



## Raymond CHOW 鄒文懷 (1927–2018.10.30)

### Executive Producer, Producer

With the original name Chow Ting-yam, Chow was born in Hong Kong to a family from Dabu County, Guangdong. Chow went to Shanghai to attend St. John's Secondary School (affiliate of St. John's University) when he was 13. He continued his studies at the Faculty of Journalism of St. John's University, where he made the acquaintance of Wu Jiatang, a famous journalist in Shanghai. After returning to Hong Kong in 1949, he worked as a proofreader and reporter at the politics section of *Hongkong Tiger Standard* upon the recommendation of Wu. In 1951, Chow joined the US Foreign Information Service and was in charge of the radio programme, *Voice of America*. In 1958, again with the recommendation of Wu, Chow joined Shaw Brothers (Hong Kong) Ltd as publicity manager. Chow was promoted to deputy general manager and production manager in 1968 and was the right-hand man of Run Run Shaw.

In 1970, Chow left Shaws with Leonard Ho and Leung Fung to set up Golden Harvest (HK) Limited, where he presided as managing director. In 1972, Golden Harvest moved into the Yung Hwa Motion Picture Studio formerly ran by Cathay Organisation, and established departments for administration, production and distribution. Aside from self-financed projects, the studio supported independent productions in both Taiwan and Hong Kong; and the works would be distributed by Golden Harvest. Chow also put in place a bonus system for directors and actors and changed the film production model in Hong Kong. In the 1970s, Chow invited Bruce Lee, who had returned to Hong Kong from the US, to star in *The Big Boss* (1971) and *Fist of Fury* (1972). They broke Hong Kong box-office records and consolidated Golden Harvest's position in the film industry. Subsequently, Golden Harvest collaborated with Warner Bros. from the US to shoot *Enter the Dragon* (1973). In 1975, Golden Harvest established a production branch in Hollywood, and produced English-language films such as *The Amsterdam Kill* (1978), *Battle Creek Brawl* (1980) and *The Cannonball Run* (1981). In 1980, Chow was honoured as the International Showman of the Year by the National Association of Theater Owners of the US. The special effects kung fu film, *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles* (1990) that he later financed, was also a global box-office success. Throughout his career from the 1970s to the turn of the millennium, Chow served as producer and executive producer for hundreds of films. Many of them were landmark works by major Hong Kong and Taiwan directors and actors, including Bruce Lee, Michael Hui, Sammo Hung and Jackie Chan.

From the 1980s onwards, Golden Harvest branched out from film production into distribution, film printing, cinema circuits and video retailing around the world. In November 1994, Golden Harvest Entertainment Group became a listed company on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange. In 1997, Golden Harvest China Film Fund took charge of Golden Harvest's film productions, while Chow assumed the role of chairman of the group and head of the fund. In 2007, Chow sold Golden Harvest to Orange Sky Entertainment Group. He resigned as chairman and announced his retirement. He passed away on 30 October 2018.

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