



by Heather Doyle

"Moving" shot of rickshaw against a very old wall.

Hong Kong has changed a lot in the last 100 years so finding 1890-era images for a video shoot in the 1990s would seem to pose a few problems. But Vancouver-based Tagish Presentations was up to the challenge.

The result is a three-screen, multi-media production - the newest show at the Hong Kong Museum of History in Kowloon Park.

The theme is transportation in Hong Kong from 1870-1942 so the company looked for classic images - a woman paddling her sampan in the Aberdeen Marina, rickshaws at the Star Ferry and the seemingly timeless road that runs beside Man Mo Temple. A Hakka woman was recruited for the production as well, trading in her Nikes and rubber gloves for more traditional clothing.

"Our aim was to keep it simple but powerful," says Robb Lucy, president of Tagish Presentations, as well as writer and producer. The eight minute show has no narration, only images of transportation involving feet, wheels and water. To this montage of video and archival stills, they added a soundtrack of original Chinese music, digital audio effects and a lighting system. The presentation is impressive on a screen two metres high by eight metres in length.

crew was hired to do some of the on-site shooting while production was done in Vancouver.

This transportation show is added to others Tagish has produced and installed in the Hong Kong Museum of History. They include a five-screen, multi-image closing presentation, single-screen video presentation, as well as moving lights and audio.

So far reviews of the Canada - Hong Kong partnership have been excellent. "The Tagish team was instrumental in making our museum a very great success," says Ho Ching Hin, Chief Curator at the Hong Kong Museum of History. "We taught them our history and they taught us how to portray it in a meaningful and memorable way."

Tagish Presentations Ltd. was formed in 1982 as a multi-media production firm specializing in corporate and special-purpose presentations. As well as working in museums, Tagish also works for other international Canadian firms like Clearly Canadian, Boston Pizza International and the Canadian government. ♦



Reverse view of the wide shot.



Robb Lucy and cameraman Tony on the water.

The theme links the evolution of transportation to the growth of Hong Kong, ending with the Japanese invasion in 1942.

Thorough research on the history of transportation was required, says Lucy, which was augmented by advice from museum staff. "We also have to think very carefully about what emotions we want to bring up...and as Canadians be sensitive to the feel of the show and not give it the standard western spin," he adds. Local



Shooting a bit of contemporary Hong Kong while taking a break.