

**ARMY**

FROM REAL BLUR TO REAL MEN

**daze**



**Cathay Organisation  
presents**

**A Cathay Asia Films Production  
of  
ARMY DAZE**

**Main Cast (in alphabetical order):**

Ahamed Azad	Krishna
Sheikh Haikel	Johari
Adrian Lim Meng Kiat	Ah Beng
Kevin Mark Verghese	Kenny
Edward Yong Ching Tah	Malcolm

with a special appearance by Deanna Yusoff as herself

**Editor  
Peter Tan**

**Assistant Editors  
Subramanian Arumugam  
Azhar Mohamad  
Yim Mun Chong**

**Art Director  
Sebastian Zeng**

**Director of Photography  
Ho Yoke Weng**

**Associate Producer  
Brian Hong**

**Screenplay by  
Michael Chiang  
based on the play**

**Producer  
Choo Meileen**

**Director  
Ong Keng Sen**



## Supporting Cast

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Role</u>
1.	Ang Seng Kok	Recruit
2.	Chan Kok Meng	Recruit
3.	Margaret Chan	Mrs Png
4.	Jacintha d/o Charles	Lathi
5.	Elaine Cheah Li Hoon	Wendy
6.	Andrew Gan Chih Kiat	Sydney
7.	Daniel Gan Wei Teck	Cpl Ong
8.	Goh Toh Ngee	Recruit
9.	Julian Jay Huang Hwa Yuen	Lt Heng
10.	Leu Tien Huang	Recruit
11.	Ong Chuen Boone	Mr X
12.	Kesavadas s/o Rajagopal	Sgt Monteiro
13.	Wang Shiming	Recruit
14.	Eileen Wee Ling Yin	Ah Huay

## Cameo Roles

<u>Name</u>	<u>Role</u>
Jacintha Abishgenaden	Mrs Png's friend
Jeremiah Choy	Measurer at Army Store
Juwanda Hassim	Johari's brother
Sgt. Leau Wei Cheng "Adam"	as himself
Casey Lim	Commanding Officer at route march
Lim Kay Tong	CPT Lim
Lim Yu Beng	Sergeant at Enlistment Centre
Melissa Sidek	Johari's mother
Noorlina Mohd	Johari's sister
Tan Kheng Hua	Cavewoman
David Yong Yaw Kwang	Mr. Png
and 'Rocky' the snake as	itself



## Production Crew

Assistant Director

Assistants to Assistant Director

Production Manager

Production Co-ordinator

Assistants to Production Manager

Assistants to the Producer

Production Accountants

Camera 'B' Operator

1st Camera Assistant

Camera Assistants

Clapper/Loader

Electricians

Gaffer/Key Grip

Grips

Sound Recordist

Boom Operator

Gloria Chee Sze Ing

Yee Chang Kang

Michele Chia Mi Ching

Celine Veronica Teo

Mabelyn Ow Yee Mei

Anne Celestine Thoi

Tong Mei Kiew

Yvonne Tay Chor Keng

Lui Oi Leng

Ling Ong

Leong Wan Sing

Jackie Lim

Ooi Kim Keat

Lee Cheng Hui

Jasver Foo Chee Siong

Terry Chua Ee Lye

Lim Suat Yen

Lim Lay Kim

Pau Kee Boy

Yuen Yiew Tong

Abdul Malik bin Mohamad Basar

Lim Ching Leong

Gregory Virgil Teo

Tan Tai Liang

Chong Tzer Chang

Wei Koh

Suharto Hussein

Production Designer  
Assistants to Production Designer

Stylist  
Indian Sari Stylist  
Make-up Artist  
Hair stylist  
Deanna Yusoff's hair and make-up by  
Clothes by  
Editor  
Assistant Editors

Supervising Sound Editor  
Sound Editors

Original score composed & arranged by

Sound Mixer

Dolby Consultant  
Supervising Post Production

Colour Timer  
Negative Cutter

Sebastian Zeng  
Chong Siew Hong  
Elaine Lee Hwee Ling  
Seah Ni Kee  
Angeline Swee Su Ching  
Sheh Alkaddri  
Sharan Kaur  
Karen Teo  
Alvin Ng  
Vogue Salon  
Club 21 Pte. Ltd.  
Peter Tan  
Supramaniam Arumugam  
Azhar Mohamad  
Yim Mun Chong  
Wilfred Woo  
Paul G.  
Wilfred Woo  
K. S. Lim  
Paul T.  
Don Richmond  
Case Woo  
Paul G.  
Paul T.  
Wilfred Woo  
Sunit Asvinikul  
Rob Newton  
Ho Yoke Weng  
Gloria Chee Tze Ing  
Lutz Schroeter  
Zulian Scott



Consultant

Legal

Administration

Publicity

Caricature Drawings by

Catering by

Mercedes Benz E230 provided by

Extras provided by

Still Photography

Poster Design & Advertising Campaign

Negatives & Prints by

Camera Equipment provided by

Insurance provided by

Editing Facilities

Post Production Sound

Sound Mixing

Transportation

Generator

Crane

Isis Advisory Services

Anita Chew Ricquier

Kok Hui Yng

Chan Cheow Hong

Sonny Lee

Ow Yin Peng

Eileen Ong

Wong Li Li

Michael Sim

Lee Soon Gee

Adrian Lim Meng Kiat

Nonya Manis Caterers

Euromobile Pte Ltd

Gar Meng Entertainment Programme

Promotion Services

Shutterbug Photography Services

Panorama Creations

Ms Choo Meileen

Design Studio

United Film Laboratory, Singapore

Cameraquip (S) Pte. Ltd.

Associated Insurance Brokers Pte Ltd

JSP Post Pte. Ltd.

Opuz

Ramindra Recording Studio, Thailand

Nobly Transport Services

Buang Hj Mohd Transport Services

Liew Tong Electric Service

Galmon (S) Pte.Ltd.

**Army Daze Theme Song**

Performed by : Quadmix

Featuring : Don Richmond (Vocal)

Jeff Long (Guitar)

Naidu (Rap)

**Original Soundtrack By**

**Springroll Creative Entertainment Agency Pte Ltd**

**Breach**

Music and words : The Oddfellows

Performed by : The Oddfellows

**Driven**

Music and words : Concave Scream

Performed by : Concave Scream

**Getting Better**

Music and words : Martin Tang

Performed by : Martin Tang

**I'll Wait**

Music and words : Martin Tang

Performed by : Martin Tang

**My Special Angel**

Music and words : Gerry Ho

Performed by : Gerry Ho

**Perfect 10**

Music and words : X'Ho

Performed by : X'Ho

**Ren-Tak Oonik - Heavy Duty**

Music and words : Ronin Inc. @ Precinct 23, Najip Ali

Performed by : Najip Ali

**Sophisticated Baby !**

Music and words : Clement Chow, Geoff Tan

Performed by : Wah Lau Gang



**Swan Song**

Music and words : Humpback Oak

Performed by : Humpback Oak

**Why U So Like Dat ?**

Music and words : Siva Choy

Performed by : MC Siva C and The Kopi Kat Klan

**Yoshiki**

Music and words : Sugarflies

Performed by : Sugarflies

All the above songs courtesy of Springroll Creative Entertainment Agency Pte Ltd

**Additional Music Provided by Match Music Library**

**ARMY DAZE**  
has been filmed exclusively on  
**FUJI Film**

**Cathay Asia Films would like to thank the following:**

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City Cab Pte Ltd

Club 21 Pte. Ltd.and Blackjack

Express Optics & Contact Lense Centre

Goodwood Florist Pte. Ltd.

Jetabout Holidays Singapore

Meena-Queen of Sarees

Ministry of Environment

Motorola Electronics Pte. Ltd.

Mr.Subramanian and family

Panorama Creations

Parks and Recreation Department

Parveen Creations

Pois Boutique

Riccino

Scano (S) Pte. Ltd.

77th Street

Sheraton Towers Singapore Hotel

Singapore Archery Association

Singapore Tourist Promotion Board

Stussy Singapore



The Lingerie Shop  
The Regent Singapore  
Theatreworks (S) Ltd.  
Tin Sing Goldsmiths  
Traffic Police Department  
Vogue Salon  
Volcanoland  
X-TRA Living  
Ziv Zera Advertising Pte. Ltd.

**The Producer would like to express her personal thanks to the following:**

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Mrs Christina Ong  
Dato L Krishnan  
Mr Hiroshi Yokotani  
Mr Ben Neu  
Mr Chu Chi Wang  
Mr Ronald Goh  
Ms Josephine Lew  
and  
Mr Teo Keng Beng

In Memory of  
Choo Kok Leong

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## ARMY DAZE...THE MOVIE

Cathay Asia Films presents ARMY DAZE...THE MOVIE.

The film is based on Michael Chiang's book and stage play *Army Daze* about the misadventures of 5 young men going through their Basic Military Training. The play made local history by having 18 sell-out shows in 1985 and has since been brought back for two equally successful runs. *Army Daze* is estimated to have been seen by nearly 37,000 theatre-goers since it was first performed.

In 1996, a decade after its conception in 1985, *Army Daze* has transcended into yet another artistic medium — film.

- Cathay Asia Films Pte. Ltd.

Cathay Asia Films Pte. Ltd. (CAF) was incorporated in Singapore in 1995 and is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Cathay Organisation Pte. Ltd. (COPL). COPL was incorporated in 1936 and is one of the most established cinema operating and film distribution companies in the region. During the late fifties and sixties, the Cathay group encompassed several successful production studios such as the Cathay Keris studios in Singapore and the Yung Hwa studios in Hong Kong which produced Bahasa Melayu and Cantonese and Mandarin films respectively. The Cathay Organisation was also well-known for producing films which won numerous awards at the Asian Film Festivals. Today, COPL operates a number of cinemas in Singapore as well as acquiring films from overseas.

CAF was formed for the purpose of showcasing Asian themes and talents within the world of cinema and television. Progressing on into the next century, CAF seeks to develop and produce at least one local feature film a year as well as television documentaries for both local and overseas audiences.

Army Daze...The Movie is the first project to be undertaken by CAF.

Army Daze...The Movie has been fully financed by CAF. The budget of this film is anticipated to be in the region of 700,000 Singapore dollars.



- Synopsis of film

Army Daze...The Movie is an all-Singapore comedy about five recruits undergoing Basic Military Training.

Having come from different walks of life, the five boys have their own fears and insecurities. Through a series of shared experiences, they learn to accept their differences and become friends.

The story is seen through the eyes of one of the recruits, Malcolm Png, the middle-class mummy's boy. His newfound mates include Ah Beng, the street-wise HDB boy; Krishna, the 'twang king' perpetually pining for his girlfriend Lathi; the limp-wristed Kenny; and Johari, the happy-go-lucky guy who wants to be Rambo.

Leaving behind the comforts of home, they adjust to their new surroundings — and haircuts — with comic results. They tumble their way through various training exercises, from morning PT to field camp, while various friends and family look on in wonder.

Posted to Platoon 4 of Hotel Company, the five 18-year-olds get their dose of army wisdom from mentor and instructor Corporal Ong, who is determined to make men of them. Along the way, they also have a surprise encounter with a woman combat officer.

In between their training sessions, the boys get a glimpse into each other's lives, and come to terms with growing pains and the real world.



• **Production Team**

**Screenplay writer :** Michael Chiang

Prominent Singaporean playwright Michael Chiang has been actively contributing to the local drama scene ever since his first play, *Beauty Box*, made its debut at the 1984 Arts Festival. Mr. Chiang writes with a distinctly Singaporean flavour which is evident in his humour and the use of "Singlish" to spice up his works. Through a collaboration between himself and local composer Dick Lee, Michael Chiang also produced two highly successful musicals, *Beauty World* (1988) and *Mortal Sins* (1995). *Beauty World* was eventually invited by the Japanese Cultural Foundation to tour Japan in 1992. That same year, Mr. Chiang also wrote *Private Parts*, a 'serious comedy' about transsexuals which drew an estimated 20,000 people to its performance.

Play-writing is a part-time occupation for Mr. Chiang. He holds a full-time job as the Chief Executive Officer of Caldecott Publishing Pte. Ltd. which produces 8 Days and RTV Times, two of Singapore's top-selling magazines.

**Director:** Ong Keng Sen

Although this will be his debut as a film director, Ong Keng Sen is already renowned in Singapore for his work in the theater. This includes the critically acclaimed performance of *Lao Jiu* which was invited to perform at the Festival of Perth in 1992. His impressive credentials include the 1993 Young Artist Award for Theater, the first of its kind in Singapore and an Asian Cultural Council grant in recognition of his work in Asian theater. Mr. Ong was also a recipient of the prestigious Fulbright Scholarship to study Performance in New York City. As the Artistic Director of TheatreWorks, one of Singapore's most prominent theatre groups, his productions attempt to explore the identity of today's Asian through post-modern performance approaches. Mr. Ong is currently directing *A Yang Family*, a new play set in a shophouse.

**Producer :** Choo Meileen

Choo Meileen has been the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Cathay Organisation Group of companies since 1984. Having started off as the Assistant Distribution Manager, Ms. Choo has cultivated over 20 years of experience in the cinema and film industry. She is the niece of the late Dato Loke Wan Tho, founder of the Cathay Organisation.



#### **Associate Producer : Brian Hong**

Brian Hong graduated from St. John's University in New York with a Bachelor of Science degree in Communications in 1992. Since then he has worked for HBO Asia as a broadcast executive as well as producing for the Television Corporation of Singapore. Mr. Hong was also the Production Manager for *Mee Pok Man* in 1994. He is currently the Company Director and Producer for Zhao Wei Films, a film company which he set up in 1995 along with Ho Yoke Weng and two other directors.

#### **Director of Photography: Ho Yoke Weng**

Ho Yoke Weng was based in New York from 1986 to 1991 where he gained experience in cinematography through a series of projects ranging from documentaries to a feature film. After spending another two years in Hong Kong as a freelance cinematographer, he returned to Singapore in 1993. Since then he has produced television commercials and corporate videos for leading firms such as Kao (S) Pte. Ltd. and Konica. He has also directed and filmed corporate videos for the Ministry for the Environment and the Singapore Tourist Promotion Board. In 1995, Mr. Ho was the Director of Photography for the made-in-Singapore film *Mee Pok Man* which was awarded Special Jury Mention at the Asian Silver Screen Awards. It was also screened at various prestigious film festivals such as the Moscow International Film Festival in 1995.



- **Cast**

The cast comprises Singaporean actors and actresses who are relatively unknown in order to widen the local talent pool. Besides this fresh-faced approach, the casting director has also used some actors who performed in the play *Army Daze* when it was staged in 1995.

In alphabetical order, the casts are :-

**Ahamed Azad as Krishna**

Azad, 21, is a Business Administration undergraduate in NUS. He has done some comedies whilst in Junior College and writes scripts in his free time. He enjoys going to the movies. Azad sees himself as "sassy and sanguine".

**Sheikh Haikel as Johari**

Haikel, 20, is a member of the rap group, Construction Sight and is currently one of the co-MCs for Asia Bagus. He also acted in the stage version of *Army Daze* in 1995 and is a member of the SAF's Music and Drama Company. "I'm a Bomb!" says Haikel when asked how he saw himself and lists "dieting" as his main hobby.

**Adrian Lim Meng Kiat as Ah Beng**

Adrian, 21, acted as "Ah Beng" in the last production of *Army Daze* which was staged in 1995. He is reprising the role in the film. Besides *Army Daze*, he has acted in many plays including "Mixed Signals", "Manis Manis Pahit" and "Salah Sangkah". He is currently serving his NS. Adrian is a great sports enthusiast and enjoys drawing during his free time. He is a graduate of the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts. "Happy" is how Adrian describes himself.

**Kevin Mark Verghese as Kenny**

Kevin, 21, is the lead singer of the group Club E and is a member of the SAF's Music and Drama Company. Kevin composes music in his free time and enjoys performing on stage before an audience. He loves meeting people from all walks of life and calls himself "eccentric".

**Edward Yong as Malcolm**

Edward, 18, has done some drama in school as well as for The Necessary Stage. He is currently serving his NS. He plays the lute and has studied Latin seriously. Edward lists as his hobbies "reading, eating and sleeping".

**Deanna Yussoff as herself**

Deanna has acted in several Malaysian films as well as TV movies and dramas. She won the Best Actress Award in the 10th Malaysian Film Festival in 1991 for her role in the film "Selubong".



- **Supporting Cast**

**Margaret Chan**

Margaret has acted in many plays including Emily of Emerald Hill as well as in the Singapore film *Medium Rare*. She was seen recently in *Masters of the Sea*, a TCS production.

**Julian Jay Huang Hwa Yuen**

Julian was voted Cleo Magazine's Most Eligible Bachelor of The Year in 1994 and is currently working at Zouk.

- **Cameo Roles**

**Melissa Sidek**

Melissa is Singapore's answer to Tina Turner and plays Johari's mother.

**Lim Kay Tong**

Kay Tong, who has appeared in many Hollywood films, is currently seen in *Growing Up*, a TCS production. He plays CPT Lim.

**Jacintha Abishgenaden**

Jacintha is a well known Singapore singer who has made many appearances on television and was recently seen on stage in the musical, *Cats*. She plays Mrs Png's friend.

**Tan Kheng Hua**

Kheng Hua was last seen in *Masters of the Sea*, a TCS production. She plays a cavewoman in an imaginary sequence.

**Lim Yu Beng**

Yu Beng is one of the main leads in the TCS production, *Triple 9* and plays the Sergeant at Enlistment Centre.



- **Screening**

The film will be opened with a gala premiere of Army Daze...The Movie on 6th November 1996. This will be held in conjunction with the Ministry of Defence and the Singapore Armed Forces. The film is targeted to coincide with the school holidays and the year-end festive season. The film will be shown at a minimum of 14-16 screens in Singapore in addition to cinemas in Malaysia at a later date.

<b>Gala Premiere</b>	<b>6 Nov 96</b>
<b>Sneak Previews</b>	<b>15/16 Nov 96</b>
<b>General Screening</b>	<b>21 Nov 96</b>



## **ARMY DAZE... THE MOVIE : Filmmakers' Message**

The popular image of Singapore today as that of an industrialised and cosmopolitan city often belies its relative youth - the country only achieved independence in 1965. It was colonisation that introduced modernisation and Western education to the people, imposing with it a new, urban Western culture.

Singapore's migrant history, colonial heritage and growing nationalistic consciousness have all combined to develop a unique cultural consciousness. This has led to the creation of a Singaporean art-form capitalising on local themes and subject matter - first in theatre, then in television and now film.

Significantly, these works rely on what is familiar and recognisable, and what has successfully captured the hearts and minds of home audiences are productions dealing with situations and themes in a Singapore context, and using colloquial dialogue.

Continuing the progress charted by Singapore theatre and Singapore television, the new Singapore film extracts elements from both the East and West - a reflection of the country's social, cultural and political ideology, which is a complex mixture of both.

**Army Daze... The Movie** is part of that search for the unique Singaporean identity: to find Singaporean issues, stereotypes and situations. For instance, the language used in the film is a unique brand of local English known as Singlish. Based on a popular local play, the film dares to cast a comic look at the typically no-nonsense Singaporean establishment: the military institution.

**Army Daze... The Movie** is about the rites of manhood, Singapore style. Every young Singaporean male at the age of 18 serves compulsory national service for a period of 24 to 30 months. The film, however, only focuses on the three-month basic initiation training that fresh recruits undergo.

That Singapore audiences are ready for a comedy about national service speaks volumes for the self-confidence and maturity of its relatively young people. Like the five young heroes of the movie, Singaporeans today are undergoing their own rite of passage, finding their own place and pace in a tough, demanding global environment.

It is this spirit of adventure that has led to the making of a Singaporean movie in a country where there is no film-making industry.

African scholar Ngal once wrote: "Creation itself acquires the stamp of authenticity only if it is not cut off from the culture of the people. It expresses the people, if the people recognise themselves in it."

In that regard, **Army Daze... The Movie** marks a very special moment in Singapore's history. It is a piece of work that sets out to express a uniquely Singaporean worldview: at once naive, at once naughty, but at all times decidedly new.

**CHOO MEILEEN**  
**ONG KENG SEN**  
**MICHAEL CHIANG**

**Producer**  
**Director**  
**Screenwriter**