

Xie Shao Guang

Contributed by Juliana Fan Liyi
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It's an appropriate time for the humble 1.78m tall actor, who's won the most Best Actor Awards in local history, to get nostalgic. After all, Xie, who launched his acting career in 1989 with then SBC's TV drama A Mother's Love (2000), has announced his decision to retire.

His fans will be disappointed as Baby Blues will be Xie's last TV endeavour, meaning that we might not see future performances from him. His long acting career also won him the Special Achievement Award in 2003's Star Awards. Also, his prominent roles in hit Mediacorp dramas Holland V and Double Happiness bagged him the Best Actor trophies at 2003 and 2004's Star Awards.

Sitting down with Urbanwire at a press conference at Amara Hotel, Xie, who shyly declined to reveal his age, shared his winning strategy.

"I think that it's how open you are, and don't be judgmental, and you got to understand the character from heart, gain understanding from different aspects, feel their anguish and inadequacies and the most important thing is to be on the same level [as the character]" explained Xie.

1 of his best roles to date is playing a paraplegic in 1998's Stand By Me, a role which not only won him the Best Actor trophy at the Star Awards, but also the Best Actor Award at the Asian Television Awards 1998.

In preparation for his role in Stand By Me, Xie spent time at a local hospital for 2 weeks to observe and understand paraplegics and their behaviours. Having attained life's hard lessons was an eye-opener for him. Learning the experiences while he was preparing for the role made him see things that he usually overlooked and that has widened his horizon.

Explaining his quirky decision to retire from his prolific TV career to a farm in neighbouring Malaysia, he said that it's "natural and [it's come to] a point to try something else". Perhaps the thespian who used to be a scout wanted to spend some quiet time by himself and nature, away from the media spotlight.

If you're still holding on to a vestige of hope that he will return to our local screens in the near future, Xie doesn't want to predict that he will or rule it out. Instead, he "hopes to let things flow smoothly".

"I have my objectives and whether I can achieve it a not, I will 'just do it!' as I've always believed in the old Nike tagline, and whatever the results [will be], I will just look back and reflect," shared Xie.

Xie's parting words to Urbanwire were his thoughts on the experiences he has garnered over the 16 years that he has been in the showbiz.

"[I've] struck a mutual understanding with the characters [portrayed in local dramas]," he said, matter-of-factly. He added, "This is an experience one will never get in other professions."