



## Johnny MAK 麥當雄 (b. 1949.12.2)

### Producer, Executive Producer, Screenwriter, Director

Born in Hong Kong and graduated with secondary education. Mak joined the 5th training programme at Rediffusion Television (RTV) in 1971. He started out as an actor and production assistant, and soon established himself by directing two episodes of the RTV drama series *Ten Sensational Cases* (1975). Subsequently he directed other series such as *Big Sister* (1976) and *The Real Man* (1977), also produced *Ten Assassins* (1976). His productions were known for their realism and macho violence. He was promoted to Production Manager in 1977 and Production Director in 1978. And with Mak at the helm, his drama series gained a massive following.

Mak left RTV in 1981 to establish Johnny Mak Productions. Its debut film, *Lonely Fifteen* (1982), was a co-production with Pearl City Films. The up-and-coming Becky Lam and Irene Wan were cast as two deviant young girls, and the realistic portrayals in the film stirred up much discussion in society. He later produced works of various genres such as *Crimson Street* (1982), *Possessed* (1983), *Everlasting Love* (1984), etc. With support from Bo Ho Films, he directed *Long Arm of the Law* (1984). The film was highly acclaimed for its gritty realism, thrilling drama and intense violence. Mak was also honoured as Best Director at the 21st Taipei Golden Horse Awards for this film.

In 1984, Mak co-founded Genesis Films with Raymond Chow, owner of Golden Harvest (HK) Limited, and since then he has produced various kind of films including erotica such as *The Seven Angels* (1985), *Midnight Girls* (1986), *Moon, Star & Sun* (co-written with Stephen Shiu, 1988); gangster action flicks such as *Tragic Hero* (1987), *Rich and Famous* (1987); cop-and robber films such as *Long Arm of the Law II* (1987), *Underground Express* (1990); and crime thrillers such as *Sentenced to Hang* (1989). He also produced *The Greatest Lover* (1988), a parody of the organised triads 'big circle boys'.

In 1991, Johnny Mak Productions, his own studio, shot *To Be Number One* (directed by Poon Man-kit and co-written by Johnny Mak and Stephen Shiu). The Film grossed box-office sales of HK\$38 million and fuelled a wave of 'big timer' biopics, Mak went on to make *Lord of East China Sea* and its sequel (both 1993) in the Mainland based on Shanghai triad legend Du Yuesheng. In 1995, Genesis Films shot an international heist movie, *The Train Robbers*. The last film he produced and wrote was the immensely successful *Island of Greed* (1997).