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## Businessman realizes dream of making a film

built malls and a media network, but Thomas Fung always had a secret ambition

BY YVONNE ZACHARIAS
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ancouver businessman
Thomas Fung doesn't
exactly come across as your
dreamy, starryeyed romantic.

He is the founder of the enormously successful Fairchild Group, a multimillion-dollar media and real estate empire. He is the builder of Asian-theme shopping malls and Chinese-language television networks and radio stations. Time magazine named him

Canada.

But for more than 20 years, Fung has been walking around with a secret.

Misa Shimizu in the movie,

The Eel.

All this time, he has been dreaming up this story of a beautiful, mature Asian woman, the kind teenage boys fall in love with.

It happens all the time, he claims.
"When you are a teenager, you will
probably meet or see a

probably meet or see a lady some time in your life. She is beautiful and high class and something you cannot reach, but she fascinates you and so you fantasize about her and try to find ways to approach her."

nese-language television networks and radio stations.

Time magazine named him one of the most influential people in for Fung's latest commercial brain-

child, Fairchild Films International.
Film crews headed to Bowen Island Monday to begin filming the story of Hart, a young man saddled with the care of Bill, his alcoholic father who has fallen from affluent fishing boat owner to the town drunk in a remote West Coast village. He is drawn to Keiko, a mysterious and radiantly beautiful Japanese woman who lands in the village with her cold but wealthy husband.

Asked to describe the film, Fung responds without a trace of hesitation, "Romantic and sensual." His tone is so blunt, it's hard to believe he used those words.

The start of shooting was groundbreaking in more ways than one. It's not every day that the man financing

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