Leslie CHEUNG 張國榮（1956.9.12–2003.4.1）

Actor, Singer

Born in Hong Kong with the real name Cheung Fat-chung, Cheung is a native of Meizhou, Guangdong. He changed his name to Cheung Kwok-wing when he was at secondary school and was referred by his fans as 'Gor Gor' (literally big brother in Cantonese). He studied abroad in the UK when he was 13 and returned to Hong Kong after his first year at the University. He began his career in Rediffusion Television (RTV) as an actor-singer in 1977 after winning first runner-up in RTV’s Asian Amateur Singing Contest. In 1983, he switched to Television Broadcasts Limited (TVB) and signed with Capital Artists Limited. Later on, he became one of the most popular singing idols in the 1980s and 90s.


With his uninhibited image and delicate charm, Cheung was responsible for various unforgettable performances in films such as Rouge (1988), Temptress Moon (1996) and Happy Together (1997). He was awarded Best Actor at the Hong Kong Film Awards for Days of Being Wild (1990), Best Actor (Foreign Language Film) at the Japan Movie Critics Awards for Farewell My Concubine (1993) and Best Actor at the Hong Kong Film Critics Society Awards for Ashes of Time (1994). The theme song he composed and sang for The Bride with White Hair (1993) won Best Original Song at the Golden Horse Awards.

Cheung once left the music industry in 1989 and focused on his acting career. He even tried out different behind the scenes roles. For example, in 1994, Cheung played the lead in He’s a Woman, She’s a Man and participated in the writing of its screenplay. The following year, he took up multiple roles as line producer, composer and lead actor in The Phantom Lover (1995). He also guest-directed the film within the film in Viva Erotica (1996). From 1999 to 2002, he starred in movies such as The Kid (1999), Moonlight Express (1999), Okinawa-Rendez-vous (2000), Double Tap (2000) and Inner Senses (2002). He committed suicide on 1 April 2003.