



## CHIU Kang-chien 邱剛健 ( 1940.5.19–2013.11.27 )

### Screenwriter, Director

A native of Xiamen, Fujian, Chiu was born in Gulangyu and moved to Taiwan in 1949. He enrolled in the National Taiwan Academy of Arts in 1961 and later went to University of Hawaii in 1964 to study drama. Chiu returned to Taiwan after graduation and co-founded a quarterly on theatre with friends. He introduced the avant-garde works of Bertolt Brecht, Michelangelo Antonioni and Jean-Luc Godard to Taiwan audiences. Stephen Soong, head of the screenwriting unit of Shaw Brothers (Hong Kong) Ltd, invited Chiu to join the company. Chiu worked at the screenwriting unit, which was subsequently headed by Soong, Leonard Ho and Dong Qianli. He was first credited as the screenwriter in *The Bells of Death* (1968), directed by Griffin Yue Feng. It was an adaptation of the western title *Nevada Smith* (1966) from the US. The second one was *Twin Blades of Doom* (1969), the only *wuxia* film directed by Doe Ching. Chiu stayed with Shaws for eight years and wrote many scripts. Some of his outstanding works included *The Singing Thief* (1969), *Dead End* (1969), *The Singing Killer* (co-scripted with Ni Kuang, 1970) and *The Duel* (1971), all directed by Chang Cheh; *Intimate Confessions of a Chinese Courtesan* (1972), directed by Chor Yuen; *Payment in Blood* (co-scripted with Ni Kuang, 1973), directed by Kuei Chih-hung and *The Kiss of Death* (1973), directed by Ho Moon-hwa. Chiu was creative in style and had once sought directing opportunities at Shaws, but unfortunately things did not work out. He thus left the company in 1974.

Chiu went back to Taiwan subsequently. Scripts that he wrote in the 1970s included *Thou Shalt Not Kill...But Once* (co-scripted with Chang Yung-hsiang, 1975), *Flying Eagles* (1978) and some others such as *Dragon Gate* (1975), *Dynasty* (1977), which he was not credited. He returned to Hong Kong in the early 1980s and became the script consultant for *The Story of Woo Viet* (1981). He later adopted the pseudonyms Tai On-ping and Yau Tai On-ping. Chiu won Best Screenplay with *Boat People* (1982), *Love Unto Wastes* (co-scripted with Lai Git, 1986) and *Rouge* (co-scripted with Lillian Lee, 1988) respectively at the 2nd, 6th and 8th Hong Kong Film Awards; and bagged Best Original Screenplay with *Full Moon in New York* (1990) at the 26th Golden Horse Awards in Taiwan. In 1992, he wrote the script of *Center Stage* for director Stanley Kwan; and Maggie Cheung won Best Actress at the 42nd Berlin International Film Festival with the film. His other major works included *Coolie Killer* (1982), *Nomad* (1982), *An Amorous Woman of Tang Dynasty* (1984), *Women* (1985) and *I Am Sorry* (1989).

Chiu once shot an experimental short film *Estranged*. He directed his first full-length film, *Waken from a Dream of Red Chamber* in Singapore in 1977, but it was never released in Hong Kong and Taiwan. He later filmed *Tong Chee Yee Li Nan* (1985) and *Ming Ghost* (1990; released in Hong Kong under the title *Little Woman* in 1993) in Taiwan. In 2006, Chiu scripted director Feng Xiaogang's *The Banquet*. He died of heart disease in Beijing on 27 November 2013.