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Groomed for a film and TV career

Adam Ismail

THE clapping dies down. It is replaced by silence.

This is a silence of anticipation as Malaysia Institute of Integrative Media (MIIM) chief executive Rosnan Shafiei takes his place behind the rostrum.

"You've gone through the mill over the past two years with us. During that time, we know you've had some really strict lecturers.

"But whether you realise it or not, they have not been there to simply make life difficult. They were there to give you a glimpse of what life outside could be, which all of you will soon face.

"And we hope MIIM has provided you with a good solid platform."

This speech was dedicated to the graduates of MIIM during a graduation dinner and Students Awards Night 2002 held last Sunday at the Istana Hotel, Kuala Lumpur. MIIM, formerly known as Akademi TV3, was established to provide the rapidly growing film and television industry with skilled and knowledgeable individuals.

Azrinaz Mazhar Hakim, 23, who was presented the Alumni Award that night, was a former student of the institute. She graduated in 1999. Now working for TV3 as a broadcast journalist in the news and current affairs division, she had much to say about the institute.

"This institute carries the name of TV3, so it provides facilities especially in terms of technical areas. My initial plan was to become a producer, but when the offer to become a broadcast journalist came along, I accepted it.

"I made every effort to prove to my immediate superiors that I was a capable and competent individual despite my young age," she said.

Overcoming her initial nervousness, gaining experience and "doing her homework" before interviewing people, have instilled much confidence in her. In fact the confidence reflects on the assignments she has been given. She recently covered Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's visit to Myanmar.

Redzuan Abdul Rashid, 24, who received the Young Leadership Award said: "I have my heart set on being a producer and owner of my very own production house one day.

"But to reach my goal, there's hard work, time and commitment involved. I also need to gain a lot of experience."

Like all his fellow graduates, Redzuan underwent practical training at a production house of his choice during his fourth and final semester. This has given him a steady platform, providing him with the necessary 'tools' when he starts specialising in a specific field of the film or television industry.

This event was not without sadness as there was a special prayer and dedication for Khairil Azrul Othman who passed away two weeks earlier. Khairil was to have graduated this year.