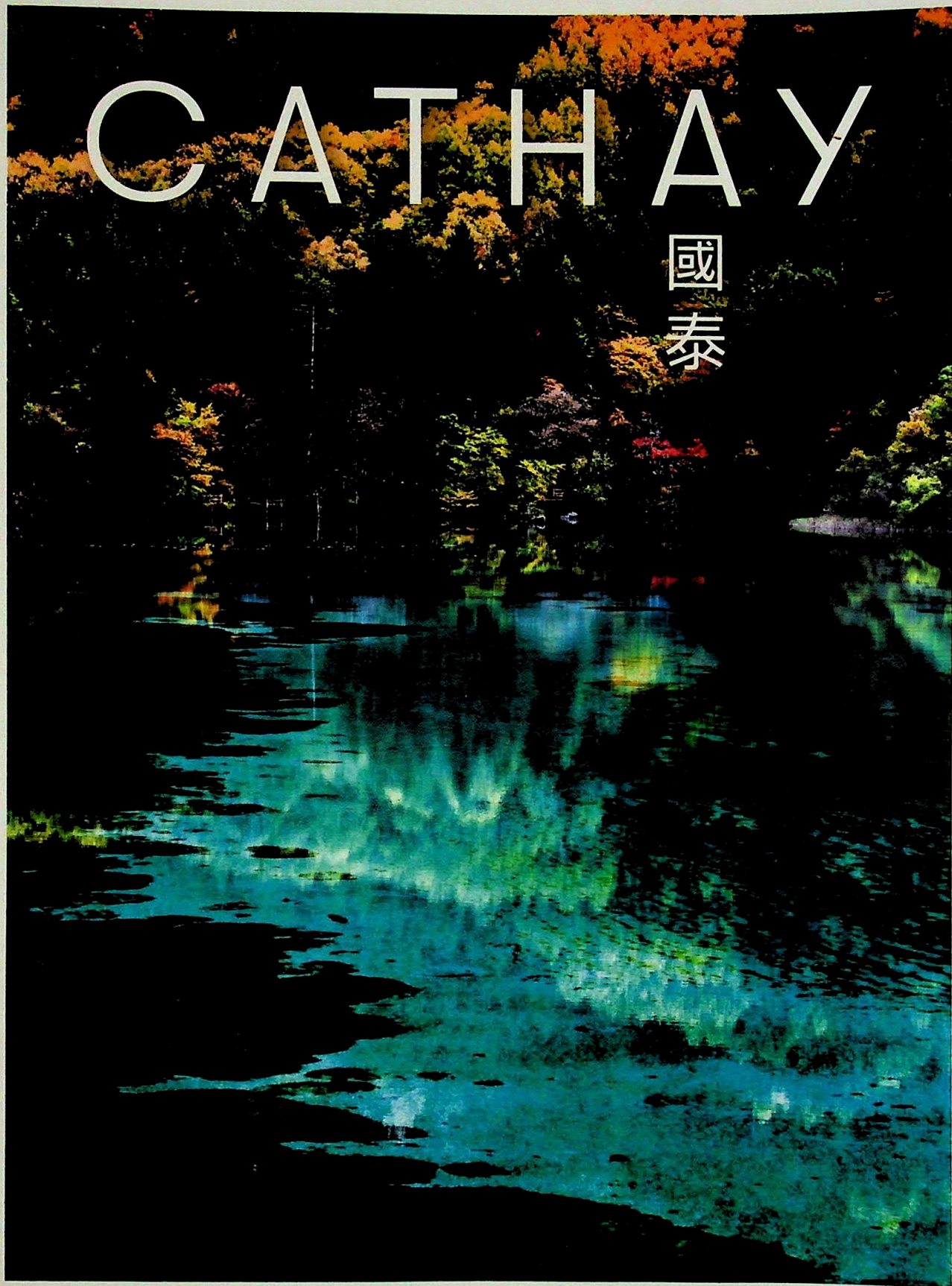




CATHAY

國泰



Jiuzhaigou **Serenity in Sichuan**

九寨溝 四川純美之境

好 HOU² 香 HOENG¹ 港 GONG²
SO HONG KONG

IN REEL LIFE

WATER WILD MONTH'S SHAWN FUNG CREATES
DISTINCTLY HONG KONG SKITS AND SHORTS –
90-SECOND DOSES OF HOME. BY VENUS LAM

PHOTOGRAPHY / ELVIS CHUNG

WHAT KIND OF A STORY can be told in just 90 seconds? For Shawn Fung, the creator of the popular Instagram account and YouTube channel Water Wild Month, a minute and a half is all he needs.

Since creating Water Wild Month in 2021, Fung and his team have produced dozens of shorts which merge humour and sentimentality through a uniquely Hong Kong lens. They mostly feature Fung as a hapless protagonist: an ordinary person living in the city, experiencing the ups and downs of relationships, work and everyday life – from getting dumped to quitting your job; from saying “no” to plastic bags to getting left on read.

These are universal experiences, but Water Wild Month's shorts couldn't be filmed anywhere else. They're shot in neighbourhood corner shops, cha chaan teng restaurants, herbal tea shops, and the streets, alleys and beaches of the city. Stylistically, they combine the “mo lei tau” nonsensical humour of Stephen Chow comedies with the lavish visuals of auteur Wong Kar-wai. In location and tone, they're Hong Kong in a nutshell.

“My videos are all filmed locally,” says Fung. “I don't know whether they truly embody the spirit of Hong Kong. It's just what I like to make and watch.”

WILDLY INSPIRED

The 24-year-old Fung grew up in Sham Shui Po, a working-class neighbourhood currently in the grip of gentrification. He showed little interest in his studies, instead focusing his energy on films – especially anything starring Stephen Chow. After dropping out of school at the age of 15, Fung's passion for the big screen expanded from Hong Kong comedies to include superhero blockbusters, *The Lord of the Rings* franchise and arthouse films by Wong Kar-wai. At a film studies class recommended by a social worker, Fung began exploring Wong's body of work and was mesmerised after watching his seminal *Days of Being Wild*.

“I was intrigued by Wong's cinematic approach and was drawn in by the film's nuances and ambiguity. My friends and I watched all of his films and interviews – and then started emulating his style in our shorts.” ②

只想拍電影

水野月主腦馮錫潮以其獨立製作的本地戲劇小品和短片，用90秒訴說他的香港情、電影夢

撰文 VENUS LAM

攝影 / ELVIS CHUNG

90秒，可以說怎樣的故事？以「水野月」之名打響名堂的馮錫潮，便在其Instagram和YouTube頻道創作一段段分分鐘的短片，帶大家走進他的電影世界。

自2021年成立水野月以來，馮錫潮（阿潮）和他的團隊一直用獨有的香港視角，創作近百齣既搞笑又帶點感性的短片，其分分鐘Instagram小故事，主角就是阿潮自己，就像你和我的一個普通人，訴說著失戀、辭職等城市面對的社會日常，還有各式生活瑣事，例如買咖啡、買煙、買膠袋，甚至「已讀不回」。

這些雖是尋常經歷，但水野月的作品滲透著地道港味，場景遍及大街小巷，包括大家熟悉不過的茶餐廳、涼茶舖和沙灘；風格上帶點點「無厘頭」的搞笑对白，以及王家衛式的唯美影像，微頭微尾，就是香港地。

阿潮愛舊卻不懷舊，喜歡文藝也不吝於地踏：「我的作品是在本地拍攝，是否很香港我不敢肯定，但這就是我的風格。」

沒有《阿飛正傳》就沒有今日的我

相約阿潮在深水埗會面，這個現今成為了文青與草根相遇的舊區，是他成長的地方。24歲的阿潮自言是個不愛讀書的「問題少年」，喜歡看電影，最迷周星馳。到了中三輟學，依舊愛看戲，《魔戒》、超級英雄片，甚麼熱門電影都看齊，後來社工介紹他參加電影課程，老師播放了一小段《花樣年華》去講述導演的工作，引起他的好奇。

於是他找《阿飛正傳》來看，結果驚為天人：「看完很驚訝，想不到電影可以這樣拍，那時可能是叛逆期，特別感性，特別多愁善感，被電影那種忐忑、曖昧昧的感覺所吸引。」

阿潮看畢王家衛所有電影所有訪問後，便相約朋友照版煮碗去拍片。起初只簡單用一部iPhone6，隨後買了部Olympus相機，正式展開拍攝生涯，然後把作品放上Facebook，這樣持續了一年。由於都是在模仿王家衛，身邊沒有人看好，覺得他是癡人說夢。但他從未放棄電影夢想，一邊在快餐店工作，一邊堅持每周拍一條片，而且一定兼任編導演三職，矢志自己故事自己演。數年過去，轉眼間馮錫潮化成水野月，從Facebook到YouTube再轉戰Instagram，累積接近20萬的追蹤。③

Shawn Fung's Water Wild Month clips embody a very Hong Kong spirit

馮錫潮製作的水野月短片，總流露一份香港情懷



“

PEOPLE ALWAYS SAY I COPY WONG KAR-WAI – I'M JUST GLAD THAT THEY CAN SEE A RESEMBLANCE

別人說我模仿王家衛，我也一樣開心，因為至少扮得似

Things began simply. For a year, the films were shot on an iPhone 6; later, on an Olympus camera before being shared to Facebook. Despite scepticism from friends and family, Fung remained undeterred. When he wasn't working at a fast-food restaurant, he was working to hit a weekly upload schedule, taking on the roles of writer, director and actor simultaneously. Fast-forward a few years, and Fung has gone from Facebook posts to the Water Wild Month channel, with close to 200,000 followers on Instagram.

A LIFELONG PURSUIT

Last year, Water Wild Month's video series *If I Were and Ordinary People Vs Filmmakers* gained immense popularity. The latter, which presents and contrasts the same situation as a real-life scenario and then from an emotionally freighted, deadpan cinematic point of view, catapulted Water Wild Month's view count to some 3.5 million.

Funny and down-to-earth in a way that's uniquely Hong Kong, these skits on Instagram have expanded Fung's fanbase tremendously. He explains, "Our Instagram content is more about having fun. Ultimately, we want more people to know about us." That's led to advertisers jumping onto the channel, allowing him to focus solely on filmmaking.

While Instagram serves as a promotional platform, Water Wild Month's YouTube channel is where Fung hones his cinematographic techniques. These short films allow him to experiment with various film styles, from the use of cameras and lighting to the delivery of the script. His emotional monologues have become a signature, showcasing a more sentimental side of his personality that's normally hidden behind a comedic façade.



Water Wild Month's videos have both Chinese and English subtitles, and Fung has a lofty goal to transcend language barriers and reach a wider audience outside Hong Kong. It's an impressive ask for humour that's so distinctive to the city. But Fung's dream remains the same. "I want to produce artistic, youthful works," he says. Behind his dedication lies a simple fact: "Filmmaking is all I know."

Now in his seventh year of filmmaking, Fung has come to realise that the path ahead isn't an easy one. "At first, my goal was to earn a Hong Kong Film Award nomination before I turned 26. But after making a few short films, I've realised I need more time to polish my skills, especially in scriptwriting," he says. "Next year, I plan to join the government's First Feature Film Initiative to get funding for my debut movie. And as always, I'd like to write, direct and star."

Fung emphasises the importance of continuous improvement and the value of constructive criticism. "People always say I copy Wong Kar-wai – I'm just glad that they can see a resemblance." The first step in becoming a master is imitating the masters. Hong Kong may not need another Wong Kar-wai, but there's certainly room for a Shawn Fung. ○

Instagram: @water_wild_month
Twitter: @waterwildmonth

製片都不懂只懂拍片

去年水野月的兩個Instagram片系列「假如我是」和「普通人VS電影人」大受歡迎，後者以拍攝手法對比出兩類人的看法，更讓views激增至350萬，內容夠貼地兼「低能搞笑」。阿潮承認有吸引眼球的作用：「Instagram片是盡量放肆地玩，目的就是要令觀眾意想不到，最終是希望多點人認識我們。」隨著短片大受歡迎，得到廣告商垂青，他已可全職拍片不用做兼職。

若說Instagram是他的市場推廣部，YouTube頻道才是他的真正試練場，微電影的創作讓他可在鏡頭、燈光、對白各方面有更多嘗試，大玩文藝把戲，感性獨白是其特色之一，打造港式日系小清新之作。水野月的作品長短均配上中英文字幕，雖然水準參差，背後目標其實很遠大，就是要突破語言界限，衝出香港。「我最渴望拍攝極度文藝極度青春的作品。」問到他為何那麼堅持，「因為我甚麼也不懂，只懂拍片。」

踏入第七年，他明白電影之路並不容易。「其實我之目前目標就是希望在26歲之前得到金像獎提名，明年也打算參加政府的『首部劇情電影計劃』，不過拍了微電影後對自己有些懷疑，我想還需要時間磨練，特別是劇本上，當然我還是堅持自編自導自演！」

阿潮說要不斷進步，也會聽批評的聲音。「別人說我模仿王家衛，我也一樣開心，因為至少扮得似。」有說大師都是從模仿開始，香港不會也不需要第二個王家衛。期待另一個發光發熱，屬於這個時代的香港導演。○

Instagram: @water_wild_month
Twitter: @waterwildmonth

Photos: Sidebar. Courtesy: images

FAVOURITE FLICKS

阿潮作品解說

Fung on three of his top shorts

三齣作品三種情懷

1. *The Person in the Painting*

"This short film is one of my earlier works. It pays tribute to Japanese cinematography and captures the beauty of autumn really well. It's the work I'm proudest of so far, but there's still plenty of room for improvement."

《畫裡面的人》

「屬很早期的創作，因為一直都想製作有香港味道的日系唯美微電影，雖然很多方面也不夠成熟，但總算表達出秋天的凄美，可說是我人生暫時最滿意的作品。」



2. *A Journey to the End of the World*

"It's full of dark humour and captures the absurdity of a romantic relationship. Looking back, I think this is the film where I've shown the most growth – but the pacing still needs work."

《式旅的世界末日》

「很喜歡作品中的黑色幽默，以及荒誕的愛情。雖然我認為此片是我進步得最快的作品，不過節奏還是掌握得不够好，有待改善。」



3. *Have You Ever Had a Special Dream?*

"I've always been fascinated by dreams; they can feel so realistic, yet we know deep down that they're just imaginary. The same can be said for romantic relationships."

《不知道你們是否有發過特別的夢？》

「對夢我可說是情有獨鍾，因為在夢境可以超越現實，但畢竟還是假的，並不真實，正如感情有時候也是亦真亦假。」

