



Josie Ho Chiu-yee in Kenneth Bi's film "The Drummer," which is the first Hong Kong production to compete at Sundance. (Kenbirol Films)

Josie Ho: Tracking a star, from Hong Kong to Sundance

By **Alexandra A. Seno**

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"He knows about my achievements but he doesn't have the time to go to my concerts and watch my films," she said. Forbes Magazine estimated the family to be worth \$7 billion. In addition to gaming, they hold interests throughout Asia in companies involved in transportation, real estate, finance and hotels. Stanley Ho runs the only casino in Pyongyang, North Korea.

"Josie is very smart," said the Hong Kong director Nicholas Chin. He cast her as the lead in "Tai Tai," a 14-minute drama chosen by the 2002 Cannes Film Festival to compete in the short film category. She takes pride in getting recognition away from home. "Outside, people don't care who I am. In Hong Kong, everyone knows about my family," she said.

To prepare for the role, Chin gave her a list of movies to watch, and she did her homework. When asked, Ho easily rattles off the directors she admires most: Noah Baumbach, Paul Thomas Anderson and Julian Schnabel, and can discuss many of their works at length.

In "Tai Tai," she portrayed a fictional privileged Hong Kong lady who lunches. "She knows about the lifestyle, obviously, but she had distance because she has chosen a different way," he said. "She brought in the claustrophobia of the life, the hidden stuff."

The director added: "Josie is willing to do things differently. The craft is very important to her. She is not doing this to be famous, she isn't doing it for the money."

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