



## Alex CHEUNG Kwok-ming 章國明 ( b. 1951 )

### Director, Screenwriter

A native of Ninghai, Zhejiang Province, Alex Cheung Kwok-ming was born in Hong Kong. He developed a keen interest in photography at an early age, and started making 8mm experimental films as a young man. He joined an 8mm film club with fellow aficionados, and held regular filming and screening events. Cheung participated in the Hong Kong Experimental Film Competition in 1973 and won three awards. His experimental films include *The Unworldly World* (1973) and *Come Together* (1974). Cheung's talent was recognised by veteran director Chor Yuen who invited him to adapt *The Unworldly World* into *The Other World*. This became Cheung's first film script with the short film directed by Chor Yuen. It was combined with *The Prize Winner* directed by Mou Tun-fei and released as *Haunted Tales* (1980).

Cheung later joined Rediffusion Television (RTV) as a production assistant. He continued to gain recognition for his innovative promotional clips and opening titles, and was promoted to producer. Upon invitation by Liu Fang-kang, Cheung joined the film unit at Television Broadcasts Limited (TVB) and was responsible for filming the variety programme *Wonderfun* (1977) and directing anthology series including *C.I.D.* (1976), *The Young Generation* (1977), *Interpol* (1978) and *Taxi Driver* (1978).

Cheung was approached by film companies after receiving enthusiastic responses for his directed television works. He made his film directorial debut *Cops and Robbers* (1979) produced by Teddy Robin. It was a box-office hit highlighted by a gritty and realistic feel that ushered in a new visual style for local cinema. Cheung followed up with *Man on the Brink* (1981) which earned him the Best Director award at the 19th Golden Horse Awards in Taiwan and established him as a notable director in Hong Kong New Wave Cinema. He later joined Shaw Brothers (Hong Kong) Ltd and directed the major production *Twinkle Twinkle Little Star* (1983), a sci-fi film which genre is rare among Hong Kong films. He subsequently directed *Danger Has Two Faces* (1985) and was involved in productions by Cinema City Company Limited including the filming of special effects in *Kung Hei Fat Choy* (1985) and being the Special Effects Director of *The Legend of Wisely* (1987).

Cheung directed *Imaginary Suspects* (1988) and *Framed* (1989) in the late 1980s. In the 1990s, he directed *Made in Heaven* (1997) and was executive director of *Midnight Caller* (1995) while producing commercials. In 1996, Cheung directed the drama series *ICAC Investigators* for the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC). He joined the ICAC full time in 1998 as senior producer and was responsible for its annual drama series. Until his retirement in 2014, Cheung was involved in directing 11 episodes of the programme.

Besides being a director, Cheung also do the screenwriting and story planning of his directed works. Cheung made cameo appearances in films such as *Working Class* (1985) and *Goodbye UFO* (2019). His daughter, Ashley Cheung, is also a film screenwriter.

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