



# 0506HK

by  
Quentin Lee

A Margin Films Production

Approx. 63 minutes

Documentary | Color | HDV

[0506HK.COM](http://0506HK.COM)

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*I, too, am a translated man. I have been borne across. It is generally believed that something is always lost in translation; I cling to the notion—and use, in evidence, the success of Fitzgerald-Khayyam—that something can also be gained.*

— Salman Rushdie, *Shame*



## SYNOPSIS

Where is home? Where is the most ideal place for one to create art? Both questions haunt bicultural or immigrant artists and writers.

**0506HK** documents filmmaker Quentin Lee's returns to Hong Kong, where he was born and raised. As he explores his desire to move back there from Los Angeles, he interviews local artists, filmmakers, friends, and family about why they are in Hong Kong and why they choose to be there. With humor and wit, Lee explores culture, belonging, politics, and ultimately the question of where the best place is for him to exist as a filmmaker.

Part autobiography, part travelogue, part cultural criticism, the documentary features local cultural icon Kam Kwok Leung, filmmakers Peter Chan, Teddy Chen, Tammy Cheung, animator Raman Hui and many other colorful characters.

A stylish collage of interviews, original footage and home movies, **0506HK** is sometimes nostalgic. It is nevertheless both an emotional and meaningful journey.



## **Generation 97**

One afternoon, when I was 12, my parents came home and told us with excitement that we would be immigrating to Canada. I remember that heartbreaking moment so clearly. My parents pretended to be so happy, but I felt so sad that I wouldn't be able to live in Hong Kong anymore.

Since that moment, I had to stop letting my feelings grow for Hong Kong because I knew I had to leave. Fearing political instability after Hong Kong being turned over to China in 1997, we left for Montreal in 1986, the summer just before I turned sixteen.

I belong to this generation of 97.

## **10 years later...**

Ten years have passed. In the blink of an eye, we are two months away from the 10-year anniversary of the 1997 turnover.

As an adult, I have been haunted by the question—what if my parents had never uprooted me from Hong Kong? I could have happily grown up there. This question became the starting point for my documentary. I needed to investigate my ambivalent and intense feelings for Hong Kong.

However, I also realized that these feelings were abstract and difficult to portray. I thought, "What does Hong Kong represent to me? I have been going back to Hong Kong because of my friends, family and the people I know. These people are Hong Kong to me."

05/06



Just before Christmas 05, I bought a consumer HDV video camera and packed my bags for Hong Kong. I decided to stay there for a month to interview a variety of people that represented Hong Kong to me. Being in the creative industry, I've come to know a variety of cultural creators in Hong Kong both mainstream and independent. I interviewed them along with my family and friends and investigated what Hong Kong meant to them and what Hong Kong culture is.

As it turned out, a great many of my interview subjects were people who had lived elsewhere for awhile, some in Canada and others in the U.S. Through their voices and stories, I began to explore the possibility of moving back.

Over several month-long trips I took to Hong Kong between 2005 and 2006, I have interviewed about 28 friends and family members.

### **A search for culture**

At the heart of the documentary is culture. I ask the question, "What is Hong Kong culture?" Ironically, some people said Hong Kong had little or no culture. I found that statement shocking. It compelled me to ask more questions and began my search for Hong Kong culture.

As much as this documentary is a personal journey, it is also a meaningful record and exploration of cultural identity and belonging. I recall my cultural criticism professor at Yale Sarah Suleri Goodyear saying, "Yet the choice has to be made... on whether or not I represent my own culture."

I do.

**May 2007**  
**Quentin Lee**



Premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival in 1997, Quentin Lee's first feature ***Shopping for Fangs*** opened to critical acclaim during its limited theatrical release in the U.S. Lee wrote, co-directed (with Justin Lin), produced, and distributed ***Fangs*** through Margin Films, a company that he founded in 1997.

The success of ***Fangs*** paved the way for Lee's second feature ***Drift*** where he returned to a more personal realm. He produced, wrote and directed ***Drift***, a drama that became a hit on the gay and lesbian film festival circuit and was sold to Wellspring Media. ***Drift*** was also released theatrically to critical acclaim in Los Angeles.

Praised as a "perceptive illumination of Asian American life... at once a tender love story and a psychological suspense drama," ***Ethan Mao*** is Lee's third feature as a writer/director. The film was sold to TLA Releasing in the U.S. and was also sold to the UK, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and China.

An exploration of his emotional attachment to Hong Kong, ***0506HK*** is Lee's first documentary feature.



Produced, written and directed by Quentin Lee

Photographed and edited by Quentin Lee

Original Music by Steven Pranoto and Windmills

With:

Kam Kwok Leung

Norm Yip

Peter Chan

Teddy Chen

Gaga

Raman Hui

Tammy Cheung

Pheba Li

Vicent Chui

Esther Yeung

Brian Lau

Jennifer Seeto

Bryan Chan

Tabitha Lee

Will

Justin

Tabitha Lee

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Approx. 63 minutes

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Shot on HDV

Hong Kong / Canada / USA

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