

The D & B Chronology

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Year	D & B	Events in Hong Kong's Film and Entertainment Industry
1983		
1983.11.22	Dickson Films Company Limited incorporated in Hong Kong.	
1984		
1984.1.30	Dickson Poon (Board Chairman), John Sham (Executive Director), Richard Ng and Philip Chan jointly announced the launch of D & B Films Co., Ltd. in a press conference.	
1984.2.10	D & B Films Company Limited was officially registered.	
1984.6.22	Debut work <i>The Return of Pom Pom</i> opened in two cinema circuits, Gala and Shaw Brothers.	
1984.7		Dickson Films Company Limited changed its name to Dickson Pictures and Entertainment Limited, focusing on producing concerts.
1984.12	D & B started using the slogan 'Dak Bou Din Yeng / Goon Jung Ji Bou' (D & B Films / Treasures of the Audience)	
1985		
1985.1.1	<i>The Return of Pom Pom</i> was distributed by Chi Hsien Film Co., Ltd. in Taiwan and became a box-office hit. D & B made an agreement with Chi Hsien afterwards, agreeing to provide four films to the Taiwan company that year for screenings in its cinema circuit.	
1985.4.13	<i>Hong Kong 1941</i> (1984) secured eight nominations at the 4th Hong Kong Film Awards and picked up the award for Best Cinematography (Brian Lai).	
1985.4	Chan Kiu-ying from TVB, joined D & B to become manager of the creative department. Siu Kwok-wah and Tsang Kan-cheong also joined the team and worked as screenwriters.	
1985.5.1	Rented Kin Shing Studio B for film shooting.	
1985.5.23	Sammo Hung became a board member of D & B; Michael Hui later joined the company.	
1985.6.7	Chow Yun-fat was awarded Best Actor at the 30th Asia-Pacific Film Festival for <i>Hong Kong 1941</i> .	
1985.7	D & B rented four of the Shaw Brothers' key cinemas—Jade Theatre, Rex Theatre, Golden Theatre and Bonds Theatre—while also developing its own cinema circuit based on Shaws circuit.	
1985.8	D & B announced its partnership with Pearl City Films Ltd for the production of <i>Dream Lovers</i> (1986) and <i>Love Unto Wastes</i> (1986). Also invited Clifton Ko, Raymond Fung and Ronny Yu, known as 'The Trio' to join, switching from Cinema City.	

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1985.11.2	More than 30 members of D & B attended the 22nd Taipei Golden Horse Film Festival, where <i>Hong Kong 1941</i> received three nominations including Best Feature Film. Chow Yun-fat made a triumphant return after winning Best Leading Actor.	
1985.11	D & B partnered up with Shaw Brothers to form S & P Film Laboratory Ltd., which specialised in film printing, editing and other post-production works. Officially set up D & B Films Distribution Ltd.	
1985.11.21		The Shaws cinema circuit released its last film <i>Let's Have a Baby</i> , which ran for five days; it then re-released <i>Behind the Yellow Line</i> (1984) for four days before ending the operations completely.
1985.11.29		Dickson Poon, Keeree Kanjanapas and Wallace Cheung established Impact Entertainment Holdings Limited.
1985.11.30	D & B officially established its cinema circuit and started using the slogan 'Tai Hou Hei / Tai Dak Bou (See Good Films / See D & B Films). <i>Yes, Madam</i> premiered in the circuit, screening in 18 cinemas, including some venues for western movies.	
1986		
1986.1.1	D & B switched to Long Shong Pictures Ltd. as its Taiwan distributor and its works were screened in the Jin-rih Circuit. D & B co-produced <i>Sapporo Story</i> (1987) with Long Shong the year after.	
1986.1.11	D & B co-produced <i>Royal Warriors</i> with Chiba's production studio of Japan. The movie starred Japanese star Sanada Hiroyuki (aka Henry Sanada).	
1986.2.9	To promote the Chinese New Year release <i>My Family</i> , D & B sponsored free MTR rides from 2am to 6am on Chinese New Year Day.	
1986.3		Dickson Poon sold 60% of his shares in Impact Entertainment and exited from the company.
1986.6.5	The day <i>The Lunatics</i> premiered, the film was criticised by The Hong Kong Council of Social Service for its depiction of the mentally impaired. Resent to censorship the same day, it was eventually granted approval for public screening.	
1986.6.18	Dickson Poon and Golden Princess circuit's Lawrence Louey held a press conference to announce the co-release of <i>Royal Warriors</i> .	
1986.7.16		Film workers joined forces to establish the 'Hong Kong Motion Picture Industry Association'.
1986.7	Brandon Lee, the son of Bruce Lee, travelled from the US to Hong Kong to film <i>Legacy of Rage</i> .	
1986.8.1	M2 Theatre in Yau Ma Tei became D & B's main theatre in the Kowloon district. D & B also rented the Majestic Theatre next door for screening foreign language films, scheduled by IFD Films & Arts Ltd.	Dickson Music Industries Ltd (DMI) was officially registered and released the debut album <i>Stare</i> by Danny Chan.

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1986.8.2	<i>Kiss Me Goodbye</i> was pulled out from the midnight screening. Its release was held back until 16 October the same year.	John Woo's <i>A Better Tomorrow</i> was released, which grossed a record-breaking HK\$34 million at the box office. The film was credited for sparking a trend of 'heroic films'.
1986.11	Terence Chang became overseas distribution manager and was responsible for developing the international market.	
1986.12	D & B swept five prizes at the 23rd Golden Horse Film Awards: Best Leading Actress (Sylvia Chang), Best Supporting Actress (Cora Miao), and Best Art Direction (William Chang) for <i>Passion</i> ; Best Supporting Actor (Paul Chun) for <i>The Lunatics</i> ; and Best Costume Design (William Chang) for <i>Dream Lovers</i> .	
1987		
1987.1.1	D & B paired M2 Theatre with Imperial Cinema House 1 to form a new cinema circuit, debuting with the Taiwan film <i>Sayonara Goodbye</i> . The circuit showed mostly foreign movies but also coordinated with the D & B circuit to occasionally show Hong Kong films.	
1987.1.6	Winnie Yu and Kam Kwok-leung announced the launch of A Certain Production Company Limited and produced movies for D & B. Their first work <i>Wonder Women</i> was released on 3 October 1987.	
1987.1.28	Chinese New Year release, the comedy <i>It's a Mad, Mad, Mad World</i> , became a big hit and grossed more than HK\$27 million, the highest box-office receipt for D & B since its founding.	
1987.2	Signed an agreement with Toei Company, Ltd., assuring <i>Royal Warriors's</i> screenings in 160 theatres in Japan.	
1987.2.17	Announced Linda Kuk and Raymond Leung joining the Board.	
1987.2.20	<i>Love Unto Wastes</i> was invited to screen at the 'Forum' Section of the Berlin International Film Festival.	
1987.3	D & B underwent internal restructuring. John Sham and Linda Kuk each have their own team, and each team was supported by different creative units.	
1987.3		There were loopholes in the legal authority of government film censorship. The government released a new film censorship bill and consulted Hong Kong Motion Picture Industry Association and other representatives from the film industry.
1987.5.7	Set up booths in the film market at Cannes Film Festival for the first time. D & B mainly promoted <i>Yes, Madam</i> , <i>Legacy of Rage</i> and <i>Magnificent Warriors</i> . <i>Legacy of Rage</i> was the most popular for foreign buyers.	
1987.5.29	The censorship ban on Tong Shu-shuen's <i>China Behind</i> (filmed in 1974) was lifted. D & B arranged it to be shown in its cinema circuit, which marked the film's first release in Hong Kong commercial theatres.	

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1987.7.22	Announced the partnership with Alan & Eric Films Ltd to collaborate on the running of cinema circuit. Half of the screening schedule, with at least ten films, will be arranged by Alan & Eric, the latter's first production <i>You're My Destiny</i> premiered on 26 November 1987.	
1987.7	The contract system of employing regular actors was cancelled. It was replaced by project-based contract agreements, where artists were allowed to participate in films produced by other film companies.	
1987.9.15	Dickson Poon announced his resignation from the Board, withdrawing from D & B's administrative and production duties. Raymond Leung replaced him to become the Chairman of the Board.	
1987.10	Stephen Shin joined the Board and served as Chief Executive Director. Norman Chan became the Administrative & Production Controller.	
1987.12.1	Linda Kuk resigned from D & B and the Board.	
1987.12	John Sham announced that he had resigned from D & B.	
1988		
1988.1.1		Gordon Fung Ping-chung and Chan Wing-mei launched the cinema circuit Newport Circuit and premiered <i>Who is the Craftiest</i> .
1988.1	Clifton Ko, Raymond Fung and Ronny Yu terminated their contract with D & B.	
1988.2.12	Production began for <i>In the Line of Duty III</i> . The film stars Cynthia Khan, a Taiwan actress recommended to Stephen Shin by actor Wong Yung, replacing Michelle Yeoh as the 'madam' in the <i>In the Line of Duty</i> series. <i>Tiger Cage</i> (aka <i>Sure Fire</i>) (the first D & B collaboration project between Yuen Woo-ping and Donnie Yen) and <i>Double Fattiness</i> also started filming on the same day.	
1988.3	Authorised Mei Ah to distribute VHS tapes of D & B works in Hong Kong and Macao. The first four films were <i>The Return of Pom Pom</i> , <i>Yes, Madam</i> , <i>Passion</i> and <i>It's A Mad, Mad, Mad World</i> .	
1988.4.10	D & B works earned a total of 22 nominations at the 7th Hong Kong Film Awards, winning five awards: Best Film, Best Screenplay (Alex Law), Best Cinematography (James Hayman and David Chung) for <i>An Autumn's Tale</i> ; Best Film Editing (Chiang Kwok-kuen) for <i>Final Victory</i> and Best Actress (Josephine Siao Fong-fong) for <i>The Wrong Couples</i> .	
1988.6.25	<i>Student Union</i> (aka <i>Classmate Party</i>), a D & B and Shiobu co-production, was released in Taiwan. The film was made in support of Wong Yung, and was co-produced by Stephen Shin and Wong Yung. The title was never released in Hong Kong and it was the last time D & B entered into collaboration with a Taiwanese film company.	
1988.8.18	Alan & Eric Films stopped its cinema circuit collaboration with D & B after the release of <i>Women's Prison</i> .	
1988.8	Uncertainties appeared in the process of contract renewal with Shaw Brothers. Golden Harvest showed interest in bidding but D & B made a successful contract extension.	

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1988.9.15	The first time a Hong Kong Film Festival was held in the US. Senior Member of the Executive Council Lydia Dunn attended the opening ceremony in New York. Eight Hong Kong films were screened, including D & B's <i>Wonder Women</i> . Director Kam Kwok-leung and actress Dodo Cheng joined the Festival and attended the events.	
1988.11.10		The Hong Kong Government established the Film Censorship Ordinance, implementing a three-category system of rating films.
1988.11.26	The D & B office was relocated from Tsim Sha Tsui to 5 Kent Road, Kowloon Tong. The new office housed the Production Department, the Promotion Department, the Overseas Distribution Department, a screening room and a small editing room.	
1988.12	The demolition of M2 Theatre, a D & B cinema circuit theatre, was confirmed.	
1989		
1989.1	Announced the establishment of D & B North American Films in the US, as another platform to develop North American film markets and cinema circuits business.	
1989.7	George Lam signed a contract to be a regular actor, and he was not allowed to be loaned out to other studios.	
1989.8	Taiwan's New Ship Film Enterprise Company Limited set up a production company in Hong Kong. It also supported independent companies such as Chun Sing and Regent Film. All of their productions were screened in the D & B cinema circuit.	
1989.9.15	<i>An Autumn's Tale</i> premiered in Japan.	
1990		
1990.1.18		Harvest Theatre was renamed into Cineport Theatre, which became a primary cinema in the D & B cinema circuit. There were a total of 20 cinemas in the circuit at the time.
1990.1.26	<i>Hong Kong 1941</i> premiered in Japan.	
1990.4.12	A collaboration between Hong Kong and Chinese filmmakers, <i>A Terracotta Warrior</i> was produced by Art & Talent Groupe Inc. and premiered at the D & B cinema circuit. Actors of the film, Gong Li and Zhang Yimou, attended the promotional event in Hong Kong which thrilled the city.	
1990.6	Donnie Yen had an early termination of his D & B contract.	
1990.8	D & B sponsored the ATV Miss Asia Pageant, announcing that the winner would be signed by D & B. Leung Yuk-yin, one of the contestants, was signed by D & B and assumed the lead role in <i>Black Cat</i> (1991) under the stage name Jade Leung.	
1990.8.10		Co-produced by Golden Harvest and Seasonal Film, Stephen Chow's <i>All for the Winner</i> grossed HK\$41 million, breaking box-office record.

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1990.8.24	Directed by Stephen Shin, <i>A Bite of Love</i> is the first Hong Kong film using a digital recording system for surround sound effect.	
1990.12.4	D & B, Golden Harvest, Hutchison Telecommunications and an American Broadcasting Group founded Metropolitan Broadcasting. They applied for a second commercial broadcasting license that became Metro Broadcast.	
1991		
1991.7.22		Metro Broadcast news service went on air; its two music stations first aired on 2 August and 14 February respectively.
1991.9.5	Announced the closing of the D & B cinema circuit in November 1991, returning four theatres to Shaws, but continued its film production operation.	
1991.10		Raymond Wong partnered up with Stephen Lo Kit-sing, reaching agreement with Shaws to take over the D & B cinema circuit to form the Regal Circuit.
1991.11.29		<i>In the Lap of God</i> , the last production by Cinema City Company Limited, premiered.
1991.11.30		Regal Films' cinema circuit came into operation and premiered <i>The Banquet</i> .
1991		Hong Kong-based Satellite Television Advanced Reception Limited commenced its operation, broadcasting programmes and shows to different regions in Asia.
1992		
1992.1.8		Dallies of <i>All's Well End's Well</i> was robbed, which sparked a demonstration against violence and crime gangs by the show business people on 15 January the same year.
1992.3.31	Raymond Leung stepped down as D & B Chairman of the Board and resigned from Dickson Concepts.	
1992.4.16		Jim Choi, director of Fu Ngai Films, was shot to death.
1992.5		Raymond Wong left Regal cinema circuit and formed Mandarin cinema circuit on 1 January 1993.
1992.10.1	<i>Black Cat II: The Assassination of President Yeltsin</i> premiered, marking the end of all D & B productions.	
1992.12.24		Golden Princess' Lawrence Louey passed away and the company ceased operations.
1992		Hong Kong films reached a historical box-office high of over HK\$1.2 billion in 1992. Ticket sales started dropping the next year, never to bounce back.