

Document Citation

Title	Ah Ying
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Source	<i>Pacific Film Archive Calendar</i>
Date	1986 Sep 8
Type	program note
Language	English
Pagination	
No. of Pages	1
Subjects	
Film Subjects	Ah Ying, Fong, Allen, 1983

Ah Ying 7:30

Allen Fong (Fong Yuk-Ping) studied film at the University of Southern California, then returned to Hong Kong where he made *Father and Son* (1981), praised internationally as one of the best films from Hong Kong in the past decade. In an industry dominated by martial arts films, detective sagas and light comedies, Fong's films stand apart for their naturalism, their intimate characterizations and their sensitivity to the effect of westernization on Chinese culture. Fong based *Ah Ying* on the real-life stories of actress Hui So-Ying and of Koh Wu, a Chinese-American artist who died in Hong Kong in 1982. It is an intimate, wise film depicting Ah Ying's struggle to pursue her interests in modern music and art in an impoverished and overcrowded home, and her platonic relationship with Cheung, her Chinese-American drama coach and mentor. With the exception of co-scriptwriter Peter Wang (*A Great Wall*), who portrays Cheung, the entire cast is made up of non-professional actors. The actress Ah Ying portrays herself, the daughter of fish vendors; her film family is her real family. A clash of cultures peculiar to Hong Kong is personified in the film's main characters and emphasized in dialogue that is a mixture of Cantonese, Mandarin and English.

• Directed by Allen Fong (Fong Yuk-Ping). Written by Sze Yeung-Ping, Peter Wang. Photographed by Chang Lok-Yee. With Hui So-Ying, Peter Wang, Hui Piu, Yao Lin-shum. (1983, 100 mins, In Mandarin, Cantonese and English with English titles, 35mm, Color, Print from Array Films)