



Joshua Chay (left) and Margaret Leong behind the scenes.

# Mama Leong tells her story

A TOUR of the past with a church member culminated in a documentary which won Joshua Chay the first prize in the highly coveted Shoot & Win competition by Malaysia's social network [ruumz.com](http://ruumz.com)

The UCSI University Film and Television student from the School of Mass Communications submitted a video, entitled *Mama Leong*, in conjunction with 15Malaysia, an independent film initiative spearheaded by P1 WIMAX.

The documentary, conceptualised by Chay, started as a class assignment — find a Malaysian above 40 years old who can take him on a trip down memory lane.

The subject, called Alternative Voice offered by the School of Mass Communications, was under the tutelage of lecturer Sharaad Kuttan.

"Joshua took a simple classroom assignment to capture a fragment of the nation's history

and produced a gem.

"His innate sense of empathy with those around him, critical approach to social and political issues, as well as a commitment to his craft are apparent in *Mama Leong*," says Sharaad.

Chay and Margaret Leong (more affectionately known as Mama Leong) attend the same church.

"For a 74-year-old woman, she can hold her own against my generation, and was passionate about the project," says Chay.

The short video takes the viewer to downtown Kuala Lumpur, where Leong recounted the experiences she had living there as a child.

She relates the story of the Japanese Occupation during the Second World War in Malaysia, and also her experience during Operasi Lalang in the late '80s.

The documentary would not have been possible without the help of Chay's friend Sebastian Lee, who helped him with the

cameras.

"It is not possible to produce a film solo, and I am grateful to Sebastian and Madam Leong for their help," says Chay.

Apart from the recognition he received for winning the competition, Chay also won a MacBook Pro laptop.

Woo Ming Jin, one of the judges for the competition, and also the director of one of the 15Malaysia films entitled *Slovak Sling*, says that Chay's video was unanimously selected.

"The video was not only historically interesting and important, but also moved me," says Woo. ruumzNation Sdn Bhd chief executive officer James Chong says that ruumz is the ideal platform for youth to showcase their talent for the arts."

To watch the video, and others that were short-listed, visit [www.ruumz.com/15Malaysia/ShootAndWin.aspx](http://www.ruumz.com/15Malaysia/ShootAndWin.aspx)