



NG Wui 吳回 (1913–1996.3.1)

Director, Screenwriter, Actor

A native of Xinhui, Guangdong, Ng Wui was born in Guangzhou with the original name Ng Yiu-man. Born into a merchant's family, he and his brothers were all fond of drama. He studied at the Guangdong Film Academy and later, the Drama School affiliated with the Guangdong Drama Research Centre. A theatre troupe was also formed with his classmates Lee Sun-fung and Lo Duen. In 1939, Ng came to Hong Kong and later joined Grandview Film Company Limited as an actor and made his debut with *Poor Souls* (1940). He directed his first film *Tonight the Moon is Full* (1941) a year later.

When Hong Kong was under Japanese occupation, he fled to Guangzhouwan with his wife Yip Ping and his daughter, and formed a theatre troupe with Cheung Ying, Wong Man-lei, Mui Yee, Lo Duen, etc. Before Guangzhouwan fell to the Japanese, he travelled to Southeast Asia and toured in Vietnam, Singapore and Malaya where he acted in dramas to earn his livelihood.

Ng returned to Hong Kong after the war and directed *Tears for the Impossible Love* (1947). Appalled by the decline in quality of Cantonese films in the early 1950s, he launched the 'Cantonese Film Clean-up Movement' with some other committed film workers. He joined Sun Luen Film Company, directing and writing its inaugural production *The Prodigal Son* (1952). He later became one of the shareholders of The Union Film Enterprise Ltd, directing and penning the company's inaugural feature *Family* (1953). Ng had altogether set up three film companies: Shan Luen Motion Picture Co with Pak Yin and Cheung Wood-yau which produced Chor Yuen's classic, *The Great Devotion* (1960); Tak Ngai Film Company which produced *The Fascinating Messenger* (1956) and *Caught in the Act* (1957); and Yonglian Film Company with Lau Fong.

Ng was a prolific screenwriter-director who had over 200 films under his belt in his nearly 40-year career. His major works include *The End of the Year Means Money* (1950), *The Prodigal Son* (1952), *Family* (1953), *Big Thunderstorm* (1954), *Father and Son* (1954), *Madam Wan* (1954), *The Immortality Pagoda* (1955), *Wilderness* (1956), *The Precious Lotus Lamp* (in three parts, 1956-58), *Thunderstorm* (1957), *Four Daughters* (1957), *The Tormented Beauty* (1958), *Feast of a Rich Family* (co-directed with Lee Sun-fung, Lee Tit and Law Chi-hung, 1959), *Ten Brothers* (1959) and *Humanity* (1960). His last directorial film was *Crazy Hustlers* (1979).

Ng moved onto work in the television industry in the 1970s and was once a planning producer, writer-director and actor. In the mid-1980s, he retired from his posts and moved to Zhongshan, Guangdong with his wife, occasionally making cameos in film and on television. His last appearance in film was *Hail the Judge* (1994). He received the Lifetime Achievement Award presented by the Hong Kong Film Directors' Guild in 1994. Ng passed away of illness in Zhongshan on 1 March 1996.