LIFE & TIMES TECH

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# Visual storyteller

He not only captures glitz and glamour with his lens but he also tells a tale. Izwan Ismail talks to Kid Chan



many of the grandest events in the me to bookshops in Sungei Wang Plaand the rich and famous.

made him one of the most sought after on me. It was so powerful and drove photographers among the the creme me close to tears." de la creme of society.

### THE EARLY YEARS

He sailed through his college years always loved sity of Technology in Perth, Australia. the chance to degree in just two and a half years. I thought the

Upon graduation in 1998, he worked moment was ripe as executive personal assistant to Tan to give it a try," he Sri M.S. Tan, a well-known figure in says. the field of education. Tan owns Tay- That was also lor's College, Garden International when he met his first School and Metropolitan College. He business mentor, T.S. Lim

as educational, as he learnt a lot from a hypermarke his next career choice.

pursue his passion for pho-

also founded Ming Institute, one of of Studio 88, a very skilled

area and mixing with people. This had to iron clothes used for the shoot, ding. would serve as a big plus for him in washed the toilet and painted the office outer walls," he says.

After a couple of years, Chan start- portfolio grew. These include the wed- take the cover shot of Millionaire Asia,

big break came when a regular Other notable high profile person- photographs, a style that has captured customer, then Chief Justice Tun alities he has photographed include the attention of many.

From one high-society wedding Tony Blair, and actor Jackie Chan.

being able to tell stories through his 2006," he says.

Mohamed Dzaiddin Abdullah, invited Tan Sri Dr Zeti Akhtar Aziz, governor "Those days, the Malay wedding With so much experience in his hands, spective to make it stand out. "It was very challenging. I even- him to take pictures of his son's wed- of Bank Negara Malaysia, Cherie Blair, was about who came and who did Chandecided to publish his first book, wife of former British Prime Minister not. There was a lack of creativity. I Kid Chan's Guide To The Business Of Ali's wedding. I took the photos in was, at that time, very intrigued with Photography last year.

"They also asked me to write a you must know in Asia" in 2006.

that really snowballed his career. at the subject from a different per-

His creativity in photography also first Malaysian to be accepted as a ing magazines like Pesona Pengantin, tojournalist Association and Malay-

When doing photography work, Chan The referrals kept coming in and says he always experiments and looks

"A good example was Paula Malai

## IMPORTANCE OF GOOD BACK-UP

"Back-up, back-up and more with no memories."

For his loyal clients, sometimes up two copies of the photos he launched his loyalty programme

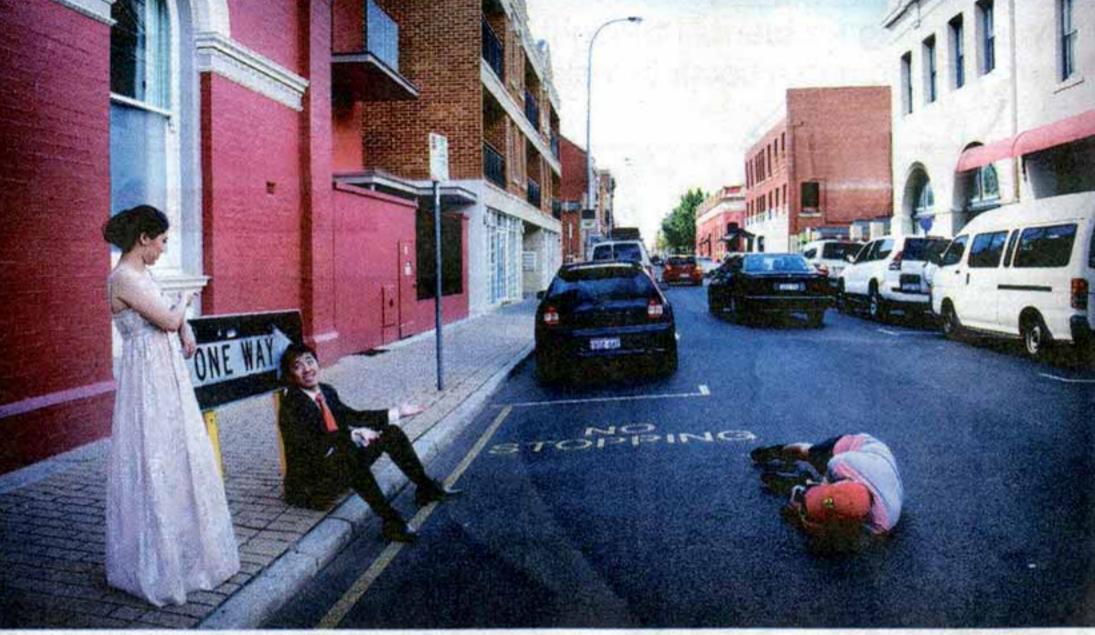
FOR Chan, good memories last, photographers' computers Cyberjaya," he says.
and he knows how to preserve crashed and the images could not That's how seriously Chan be salvaged, leaving their clients takes care of his clients' photos.

At his studio, he ha "However, I did lose a very collaborated with WD on storage not, he back-ups and stores most important family picture where and started to look at professiona there was no back-up at all of the storage for his content by using "They have the copies and original copy. There was nothing a network attached storage with

he says there were cases where mirrored to cloud server in your precious memories," he says

So today, as part of his SOP, Having a good back-up Chan would immediately back- and security strategy, he also and his team have taken, into a in collaboration with Berjaya "Clients can collect points and

"Where possible, we don't redeem them at participating





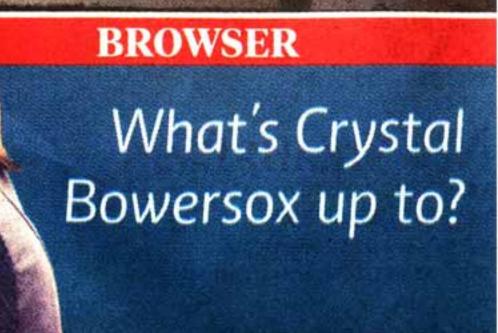
taking pictures of the Ijab Kabul at

"I took the picture of the bridegroom performing his prayer, with his hands raised up. That created a new genre or scene in Malay wedding

His ability to mingle comfortably

"When your subjects are comfortsepia mode and published them in able with you and do not feel awkward, you will get the shots that you

com/iamkidchan



Kid Chan is the go-to

photographer of high society

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pictures inside the books," he recalls. "I remember looking at photos of

A late bloomer, Chan didn't

"It was something that I've

ed his own photography business, dings of television personality Paula which featured business tycoon Tan that time was Denis Reggie. He made a photography business. It is the first wanted photos like Paula's," he says Chan developed a love for photogra- by doing freelance and helping out Malai Ali and songstress Datuk Siti Sri Francis Yeoh.

Kid Chan

photography tographer for the royal wedding of Through his study of other great pho- which asked him to contribute. sian Tatler as "one of the 100 people Malay weddings. He initially Erica Lane. His photos were used in photography journalism as his style. column, and called me the Father of started out as a cor- an exclusive cover story in Harper's He wanted to make a difference by Malay wedding photojournalism in BIG MILESTONE

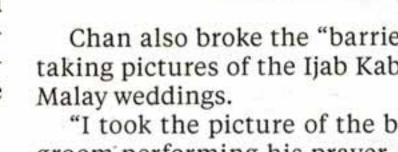
job, he got another, and his wedding Chan was also commissioned to wedding photojournalism," he says.

Tengku Aslahuddin Jaa'far and Sofia tographers, Chan introduced wedding

popular this style in the 1980s.

The book contains 11 chapters, and sepia. It became an instant hit. Eve-The father of photojournalism at covers topics that deal with setting up ry couple who walked in after that photography business book written with a huge grin.





photography," he says.

and professionally with high society

and your clients want." Follow Kid Chan at www.facebook.

Chan with one of his staff working on a project.