



Bullets Over Summer

Wilson Yip

HONG KONG, CHINA 1999

92 minutes ■ Colour/35mm
Production Company: **B.I.G. Film**

Production Company
Executive Producer: **Ivy Kong**
Producer: **Joe Ma**

Screenplay: **Matt Chow, Wilson Yip, Cheung Man**

Cinematographer: **Lam Wah Chuen**
Editor: **Cheung Ka Fai**

Production Designer: **Cheung Sai Kit**
Sound: **Ho King Man**

Music: **Wai Kai-leung**
Principal Cast: **Francis Ng, Louis Koo, Law Lan, Michelle Alicia Saram**

Print Source/Foreign Sales Agent: **Mei Ah Film Production Co. Ltd., Units 15-28, 17th Floor, Metro Centre, Phase 1, 32 Lam Hing Street, Kowloon Bay, Hong Kong, China. T (852) 2754-2855 F (852) 2799-3643**

Production: **B.I.G. Film Production Company, Room 1001, 10th Floor, Metro Centre, Phase 1, 32 Lam Hing Street, Kowloon, Hong Kong, China. T (852) 2756-8955 F (852) 2757-5167**

As the Hong Kong film scene lumbers out of its recent hibernation, a few filmmakers are starting to emerge from the wreckage of Hollywood defections, VCD piracy and post-colonial malaise. One of the more interesting young filmmakers working today is Wilson Yip. He is making action-oriented police/gangster films with unusual genre twists which owe a great deal to Roger Corman's most interesting work, and feature a charmingly ironic sense of humour.

Mike and Brian are two plainclothes cops in search of a gang of violent thugs who have robbed a bank and killed a few policemen. Forcing themselves into an apartment building where the suspects are supposedly hiding, they hunker down for a long surveillance. They encounter an older woman known as Granny, who suffers from memory loss and constantly confuses the two men. At times she is very generous to them, and sometimes she just wants them out of the building, which she owns. The guys also fall in love, Brian with a teenage slacker, and Mike with a pregnant single mother who owns the local laundromat.

They suspect an arms dealer in an adjacent building of chicanery, and their conflict with him provides much of the film's comedy. It turns out he is just pretending and they all become friends. Ultimately, the gang returns to their hideout and we learn much about Granny that has eluded our heroes up to this point.

Bullets Over Summer is set in an old Hong Kong neighbourhood with everyone packed in tight; the local flavour is convincingly rendered, and Yip uses the location to full advantage in the rip-snorting chase and blazing gun sequences.

■ **Noah Cowan**

Wilson Yip began his career at one of the biggest film studios in Hong Kong, Cinema City, in 1985. He worked as an assistant director before making his debut film in 1995, *01:00 am*, a trilogy of ghost stories. His third film, *Mongkok Story* (96) won the Best Screenplay Award from The Hong Kong Film Critics Society. Filmography: *01:00 am* (95), *Daze Raper* (95), *Mongkok Story* (96), *Midnight Zone* (97), *Teaching Sucks* (97), *Bio Zombie* (98), and *Bullets Over Summer* (99).

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