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M'sian director collapses



Yasmin has won awards for her sensitively observant dramas such as *Sepet* (Chinese Eye, 2004) and *Gubra* (Anxiety, 2006). -- ST FILE PHOTO

CRITICALLY-ACCLAIMED writer-director Yasmin Ahmad (above), 51, collapsed and went into a coma during a presentation she was giving at TV3's studio in Sri Pentas, Kuala Lumpur on Thursday, the Malaysian press reported.

When reached, her producer Fendi Harjoh told Life!: 'This is not the right time for an interview. But she is fine and stable and in the ICU.'

It was reported that the Malaysian film-maker was taken to the Intensive Care Unit at the Damansara Specialist Hospital. She is believed to have suffered a stroke and was in a coma for a short while before doctors there successfully revived her.

She has won awards for her sensitively observant dramas such as *Sepet* (Chinese Eye, 2004) and *Gubra* (Anxiety, 2006).

But Singaporeans know her through the successful pro-family commercials she created for the Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports. Last year, she got people talking with an ad featuring a girl growing up with a single father and this year, an ad which depicted a widow reminiscing fondly about her late husband at his funeral.

She is currently in pre-production for her first movie to be shot in Singapore titled *Go, Thaddeus!*. She has been holding casting calls here for it, which is based on the true story of 17-year-old Singaporean triathlete Thaddeus Cheong, who died after finishing a SEA Games selection race in 2007.

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