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6 WORDS THAT SAY IT ALL

## Making films that mean something



Filmmaker Boo Junfeng wants his films to do something to and for people. -- ST PHOTO: LAU FOOK KONG

**BOO JUNFENG, 26**

**Filmmaker**

*His film Sandcastle - about a boy who discovers his family's turbulent past during Singapore's formative years - premiered at the International Critics' Week at the Cannes Film Festival. The movie has since been screened at many international festivals, and recently won Boo the Best Film and Best Director awards at the inaugural Vietnam International Film Festival. His short*

*film Tanjong Rhu - about the entrapment of gays by the police in 1993 - was nominated for a Teddy Award at last year's Berlin International Film Festival.*

**His six words: Tell stories that make a difference**

**His story:** 'It matters to me deeply that the stories I tell will make a difference: It is my raison d'etre. I'm happy when people tell me I've made a good film, but what I consider the best compliments are when they thank me for making it, and tell me how much the film means to them when they watch it.

'My films do not have to necessarily change the world, but as long as they affect people and do something to and for them, I know I'm doing right.'

## It's okay to be just a mum



Mum Harisha Farina blogs to express her feelings and cope with caring for her children alone when her husband is away. -- ST PHOTO: RAJ NADARAJAN

**HARISHA FARINA, 32**

**Homemaker**

*She is married to a flight attendant and has two girls, aged eight and 10*

**Her six words: And I tell myself it's okay**

**Her story:** It's okay to feel tired.

It's okay to fail baking 'the' chocolate cake for the 47th time.  
It's okay to be different. It's okay to be the one needing to be

taken care of. It's okay to be nervous. It's okay to get someone to babysit just so you can read the novel in peace. It's okay to cry when it all gets too much to handle. It's okay to let the laundry sit in that mountain for one more night. It's okay not to eat the kids' leftovers. It's okay to go for a nice meal even when the kids are not around. It's okay to be socially awkward. It's okay to put yourself first. It's okay to fight for that window seat. It's okay to dance instead of ironing the uniforms. It's okay to watch that one episode of CSI NY over and over again, just to hear him call 'Ella! Ella!' It's okay to buy a 'bye-bye back fat' bra.