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# young post

In the making



KARTHIE LEE (LEFT) AND TRACY LAU WON THE IFVA GOLD AWARD FOR THEIR SHORT FILM ABOUT THE PLIGHT OF BLIND PEOPLE. PHOTOS: MAY TSE

Girls expose the city's uncaring attitude with a short video. Filming it was a learning process, writes **Lau Kit-wai**

**T**wo Hong Kong schoolgirls have shown us that when it comes to being a good Samaritan, action speaks louder than words.

The two Form Five students from Lok Sin Tong Leung Kau Kui College, Karthie Lee Ka-wai and Tracy Lau Chui-ting, won the gold award in the youth category at the Hong Kong Independent Film and Video Awards (ifva) this year.

Their nine-minute *Voice in the Darkness* documentary features their classmate posing as a blind man seeking directions to the MTR station. Passers-by appear to be bewildered or amused. Some simply walk past him. It takes almost four hours before someone helps him.

The result contrasts sharply with the interviews that follow the scene in which people say that if they saw a blind person asking for directions they would offer help without hesitation.

"I think Hong Kong people are, in fact, very kind. But they don't take action due to selfishness or because they are too busy," says Tracy.

"As a volunteer I have visited blind children and I find they have a very simple attitude towards life. They will trust strangers easily because they can't see. They really need our help."

The girls say the short documentary mirrors a typical Hong Kong mentality.

"Often people don't practise what they preach. We like to see ourselves as good people, but when there's a conflict of

interest we often put our interests above others'," says Karthie.

She guiltily admitted that, on one occasion, she had seen a blind person waiting for a bus. The bus arrived and the person neither noticed nor heard the driver.

"Then I was busy shooting the incident and therefore didn't help. In the end, the bus went away," she adds.

**Maybe people think there are enough facilities or we have done enough for people with disabilities**

Both students say short films are a way to highlight problems that go unnoticed in society. "Maybe people think there are enough facilities or we have done enough for people with disabilities," says Tracy.

## Their teacher

Lucia Yuen Siu-tsz, the film art teacher at Lok Sin Tong Leung Kau Kui College, is also an ifva winner. She graduated from the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts in 2003. Now she teaches students about filmmaking and how to direct shorts.

"Hong Kong doesn't lack young people who are passionate about making movies. The problem is that they have very few opportunities," says Ms Yuen.

Apart from ifva, the Fresh Wave Short Film Competition presented by Hong Kong International Film Festival and IndPanda International Short Film Festival, the city has few occasions for young filmmakers to showcase their talent. "But we keep going," says Ms Yuen.

***Voice in the Darkness* will be screened at the Hong Kong Science Museum tomorrow at 7.15pm as part of The 13th ifva Awards Showcase Programme. Visit [www.ifva.com](http://www.ifva.com) for more information.**



PROUD TEACHER LUCIA YUEN CONGRATULATES HER TWO TALENTED FILMMAKERS.

"Documentaries can reflect the problem and improve society."

Karthie says making the films has affected her personally.

She is usually a quiet person who seldom talks to family or

friends, but making the short film helped her communicate with other people.

Great news for anime fans  
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