



HUA Shan 華山 (b. 1942.2.9)

Cinematographer, Director

Also known as Hua Yihong, Hua was born in Shanghai and graduated from Shanghai Film Academy, specialising in cinematography. He came to Hong Kong in 1962 and joined Shaw Brothers (Hong Kong) Ltd the following year as an assistant to Japanese cinematographer Nishimoto Tadashi (He Lanshan). He was promoted to cinematographer in 1968. The 11 titles that he shot during this period, of which most of them were produced by Shaws, included Shen Chiang's *The Winged Tiger* (1970), Jimmy Wang Yu's directorial debut *The Chinese Boxer* (1970), Wu Ma's *Deaf and Mute Heroine* (1971) and Ho Fan's *Love and Blood* (1972). In 1973, Hua left Shaws and went to Taiwan to work as a director and made *Spice of life* (1974) and *Underworld Beauty* (1974).

Hua returned to Shaws as a director in 1975 and began shooting *Super Inframan* (1975), with Chua Lam as the producer. It was also Hong Kong's first sci-fi film with extensive special effects. The film did not score well at the Hong Kong box office, but was a hit at other places, thus establishing Hua's position as director. Shaws then produced a five-part film series of major criminal cases in Hong Kong. Hua was the director for three of them, including *The Valley of the Hanged* in *The Criminals* (1976), *Big Sister* in *Homicides—The Criminals, Part Two* (1976) and *No Escape for the Culprit* in *Arson—The Criminals, Part Three* (1977). Meanwhile, he also shot *Brotherhood* (1976), which made Anthony Lau Wing a star.

Hua started using the name Hua Yihong in 1978 and directed a number of films for The Eternal Film Company, with the most notable being *Struggle to Survive* (1980). His other films with Shaws included *To Kill a Jaguar* (1977), *Gang of Four* (1978), *Flying Guillotine 2* (co-directed with Cheng Kang, 1978), *Soul of the Sword* (1978), *The Brothers* (1979), *He Who Never Dies* (1979), *Portrait in Crystal* (1983), *Tales of a Eunuch* (1983), *Usurpers of Emperor's Power* (1983) and *Little Dragon Maiden* (1983). Hua retired from filmmaking after making his last film, *Disciples of Shaolin* (1985) for Shaws. Being trained in cinematography, Hua excelled in shooting thrilling scenes with special effects and favoured in setting the mood with camera movements. Apart from thrillers on the line of *The Criminals*, he was also competent in a multitude of genres, including films made with special effects, of realistic social themes, action films, *wuxia* features and satirical comedies.