

# From a Private Life to a Public Archive

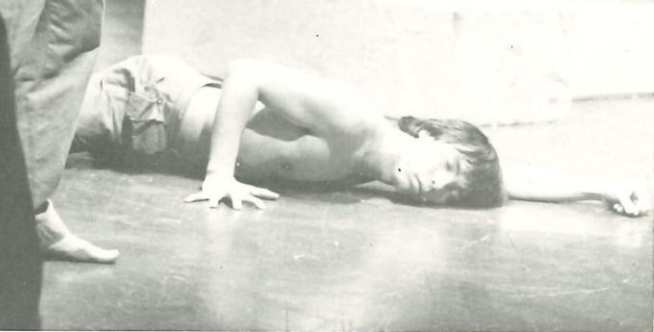
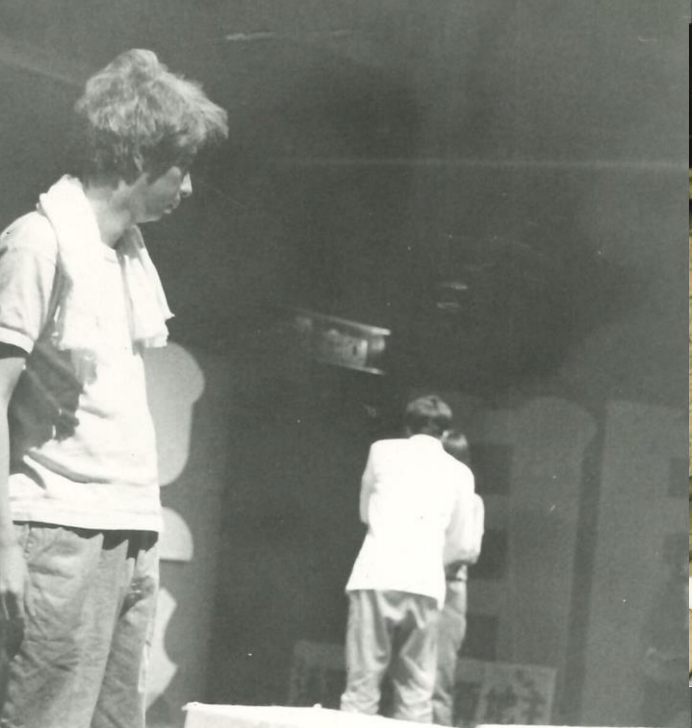
*The 70's Biweekly* and Asian People's Theatre  
A digitised archive from the collection of  
*Augustine Chiu-yu Mok* and his Friends

# 2000 Arts Development Council Drama Achievement Award (for his Asian People's Theatre)

“... I have made theatre in order to subvert the status quo, and to change what is unfair and unreasonable. But today, the Arts Development Council actually gives me this award. Is it telling me that my theatre is no longer subversive, or has not been subversive enough?

I will think hard on this! I hope I won't disappoint you.

Result of award: A research and publication grant! (To canonise)

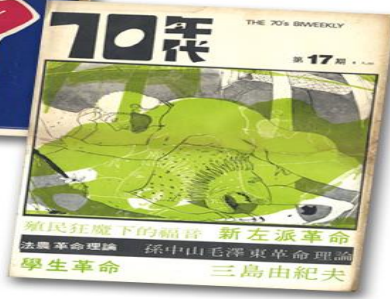


- Two previous attempts by other researchers (one for a book, and one for a documentary) but didn't bear fruits
- Why?
- Mok is more known for his earlier works with The 70's syndicate

# The 70's Syndicate

- Left-wing, anarcho-pacifist group of activist
  - Published Biweekly and other publications, made and screen films
  - Organised protests and other resistance actions
  - Built overseas networks
  - Read and discussed
  - Getting arrest and being dead cool
- 
- How does this lead to a book for a theatre award?





[https://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=%E4%BF%9D%E9%87%A3410](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=%E4%BF%9D%E9%87%A3410)



# Interdisciplinary approach

- Starting from Mok's theatre works and work backward to The 70's Weekly and beyond
- Bring in cultural, intercultural and social studies
- Situate the phenomenon in Hong Kong/China studies

# Major discovery

- Theatre/art as a means of resistance when radical political actions were not viable (not suppressed, but not effective)
- HK 1970s anarchist movement being the first in the greater China region since the 1920s; but not as a continuation of the Chinese movement, but more akin to the international anti-colonial pacifist movement.
- Importance of critical internationalism in Hong Kong (because of HK's special circumstances)



# The individual — Mok

- There has been no established discourse about HK to situate him
- From politics to art, but not de-radicalise
- Working within public art administration but anti-(larger)establishment
- Critical both of British colonisation and Chinese Maoism (and after)
- The individual as atom

# A private archive

- Radiating from the individual
  - Fields he has acted in
  - People and institutions he has connected with
  - Ways he has done things (tactics)
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- Publications, performance materials, notes, letters, minutes of meeting, police arrest notification, registration procedures etc (by period)

<https://digital.lib.hkbu.edu.hk/mok/>