Kelvin Tong has a new love

Film-maker Kelvin Tong is on a roll as he focuses on love in an inaugural regional film project with a company owned by Andy Lau.

After his recent scare-fest The Maid, home-grown film-maker Kelvin Tong is now training his lens on love scenes.

In January this year, the 33-year-old was invited by Hong Kong film company Focus Films — owned by Heavenly King Andy Lau — to shoot a Chinese language film here.

On the phone with Life!, Tong says: “I like what they are doing. Their approach to film-making is experimental in that they give me free rein to exercise my artistic expression. I find that very attractive.”

Tong has titled this upcoming film Love Story as it revolves around a writer of pulp romances who is waiting to meet the girl of his dreams.

The lines between fantasy and reality blur when a girl walks through the door and changes his life.

The film is being shot on a budget of US$500,000 (S$850,000) and is part of an inaugural regional film project called Focus: First Cuts.

A collaboration between Focus Films and cable network Star Chinese Movies (Starhub Channel 62), Focus: First Cuts will produce high-definition films in the Chinese language only.

The project will also showcase up-and-coming Asian film-makers from China, Hong Kong, Malaysia and Taiwan, with each shooting his effort in his own city.

The other budding film-makers in this project include Hong Kong’s Lam Tze Chung and Taiwan’s Robin Lee.

Tong is the only film-maker representing Singapore.

Headlined by Chinese actor Allen Lin, Love Story’s cast includes homegrown actors Erica Lee, Evelyn Tan and Benjamin Heng.

Gerard Yeo

> Shooting for Love Story began last week and is expected to be completed mid next month.