



Alex LAW 羅啟銳 (1953.8.19–2022.7.2)

Director, Screenwriter, Producer

Alex Law was born in Hong Kong. He obtained his bachelor's degree in 1976, at the University of Hong Kong, majoring in Chinese and English literatures. He then joined the Television Division of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) as a production assistant, where he later rose to the position of producer, and directed notable anthological dramas such as *Goodbye Suzie Wong* (1980) and *King Chau and Lady Yu* (1981). Law then further studied at the University of South California, but later transferred to study film at the New York University, majoring in cinematography, and graduated with a master's degree after three years. During that time, he became acquainted with schoolmate Mabel Cheung, whom later became his life partner. The duo received sponsorship from the Shaw Brothers (Hong Kong) Ltd for their graduation film project *The Illegal Immigrant* (1985). The film was written and produced by Law, and directed by Cheung, which later won the Special Jury Award of the 30th Asia Pacific Film Festival and Best Director at the 5th Hong Kong Film Awards. The pair then returned to Hong Kong and worked together often as a team for the decades to come. Law was often the screenwriter and producer for Cheung's directorial works, while he also wrote blockbuster films, such as *100 Ways to Murder Your Wife* (1986) and *The Happy Bigamist* (co-written, 1987), for other directors. In 1987, written by Law and directed by Cheung, *An Autumn's Tale* was a commercial success, winning three awards at the 7th Hong Kong Film Awards, including Best Film and Best Screenplay.

Aside from screenwriting, Alex Law directed three films. His feature film directorial debut *Painted Faces* (1988) was based on the story of young Sammo Hung and Jackie Chan being mentored by Peking opera master Yu Zhanyuan, and filled with memories of the old Hong Kong. The film won seven awards at the 25th Golden Horse Awards, including Best Feature Film and Best Director, while winning two awards at the 8th Hong Kong Film Awards. In 1989, Law and Cheung co-directed the latter's third film *Eight Tales of Gold*; later Law directed his second film *Now You See Love... Now You Don't* (1992), both films were well received critically and commercially.

Law then went on to write *The Soong Sisters* (1997), *City of Glass* (co-wrote with Cheung, 1998) and *Beijing Rocks* (2001), all directed by Cheung. In 2010, Law's third directorial work, *Echoes of the Rainbow*, won the Crystal Bear for the Best Film in the Children's Jury 'Generation Kplus' category at the 2010 Berlin Film Festival; while also named winner in four categories at the 29th Hong Kong Film Awards, including Best Screenplay and Best Actor. Following Cheung's directing of documentary *Traces of a Dragon: Jackie Chan and His Lost Family* (2003), which was about Jackie Chan's father Fang Daolong, Law was inspired hence leading him to write *A Tale of Three Cities* (2015). The film was directed by Cheung, and was Law's last work on film.

Besides producing films, Law was also the writer of several published books of proses. In 2005, he worked on *Song of Light and Shadow*, a musical that commemorated the 100th anniversary of the birth of Chinese films. On 2 July 2022, Law died of cardiac disease in Hong Kong.
