

Seeking life through death in Cannes

THE Cannes Film Market is chock full of directors, producers and film companies looking for financial deals to bring their movies to life.

One local company is here looking for films about death.

Upside Down Concepts and Media Group, one of eight participants at the Singapore Pavilion, are here to get in touch with producers, festival directors and film commissions from around the world for a campaign project by the non-government organisation Life Before Death.

Funded by the Lien Foundation, the move is the next phase in the campaign to engage the media via films, the Internet and print.

Executive producer Michael Chua has shortlisted 15 films from 30 films at the market dealing with the topic of death. But it's not slasher flicks they're interested in. Rather, it's along the lines of recent Oscar-winning Japanese film *Departures*.

It will be films "talking about death, caring for the dying and basically dealing with the final days of people's lives", said Chua.

And no, he said it isn't depressing. "The most important thing about this (project) is to make people celebrate life," said Chua, 36, who added that they're trying to break the Asian taboo of not talking about death.

There was talk of doing a standalone festival but organisers have decided to look into incorporating a section on the theme in various existing film festivals from around the world.

Chua also said they are now in talks with the Singapore International Film Festival. **MAYO MARTIN**

TODAY EXCLUSIVE

Go, Yasmin, go!

Malaysian director tackles S'porean teen triathlete's tragic death for new film

MAYO MARTIN in CANNES
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YASMIN Ahmad's new film will soon be up and running. And it's based on one of the biggest tragedies to have hit Singapore sport, involving triathlete Thaddeus Cheong (inset).

Yasmin, the Malaysian director of award-winning films like *Muallaf* and the TV commercials for the Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports — *Eulogy* and *Red Shoes* — is currently writing the script for *Go, Thaddeus!*

In June 2007, the 17-year-old Cheong, a Raffles Junior College student, collapsed at the finish line during a selection race for the South-east Asian Games triathlon event. He died soon after.

Go, Thaddeus! will be based on the book *Running The Full Distance: Thaddeus Cheong*, written by the late athlete's aunt, Belinda Wee.

It is set to be released in Singapore and Malaysia in August next year as a lead up to the Singapore Youth Olympics.

Coming on board as producer is Thomas Chia, director of independent movie distributor Lighthouse Pictures. The first-time feature-length producer told TODAY at the Cannes Film Festival that Wee had contacted Yasmin through him.

Chia, a personal friend of the director and distributor of her films, said: "(Wee) sent me the book, I finished it in four hours and cried my eyes out. I knew Yasmin would be interested in something like this."

He added: "I saw this project as viable because it's for the Youth Olympics, it's a real story of a national hero, and Belinda went all out to get all the government agencies to be involved."

One of the film's earliest supporters is the Singapore Sports Council.

The 15-day shoot for *Go, Thaddeus!* commences in February next year, with an estimated budget of somewhere between \$700,000 to \$1.2 million. Actors have yet to be cast but Chia revealed that the short list for one of the lead roles includes a Singapore TV and movie actress, and that Yasmin "has been speaking to one of the biggest actresses in Malaysia. And she's Chinese".



TODAY FILE PHOTOS



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VIVO CITY	PLAZA SINGAPURA	GRAND GREAT WORLD	MARINA SQUARE	YISHUN
Gvmax ANGELS & DEMONS* 12:25 3:35 6:45 9:55pm ANGELS & DEMONS* 11:30am 12:00 2:30 3:00 5:30 6:00 8:30 9:00pm STAR TREK* 10:40am 12:45 1:15 1:45 3:30 4:00 4:30 5:30 6:15 6:45 7:15 8:15 9:00 9:30 10:00pm X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE* 1:30 2:00 4:00 4:30 6:30 7:00 9:00 9:30pm THE UNINVITED* 11:20am 1:15 3:20 5:25 7:30 9:35pm THE RAMEN GIRL* 12:00 2:15 4:30 9:15pm HORSEMEN* 11:45am 17 AGAIN* 12:50 3:10pm TAKEN* 11:45am GOLD CLASS GV VIVO CITY ANGELS & DEMONS* 11:30am 3:00 6:20 9:45pm STAR TREK* 11:00am 2:30 6:00 9:00pm X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE* 1:20 4:00 6:45 9:20pm CINEMA EUROPA GV VIVO CITY KABEI - OUR MOTHER* 6:25 9:20pm	ANGELS & DEMONS* 11:30am 12:20 12:50 2:30 3:20 3:50 5:30 6:20 6:50 8:30 9:20 9:50pm STAR TREK* 10:50am 12:50 1:35 3:10 3:40 4:20 6:00 6:30 7:05 8:45 9:15 9:50pm X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE* 11:30am 1:15 2:00 3:45 4:30 6:20 7:00 8:50 9:30pm THE UNINVITED* 3:25 5:30 7:35 9:40pm THE RAMEN GIRL* 11:50am 2:00 6:40 9:00pm 17 AGAIN* 4:20pm FRIDAY THE 13TH* 11:05am 1:10pm TAKEN* 11:10am GU GU THE CAT* 12:20pm TIONG BAHRU PLAZA ANGELS & DEMONS* 11:40am 12:45 2:30 3:35 5:30 6:35 8:30 9:35pm STAR TREK* 12:00 1:30 2:50 4:15 5:40 7:00 8:30 9:45pm X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE* 4:20 7:10pm THE UNINVITED* 12:15 2:15 6:50 9:00pm THE RAMEN GIRL* 12:20 2:30 4:50 9:40pm HORSEMEN* 11:30am TAKEN* 4:55pm Cinema opens 30 mins before 1st show. All movie rated PG unless otherwise stated. Session times are subject to change. * No Free Passes, * English Subtitles, * 备有中文字幕, * Per call chargeable. No refunds for uncollected tickets.	ANGELS & DEMONS* 11:00am 12:40 2:10 3:40 5:20 6:40 8:30 9:40pm STAR TREK* 12:00 1:00 3:00 3:50 6:00 6:40 8:45 9:30pm X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE* 11:30am 2:00 4:30 7:00 9:35pm GOLD CLASS GV GRAND ANGELS & DEMONS* 3:20 9:25pm STAR TREK* 12:20 6:30pm JURONG POINT ANGELS & DEMONS* 12:00 12:50 3:00 3:50 6:00 6:50 9:00 9:50pm STAR TREK* 12:35 1:30 3:20 4:15 6:05 7:00 8:50 9:45pm X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE* 11:50am 2:10 4:40 7:10 9:40pm THE UNINVITED* 11:15am 3:20 5:25 7:30 9:35pm HORSEMEN* 1:10pm 17 AGAIN* 11:20am TAKEN* 4:55pm	ANGELS & DEMONS* 11:50am 12:40 2:50 3:40 5:55 6:40 9:00 9:40pm STAR TREK* 12:40 1:20 3:20 4:10 6:00 7:00 8:40 9:50pm X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE* 1:55 4:25 6:55 9:30pm THE UNINVITED* 12:55 3:00 5:05 7:10 9:15pm THE RAMEN GIRL* 12:15 2:35 7:05 9:25pm HORSEMEN* 4:55pm 17 AGAIN* 1:05 3:15pm FRIDAY THE 13TH* 1:15pm BISHAN JUNCTION 8 ANGELS & DEMONS* 12:00 12:45 3:00 3:45 6:00 6:45 9:00 9:45pm STAR TREK* 12:10 1:25 2:55 4:10 5:40 6:55 8:25 9:40pm X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE* 11:50am 2:10 4:40 7:10 9:40pm THE UNINVITED* 11:15am 3:20 5:25 7:30 9:35pm HORSEMEN* 1:10pm 17 AGAIN* 1:20pm	ANGELS & DEMONS* 11:40am 12:50 2:30 3:50 5:30 6:30 8:30 9:10 9:40pm STAR TREK* 12:10 1:25 2:55 4:10 5:40 6:55 8:25 9:40pm X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE* 11:50am 2:10 4:40 7:10 9:40pm THE UNINVITED* 11:20am 3:40 5:45 7:50 9:55pm HORSEMEN* 11:25am 17 AGAIN* 1:20pm

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ANGELS & DEMONS* (IN DIGITAL FORMAT) (PG-Violence) (ECS) (08884)
The Cathay: 1:15pm, 4:05, 7:00, 9:55pm
Cineleisure Orchard: 1:25pm, 4:10, 7:00, 10:00pm
ANGELS & DEMONS* (PG-Violence) (ECS) (08885)
The Cathay: 11:20am, 12:30pm, 2:00, 3:15, 4:40, 6:00, 7:20, 8:45, 11:30pm
Cineleisure Orchard: 11:20am, 12:20pm, 1:00, 2:10, 3:10, 3:45, 5:00, 6:00, 7:50, 8:50, 9:35, 10:40pm, 1:30am
Causeway Point: 12:30pm, 1:30, 3:20, 4:15, 6:10, 7:00, 9:00, 9:50pm
AMK Hub: 10:50am, 12:30pm, 1:30, 3:20, 4:15, 6:10, 7:00, 9:00, 9:50, 11:50pm
Downtown East: 11:40am, 1:25pm, 2:30, 4:10, 5:20, 7:00, 8:10, 9:50, 11:00pm

THE CATHAY 2 Handy Road, Levels 5 & 6 S'PORE PREMIER CINEPLEX	THE PICTUREHOUSE HENRY POOL IS HERE! 11:20am, 1:20pm, 3:20, 5:20, 7:20, 9:20pm EXCLUSIVE	STAR TREK 10:45am, 12:10pm, 1:20, 2:40, 3:50, 5:10, 6:20, 7:40, 9:00, 10:10, 11:40pm, 2:05am	AMK HUB 53 Ang Mo Kio Ave 3, AMK Hub, Level 4	THE RAMEN GIRL 11:35am, 1:35pm, 5:45, 9:55pm
ANGELS & DEMONS* (IN DIGITAL FORMAT) 1:15pm, 4:05, 7:00, 9:55pm THE UNINVITED* 11:45am, 1:35pm, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30pm, 12:05am STAR TREK (IN DIGITAL FORMAT) 2:10pm, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40pm STAR TREK 11:00am, 1:30pm, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:40pm SELL OUT! 1:10pm, 5:15, 10:00pm EXCLUSIVE THE RAMEN GIRL 11:05am, 3:15pm, 9:20pm	THE UNINVITED* 11:20am, 1:20pm, 3:20, 5:20, 7:20, 9:20pm EXCLUSIVE FIREBALL: MUAY THAI DUNK* 1:15pm, 3:15, 7:15, 9:15pm DIVE!! 11:30am, 2:00pm, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30pm EXCLUSIVE STAR TREK (IN DIGITAL FORMAT) 2:10pm, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40pm	STAR TREK 1:50pm, 5:15, 7:15, 9:15pm FIREBALL: MUAY THAI DUNK* 1:00pm, 3:00, 8:00, 9:55pm SARVAM* (PG) (Some Disturbing Scenes) 2:00pm, 5:00, 8:45pm STAR TREK 1:20pm, 2:10, 3:50, 4:40, 6:20, 7:10, 8:50, 9:40pm THE RAMEN GIRL 12:00pm, 6:45pm	THE UNINVITED* 11:50am, 1:40pm, 3:35, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, 11:55pm FIREBALL: MUAY THAI DUNK* 11:30am, 1:30pm, 3:25, 5:20, 7:20, 9:20pm STAR TREK (IN DIGITAL FORMAT) 11:40am, 2:10pm, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40pm STAR TREK 1:15pm, 3:45, 6:15, 8:45, 11:20pm CLAUSTROPHOBIA 11:00am, 1:00pm, 3:00, 5:00, 9:10pm EXCLUSIVE	THE UNINVITED* 11:20am, 1:10pm, 3:10, 5:10, 7:10, 9:10, 11:30pm FIREBALL: MUAY THAI DUNK* 1:35pm, 5:40, 9:30pm STAR TREK 11:20am, 1:20pm, 3:50, 4:20, 6:20, 6:50, 8:50, 9:20, 11:50pm THE RAMEN GIRL 1:50pm, 3:40pm

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