



《我唯一的阳光》是年轻妈妈（右）与聋哑女儿的故事。

本地导演曹峻铭：很难！

李亦筠 / 报道

新作《我唯一的阳光》

挑战手语，本地短片导演曹峻铭说：“很难！”

曹峻铭接受《联合早报》访问时说：“因为演员的手语要准，错了就是别的意思。”

《我》刻画一名年轻妈妈一直很内疚无法给女儿一个完整的家，更内疚女儿聋哑。两人活在不同世界，但女儿一直视妈妈为阳光，也坦然面对自己的缺陷，母亲也最终从自己的桎梏中挣脱出来。

曹峻铭是拉萨尔艺术学院电影系一年级学生，《我》是他的学校作品，上个月角逐中国的“大学生短片大赛”。这个比赛由海南省旅游和文化广电体育厅所举办，开放给中国及亚细安的大学生。《我》虽没夺奖，但他说：“看了其他入围短片，都很强，能与这些强片一起竞赛，很荣幸了！”

片中扮演妈妈的是曹峻铭的学姐刘玉伟，饰演女儿的则是第一次演戏的素人，曹峻铭说：“是我当义工认识的一个朋友的女儿。我有朋友懂手语，我把对方录制的手语视频传给女孩看，拍摄时，她当场学手语，学得好快。”刘玉伟的手语也是向曹峻铭的朋友学的。

《我》无对白

导过不少短片，曹峻铭的《吉米》（Special Jimmy）曾在本地、纽约与多伦多三地的“精神健康电影节”竞赛，新作《我》首次挑战无对白，“题材比较敏感，拍摄前得收集很多资料并向聋哑人士咨询。”

谈到创作灵感，他说一次在地铁上看到一群聋哑人士以手语沟通，可是他也留意到旁边的乘客并没露出友善的眼神，他说：“我想为这群人说话，他们除了听不到无法说话，其他方面与一般人没有不同。”

《我》从筹备到完成费时约一个月，曹峻铭说：“疫情下拍摄很具挑战，拍摄现场不能超过五人。”《我》的预告片在社交平台播出，大家纷纷留言想看完整版的，他说：“我将与学校沟通，希望把《我唯一的阳光》结合我过去的一些短片一起放映。”

过去短片内容主要反映新加坡的社会问题，曹峻铭2018年获颁世界10大杰出青年奖（新加坡）优异奖。他下个月将开拍新短片，探讨年轻人如何被社交平台上的排名（Ranking）比如点赞（Like）数量所影响。

Local director Cho Jun Ming tackles sign language in his latest work

“It was very difficult,” bemoaned local director Cho Jun Ming on his latest work *My Only Sunshine*. It tackles the subject of sign language. “The actor’s hand gestures have to be very accurate because any mistake could spell a different meaning entirely.”

My Only Sunshine tells the story of a young mother who struggles with the guilt of not being able to give her Deaf daughter a complete home. Although the mother is not able to fully understand her daughter’s silent world, the child does not begrudge her and instead accepts her disability, regarding her mother as her ‘sunshine’.

Jun Ming is a BA(Hons) Film student at LASALLE College of the Arts and this short film was a school project that he submitted for a competition organised by the Hainan Provincial Department of Tourism, Culture, Radio, Film, Television, Publication and Sports. The competition was strong, with entries hailing from other ASEAN universities and China such as the Beijing Film Academy. Though *My Only Sunshine* did not win any awards, Jun Ming said it was a great experience: “I felt very happy and honoured to have the opportunity to compete against other amazing young directors.”

His fellow peer from the BA(Hons) Acting programme at LASALLE, Su Paing Tun, played the role of the mother while the daughter was a fresh face on the scene. “Both of them were really quick in learning sign language on the spot while on set. All she had as reference were videos made by a friend of mine who knew sign language,” he added.

No dialogue

Jun Ming is a director with a number of short films under his belt, including *Special Jimmy* which competed in the Mental Health Film Festival that was held in Singapore, New York and Toronto, but *My Only Sunshine* was his first attempt at shooting a film without any dialogue at all. “As the subject matter was quite sensitive, we had to do a lot of research before filming such as consulting with Deaf individuals about their experiences,” he shared.

His inspiration for this project stemmed from a personal experience, relating that he once witnessed passengers on a train being less than friendly to a group of Deaf individuals who were conversing in sign language. “I wanted to say something on their behalf,” he said regrettably. “Except for their inability to hear and speak, they are not much different from us.”

It took a total of one month for *My Only Sunshine* to complete filming and Jun Ming shared: “It was very challenging from the onset due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We had to be mindful about things such as the maximum number of individuals allowed on site etc.”

Despite these complications though, the film has been well-received online, garnering many positive comments on social media just from the trailer alone. If possible Jun Ming hopes to be able to organise a screening of *My Only Sunshine* and several of his other works, which include shorts that highlight social issues in Singapore. When asked about his next film, Jun Ming revealed that he is planning to explore how teenagers are affected by the numbers on social media.