

Yow, C. L. (2015, January 1). An exciting cinematic year. *The Malaysian Insider*. Retrieved from <http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/sideviews/article/an-exciting-cinematic-year-yow-chong-lee>

An Exciting Cinematic Year

By Yow Chong Lee

2014 observed one of the most exciting cinematic scenes locally and internationally.

Many international (award winning) films had been brought into Malaysia and screened at our local theatres, mainly through film festivals which strive to offer an alternative film culture to Malaysian audiences.

This year alone, two major film festivals, namely the Japanese Film Festival and European Union Film Festival were unprecedentedly organised in Kuching. As at other part of Malaysia, French Film Festival is also actively organised and patronised by local audiences.

While Hollywood tries to churn out many blockbuster (mainly superheroes and action) films that appeal to mass audience, they have never put aside the cinematic taste of those who seek for differences, apparently for the sake of money making and (for god sake) diversifying our film culture.

As of Malaysian cinema, according to many critics, is the most exciting year after many years of drought, particularly true after the death of P. Ramlee and Yasmin Ahmad.

This year alone, a few Malaysian films were selected for special screening in international film festivals (famously known "Lelaki Harapan Dunia" & "Terbaik Dari Langit") and, in film business wise, "The Journey" pushed through the Malaysia's all-time box office record with more than RM17 million collected through a single film.

There was a saying that "there is the cinema before Godard, and the cinema after". If this was to be put in our local film context, it will be true that "there is the Malaysian cinema before 2014, and the Malaysian cinema after". That doesn't mean there was no Malaysian cinema before 2014, but 2014 certainly marks a trajectory change from its memorable past.

All these sound very positive to all of us. But, not the case for the trend which many stakeholders are giving up on film and choosing a digital platform instead. Not to be sad, there are still "stubborn" film manufacturer (Kodak) and directors who insist on making film in film.

As of now, though there are many films shot digitally, we are still left with opportunity to see films made fully in film, or sometimes a mixing of film and digital platform.

With this, let's hope for the best for our shared love – the cinema – in the new year to come.