

24 Jul 2014 10:00 AM

Malaysian breakthrough in Aussie movie industry



by Ian McIntyre

PERTH: During his school days in Penang, Rodney Manikam was often teased by his schoolmates for his oversized body. At a young age, he started pumping iron and the muscles began to show. His bulky physique earned him bit parts in several local and then Australian films after he moved Down Under.

Although Manikam only managed to earn token amounts for the small movie roles, they were sufficient for him to survive in Australia. To sustain himself, he took on part-time jobs in Sydney and Melbourne before settling down in Perth. “My passion for the industry is the driving force behind my decision (to move to Perth) and my desire to continue pioneering Western Australia feature films that will be seen worldwide,” says Manikam.

Despite landing only minor roles, Manikam persevered to get adequate exposure in acting. Being passionate about the movie-making industry, he dug in with his self-belief and steely determination, and he quickly learned how to deal with rejection.

The former St Xavier's Institution student also wanted to show that he had more than brawns to offer in his acting career. His tenacity and perseverance soon bore fruit as he went on to produce and act in two action feature movies that were shot in Western Australia, *Wild Justice* and *Infected Paradise*.

The breakthroughs came after 20 years of trying, and success couldn't be any sweeter for Manikam as *Infected Paradise* has been nominated for the Best Feature Film – Long Form under the 26th Annual West Australian Screen Awards, the Aussie equivalent of the Oscars. "It is a huge achievement for our young production house," said Darryl Westrup, personal assistant to Manikam, who is also an aspiring actor.

Manikam's first movie was mostly marketed and viewed on the Internet. *Wild Justice* is distributed in North America and Canada through Maxim Media via TVoD, Cable & Satellite and Internet downloads. His production house is now discussing how best to distribute *Infected Paradise*.

His flicks are also available via online movie sites such as Google Play, YouTube, Playstation Network, and Amazon Video. DVD copies of the movies are also on the market.

For full story and other hot stories, visit www.theheat.my.

- See more at: <http://www.theantdaily.com/Main/Malaysian-breakthrough-in-Aussie-movie-industry#sthash.rSAAQxLx.dpuf>