

PRESS RELEASE

**EX-COMRADES IN SINGAPORE FOR FIRST TIME TO GRACE
'I LOVE MALAYA' DOCUMENTARY**

2 March 2007

Two former members of the Malayan Communist Party (MCP) will be in Singapore for the first time to participate in the screening of *I Love Malaya* at the 2nd Singapore Indie Documentary Film Festival (SIDF) on 7th March 07.

In the Flesh

Most people who have watched the *I Love Malaya* will not forget *Xueying*, the feisty old lady with a sharp tongue who persevered in going home despite being kept away for 50 years. *Ziyi* was the guerrilla fighter with a healthy appetite for elephant meat.

Both Xueying and Ziyi were Malaysian-born but subsequently became stateless as a result of the war. Last year, they finally received their Thai citizenship, 15 years after the peace accords were signed between the MCP, Malaysia and Thailand.

This will be their first trip to Singapore and first time viewing the documentary on the big screen together with an audience. There will be a Q & A session after the screening.

We warmly invite you to join us at the Film Festival and in welcoming them to Singapore.

For Our Cause: I Love Malaya

Date: 07 March 2007, Wed

Time: 7.30 pm

Place: Substation, The Theatre
45 Armenian Street Singapore, 179936
Telephone: +65 6337 7535

Tickets can be purchased online at <http://www.substation.org/2SIDF/> or at the door.

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Documentary Dossier

English Title: I Love Malaya

Chinese Title: 再见马来亚

Film: Digital format

Length: 45 mins

Language: English, Mandarin, Malay with English subtitles.

Location: Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand

Production: Completed Nov 2006

Production Company: Asia Witness Production

Website: ilovemalaya.com

Synopsis

In 2005, an 81-year-old man sued the Malaysian government for denying him entry into the country of his birth. Chin Peng was the leader of the Malayan Communist Party, which waged the longest and most difficult war lasting more than 30 years, first to overthrow the British colonial government and then against the Malaysian state.

When peace was finally secured in 1989, more than 200 guerillas returned to Malaysia. But Chin Peng was not one of them. In fact there are many like him who have remained in southern Thailand, as stateless aliens, unable to step foot into the country they had given their lives fighting for.

I Love Malaya is the story of their journey home.

About

I Love Malaya was first screened on 25 November 2006 to a full house at the Asian Civilisations Museum. It was also the first film funded under the ISEAS Film Programme. This new programme hopes to promote appreciation of Southeast Asia filmic material as well as to explore synergy between film-making and scholastic research on the region.



Huang Xueying, 73
Former Guerilla fighter, MCP

Huang Xueying was born in Perlis , Malaysia . She left home at the age of 15 to join the Malayan communist Party. She married a party cadre but divorced him before she was 30. She has since lived a self sufficient life tending to rubber plantations in Southern Thailand. After obtaining Thai citizenship in 2006, she went home to Perlis for the first time in 50 years



Yao Ziyi
Former guerilla fighter, MCP

Ziyi was formerly from Cameron highlands in Malaysia. He joined the Malayan Communist Party in the mid 70's. He has since married and settled in Southern Thailand running a travel agency.