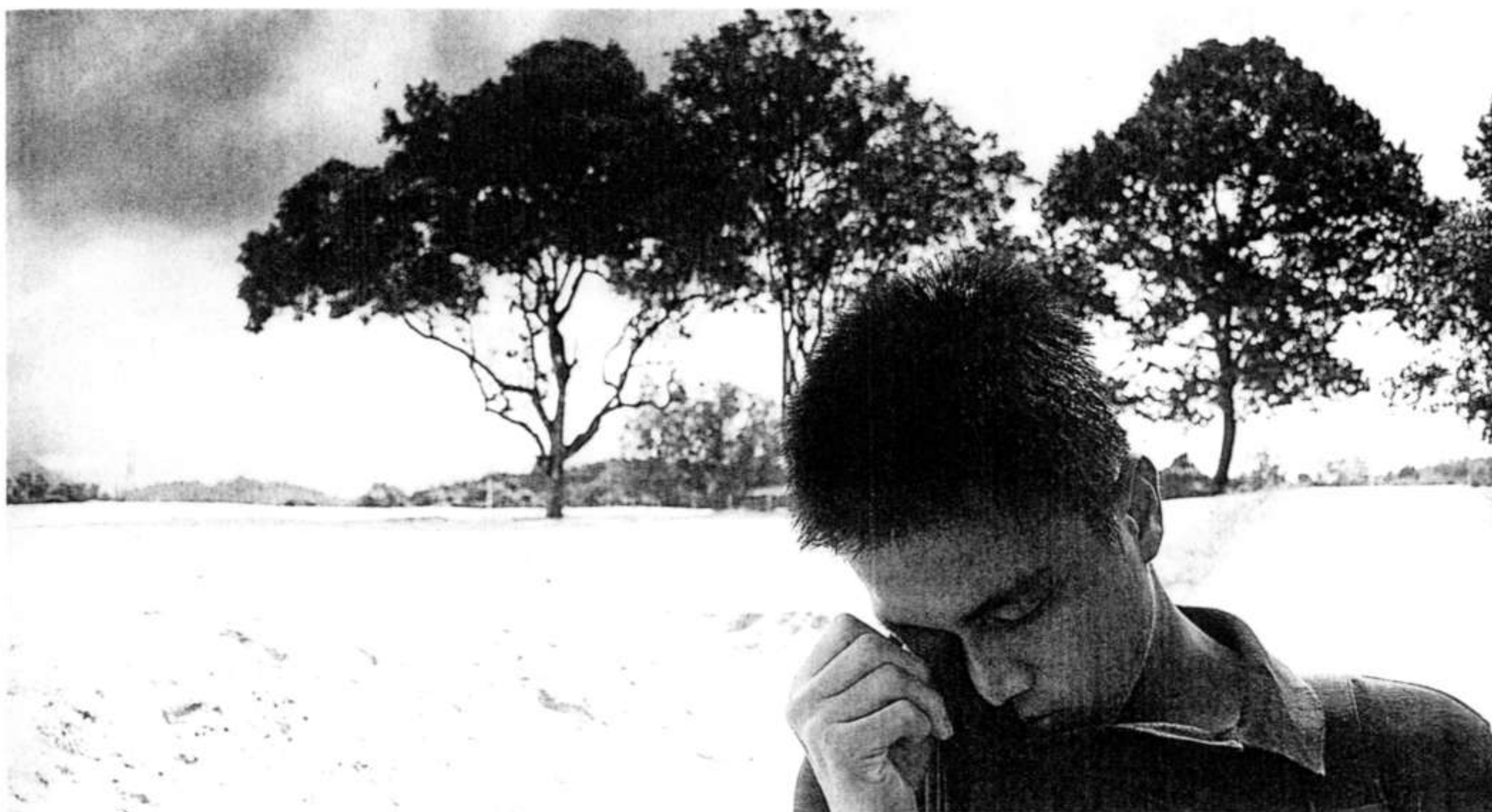


Document Citation

Title	Tai yang yue
Author(s)	Giovanna Fulvi
Source	<i>Toronto International Film Festival</i>
Date	2006
Type	program note
Language	English
Pagination	239
No. of Pages	1
Subjects	Ho Yuhang (1971), Malaysia
Film Subjects	Tai yang yue (Rain dogs), Ho Yuhang,, 2006



Tai Yang Yue

Rain Dogs

Ho Yuhang

MALAYSIA, 2006

Cantonese, Mandarin

94 minutes ■ Colour/35mm

Production Company: **Paperheart Limited/Focus Films Limited**

Executive Producer: **Daniel Yu**

Producer: **Lorna Tee, Ho Yuhang**

Screenplay: **Ho Yuhang, Lim Lay-kuen, Too Set-fing**

Cinematographer: **Teoh Gay Hian**

Editor: **Liao Ching-sung, Ku Hsiao-yun**

Production Designer: **Yee I-lann**

Sound: **Tu Duu-chih**

Music: **Ho Yuhang**

Principal Cast: **Kuan Choon Wai, Liu Wai Hung, Yasmin Ahmad, Pete Teo, Chua Thien-see, Cheung Wing Hong**

Production: **Paperheart Limited, B-1-2 Happy Mansion, Jalan 17/13, Petaling Jaya, Selangor 46400 Malaysia.**

T (60-03) 7957-0851

lorna@focusfilms.cc

Ho Yuhang is a leading voice on the Malaysian independent cinema scene. His forceful cinematic expression exudes the same melancholic tones – and the same penetrating magnetism – as Deep South blues. *Rain Dogs*, Ho's latest feature, is a road movie about the journey to adulthood. A mature and sensitive testimony, it revolves around love, loss and failures of communication. Beginning in the familiar turmoil of adolescence, Ho widens his gaze to encompass both the banality of daily life and the majesty of Malaysia's landscapes. He observes his characters from a distance, letting them breathe in an air of authenticity, and achieves a raw narrative honesty.

Nineteen-year-old Tung (Kuan Choon Wai) has been visiting his elder brother Hong (Cheung Wing Hong) in Kuala Lumpur. Returning home, he loses his money in the busy bus station – but he is about to lose something far more important and ephemeral. Hong, a small-time delinquent, dies soon after in a fight at the local pool hall, and what Tung has known as youth vanishes with him.

He is forced to return to Kuala Lumpur, this time for Hong's funeral. On his second trip home, the intoxicating beauty of the countryside – its lush green jungle shining under high skies dense with rain – accompanies his journey. But the road to the little town where he lives with his mother now leads to a mental place where he no longer belongs. Blues legend Odetta sings in the background, "Sometimes I feel like a moth-

erless child / A long, long way from home," expressing Tung's emotions and setting the film's tone with her sad melody.

The inner landscapes of bewildered lives are paired with the impassive beauty of nature and the metaphorical darkness of neon-lit Kuala Lumpur. It is all captured in the passionate cinematography of Teoh Gay Hian, whose work can also be seen this year in Garin Nugroho's *Opera Jawa*. Simultaneously full of compassion and strength, the particular intensity of *Rain Dogs* is born of Ho's disarming ability to unlock meaning and mood from the quiet of his meditative bouquet of ideas.

■ **Giovanna Fulvi**

Ho Yuhang was born in Petaling Jaya, Malaysia and studied engineering at Iowa State University. After completing his degree, he returned to Malaysia, began working in television and directed the award-winning documentary *Semangat Insan: Masters of Tradition* (99). His short films include *Camera Degree Zero* (99), *Good Friday at the Zoo* (00) and *Not Far from Here* (02). He has directed three features: *Min* (03), *Sanctuary* (04) and *Rain Dogs* (06).

Sponsored by

Sun 
Life Financial

TIFF 2006