



Name in English: Wayne Wang
Name in Chinese: 王穎
Name in Pinyin: Wáng Yǐng
Gender: Male
Birth Year: 1949
Birth Place: Hong Kong
Current location: San Francisco, New York City

Award Winning Film Director

Profession(s): Film Director

Education: Master of Fine Arts, Film Production, California College of Arts and Crafts – Oakland, 1973; Bachelor of Fine Arts, Painting, California College of Arts and Crafts – Oakland, 1971; Foothill College

Awards: 1982, Independent/Experimental Film and Video Award, Los Angeles Film Critics Association Awards; 1987, Asian Media Award, Asian American International Film Festival; 1990, KNF Award, Rotterdam International Film Festival; 1995, Honorary Ph.D., California College of Arts and Crafts – Oakland; 1995, Silver Berlin Bear, Berlin International Film Festival; 1996, Bodil Award for Best American Film, National Association of Film Critics (Denmark); 1996, Best Foreign Film Award, German Film Awards; 1996, Robert Award for Best Foreign Film, Film Academy of Denmark; 2007, CEC Award for Best Film, Golden Seashell, SIGNIS Award, San Sebastián International Film Festival (Spain)

Contributions: Wayne Wang was born and raised in Hong Kong. His father named his son after his favorite actor, John Wayne. Wang came to the United States when he was 17 in 1967, sent by his parents worried about neighboring China's Cultural Revolution, to attend school with the intention of becoming a medical doctor. His devoutly Christian parents arranged for him to stay with a Quaker family who turned out to be active in the Bay Area's radical anti-war movement of the time. The culture shock pushed Wang into filmmaking, a decision along with his growing American outlook and values that estranged him from his father for many years.

Wang's breakthrough film was "Chan is Missing" in 1982, made for a paltry \$22,000. This film is credited for starting the Asian American independent film movement. "Dim Sum: A Little Bit of Heart" (1985), "Eat a Bowl of Tea" (1989), and "The Joy Luck Club" (1993) gave Wang an unwanted reputation for making heartbreaking movies about Chinese American women. The latter film even led to attacks against him for its negative portrayal of Chinese men for which Wang is unapologetic, saying the characters were truthful to the individual men, not to any stereotype. His next film "Smoke" in 1995 was set in a quiet New York tobacco shop and starred mainstream actors such as Harvey Keitel, William Hurt, Stockard Channing, and Forest Whitaker. The film was nominated for and won numerous awards, especially in Europe. Since then he's

consciously tried to avoid any stereotyping as a director by alternating between independent and mainstream films and between Asian American and mainstream subjects. For several years in the early 2000's though he became known for making lightweight Hollywood fare such as the dog-centered film, "Because of Winn-Dixie" (2005) and "Maid in Manhattan" (2002) starring Jennifer Lopez. Wang's 2007 films, "A Thousand Years of Good Prayers" and "The Princess of Nebraska," returned him to small independent filmmaking because of his desire to show how the Chinese American community had changed with the influx of recent immigrants. Both films are based on stories by immigrant author, Yiyun Li. Wayne Wang continues to be an innovative filmmaker, resisting genre stereotyping, and usually leaving his audiences with ambiguous endings so that they can decide for themselves what happens after the screen credits roll.

External Links:

<http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0911061/>

http://asianweek.com/2001_08_10/arts_wang.html

<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/09/14/movies/14lim.html?ex=1379476800&en=ffb70de38d3d956f&ei=5124&partner=permalink&exprod=permalink>

<http://www.exclaim.ca/articles/multiarticlesub.aspx?csid1=115&csid2=946&fid1=28074>

<http://americanpop.asianweek.com/2008/09/insider-outsider-an-interview-with-wayne-wang/>