



**JAMES LINGWOOD**

Director/Producer

# AN OVERVIEW

James's real passion is **storytelling and visualizing**, and he brings his deep knowledge and genre-spanning expertise into the making of films that resonate emotionally, with audiences across cultures, from Shanghai to Zanzibar.

James's vast experience in the Film & TV industry, having directed actors such as **Geoffrey Rush** (Best Actor, Academy Awards 2007) and **Jackie Chan**, enables him to engage with the best talent in the industry, and to initiate, develop and produce high-quality films that are both, artistically and commercially successful.

Over the past 25 years, James has produced and directed over 200 hours of international film and television programs such as the Australian children's television series, "**The Curiosity Show**", awarded the **Gold Medal for the Best Children's Program** at the *Prix Jeunesse Internationale* in Munich, and the highly acclaimed television series, "**The Voyage of the Great Southern Ark**", both broadcast by **PBS** and **Discovery** across USA, Canada, UK, Germany, Australia and New Zealand.



In 1994, James undertook a six-week shoot through China covering seventy stories for the PBS series "**Yan Can Cook**". The series has been screened worldwide regularly, has won the prestigious **James Beard Trophy** for the **Best Cooking Television Program** in the USA, and has been voted the **4th Best Cooking Show** of all time. Recently, James also completed the anthology series, "**Yan Can Cook - Best of Thailand & Best of Hong Kong**".

In the unique documentary "**From the Dragon's Mouth**", screened by **BBC World**, James relates the story of the **1997 Handover of Hong Kong** from Great Britain to China, through a sequence of spontaneous images and interviews with prominent and popular celebrities as well as ordinary people on the street. These same people were interviewed again in 2002 and 2007, bringing a ten-year retrospective to this significant moment in history.

# AN OVERVIEW

Recently James finished filming parts of a TV campaign, “**One More Voice**” for **CNN** on the **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Amnesty International**, with 15 peer directors from around the world; **Meryl Streep** is the narrator, **Hans Zimmer** composed the soundtrack. Along with 30 directors in as many countries, James has also completed another innovative film, “**Exquisite Corpse**”, recently screened at international film festivals.



Two films, “**Father Joe and the Bangkok Slaughterhouse**”, chosen as a **MeetMarket 2009** project at the Australian International Documentary Conference, and “**Little Gods of Mercy**”, are currently in development and production.

Both these films highlight the horrors of poverty and disease, and yet show how even the most desperate of situations can be changed for the better. James has filmed in countries throughout the world from **Japan, China**, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Macau, the **Philippines**, Indonesia, **Singapore**, Malaysia, Vietnam, **Thailand** and Myanmar to **Australia** and **India**, as well as in locations in the Bahamas, Central America, the Middle East, the United Kingdom and Continental Europe.



James is a member of:

- **International Quorum of Motion Picture Producers, USA**
- **National Documentary Film Academy of China**
- **Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts**
- **The Australian Directors' Guild**



# YAN CAN COOK

James's most popular TV series, 'Yan Can Cook', won the James Beard Trophy for the Best Cooking Program to air in the USA.



# TV COMMERCIALS

James has produced and directed many commercials throughout the years for some of the world's biggest brands.





# DOCUMENTARY AND HUMAN INTEREST

James's career has been influenced greatly by the people he met while filming many of his landmark documentaries.



*Father Joe and  
the Bangkok  
Slaughterhouse*



*John to Josie*



*From the  
Dragon's Mouth*



*One More  
Voice Against  
Racism*



# DOCUMENTARY AND HUMAN INTEREST



Farmer Swap



Voyage of the Great Southern Ark



James Lingwood films crowds at the junction of D'Aguiar and Peddar streets in Central. "I wanted it to be an honest portrayal of Hong Kong." Photo: Oliver Tsang

## Filmmaker charts how HK came of age

In the lead-up to the 10th anniversary of the handover, we profile Hong-kongers for whom the date has special significance

Documentary maker James Lingwood has filmed the changing face of Hong Kong over the past decade and is putting the finishing touches on a programme that tracks how the city and its people have evolved since the 1997 handover.

As well as capturing on camera a host of celebrities, politicians, business executives and entrepreneurs, the filmmaker turned his lens on the lives of ordinary people.

The owner of his own Australia-based film and TV production company, Lingwood lived in Hong Kong for 10 years and was here throughout 1997, when he watched as journalists

### Hong Kong Faces



from around the globe "parachuted" into the city to cover the historic event.

"I wanted to do something myself. A lot of journalists were arriving from all over the world with little knowledge or experience of Hong Kong culture or its people," he says.

"I knew, and still know, a lot of prominent people. I had all that knowledge and wanted to put it to some use. I wanted to get the people of Hong Kong telling their own stories rather than some biased version. I was the recording device, the catalyst, for that to happen."

Among the recognisable faces in

What shines through is the resilience of Hong Kong

Documentary filmmaker James Lingwood

the documentary are actor Michael Wong, designer Alan Chan, tenor Warren Mok, Lan Kwai Fong Group businessman Allan Zeman, fashion designer Flora Cheong-Leen, film director Yon Fan and cinematographer Chris Doyle.

He has also interviewed scores of taxi drivers, market stall owners, do-

estic helpers, expat bankers, tourists and labourers for the documentary, called *From the Dragon's Mouth*.

He won some last-minute funding from the Queensland government in Australia last week to complete filming and said he was finalising arrangements with the BBC to air the documentary. He returned last month to take crowd shots at one of Central's busiest junctions.

Made along the lines of the British documentary series *Seven-Up*, which tracked children from 1964 at seven-year increments, Lingwood interviewed and filmed more than 100 residents in 1997, in 2002 and again this year. He says it's likely he will return in five years to get an update. "As well as being able to track the changes in Hong Kong, you can also see the changes in the people themselves

over the last 10 years, physically. I will use split screen so you can see whether people have aged well or not.

"One thing that really shines through is the resilience of Hong Kong people. They are able to go through everything from Sars and bird flu and come out the other end. Now things are booming.

"I wanted it to be an honest portrayal of Hong Kong. There has to be some balance and obviously there's both positive and negative."

Lingwood has worked on several campaigns for the Hong Kong Tourism Board and recently directed an award-winning three-minute film and a one-minute television commercial branding Hong Kong as Asia's World City.

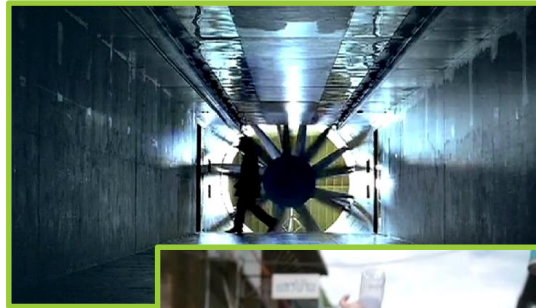
Norma Connolly

# PROMOS AND PILOTS

James has shot a variety of television promos and pilots



*Bling!*  
*TV Pilot*



*Asia's World City*  
*TV Promo*



*Valour*  
*TV Pilot*



# SHORT FILMS



*Amazon*



*The Room*



*Vision*



*Tales from Middle Kingdom*



*Aerials Master*



*The Fame Game*



*Indorama*

# CHILDREN'S TV

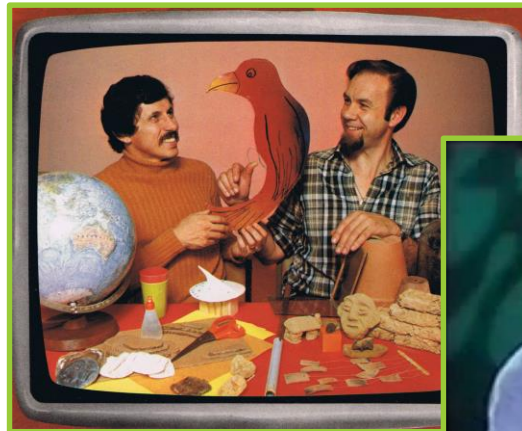


*Little Gods of Mercy*



A street corner, Bangkok, Thailand

*Flower Girl*

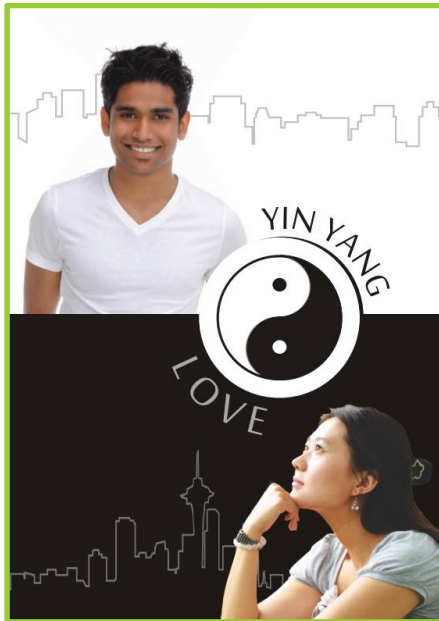


*The Curiosity Show*

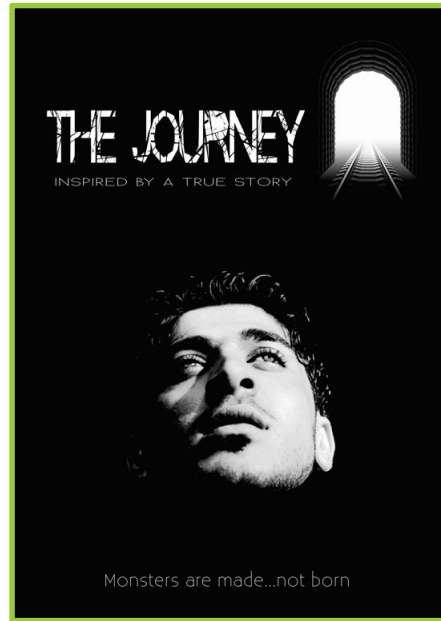


# MOVIES AND TRAILERS

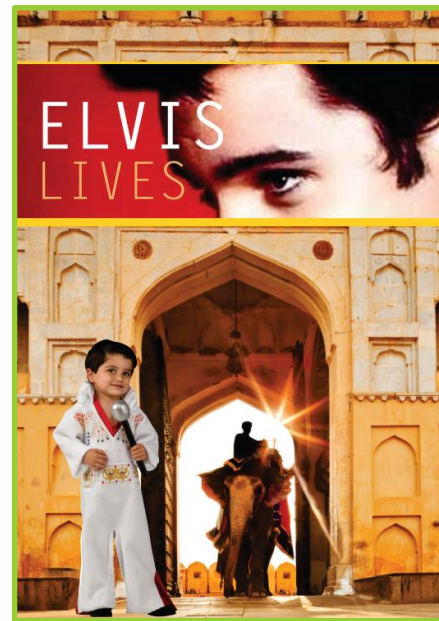
James has been involved in a variety of film projects over the years. He is currently producing several feature films.



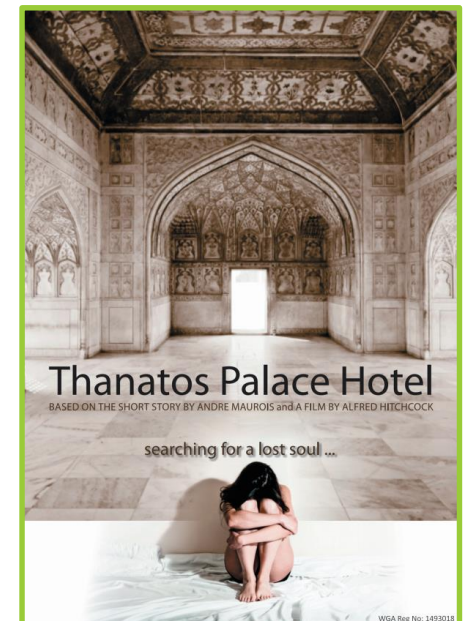
*Yin Yang Love*



*The Journey*



*Elvis Lives*



*Thanatos Palace Hotel*

# TESTIMONIALS

A veteran of the industry, James is well-respected amongst his peers in Oceania and across the globe.

*"James' ease of communication coupled with an honest no-nonsense approach, makes for a personality that adds to LINGWOOD PRODUCTIONS LTD being an asset to this State's film and video industry".*

**Andrew Zielinski, Director, South Australian Film Corporation.**

*"LINGWOOD PRODUCTIONS LTD consistently produce excellent films that show imagination, technical prowess and an unerring dedication to quality".*

**Mark Amdur, Window Creative Advertising, Hong Kong.**

*".....The finished product has been accepted extremely well by both staff and customers. It appears to have achieved the almost impossible balance between being 'creative' and 'factual' - well done !"*

**Julie Williams, Corporate Affairs Executive, British Aerospace Australia.**

*"There is no doubt that James pushes the envelope a lot further than most people. Throughout the years, I have worked with a lot of people in the production business and I have not found anyone more professional, focused or creative".*

**Martin Yan, Host of 'Yan Can Cook', USA.**

*LINGWOOD PRODUCTIONS LTD livens a dull and static operation into a creative and convincing marketing tool. Our film presents much more than one can verbally explain".*

**James Li, Director - High Fashion International Ltd, Hong Kong.**



香港特別行政區政府新聞處

The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT - Overseas Public Relations Sub-division

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July 6, 2004

Mr James Lingwood  
Lingwood Productions  
Post Office Box 5382  
Torquay, Queensland.  
AUSTRALIA 4655

Dear James,

Please find, as promised, a DVD and a Betacam tape of the video 'Hong Kong - Asia's world city'. Apologies for the belated delivery of your 'baby' but as I explained on the phone we did encounter some unforeseen difficulties after the 'final' approval. As you know, 'that's showbiz!'

We are very happy with the finished product, the quality and creativity of which are due in no small part to your professionalism and talent as director. I think we all worked together very well as a team and I for one was glad to see the creative collaboration that took place between client, producer, director and agency. It was a great team effort.

I would particularly like to thank you for all of your hard work on the video, your advice and ideas on how to bring the creative concept to life, and your execution of the concept. I would also like to convey my thanks for the constructive input on the sound effects which were added at a later stage and which did give the video a greater depth and impact -- and that's basically all down to you.

You might like to know that the video has now been distributed to our network of overseas offices and will become the flagship video promoting Hong Kong to overseas audiences for the next few years.

If you have the time and inclination, we would be happy for you to enter the video into any competitions you deem appropriate and if you do decide to do this, please let us know!

In the meantime, I would like to wish you and your family all the best -- happiness, health and prosperity. I hope that we may be able to work together again some time in the future.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brett Free', written over a white background.

(Brett Free)

Chief Information Officer  
Overseas Public Relations Sub-division  
for Director of Information Services



# CONTACT JAMES

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James Lingwood Video Collection:

<http://vimeo.com/97299472>

