



Allen FONG 方育平 (b. 1947)

Director, Executive Producer

A native of Huiyang, Guangdong, Allen Fong was born in Hong Kong. After graduating from the Department of Communication at Hong Kong Baptist College, he furthered his studies at the University of Georgia in the US, majoring in broadcasting, film and television. Upon obtaining his Master's degree in film production at the University of Southern California, Fong returned to Hong Kong in 1975. He began working for Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) as a production assistant, and was promoted to director in 1976. He directed many episodes of *Below the Lion Rock* including *The Wild Child* (1977) and *Ode to Un Chau Chai* (1977), both of which depicted the living environment of the grassroots and received rave reviews. Although they were television series, the two episodes were granted special entry to the 21st BFI London Film Festival, with the former winning the Golden Award at the 5th Asian Broadcasting Union's Shiraz Film Festival for young filmmakers.

Allen Fong was recruited by Feng Huang Motion Picture Co in late 1979 as a director. His first film, *Father and Son* (1981), is a refreshing semi-autobiographical work that won the Best Film and Best Director at the 1st Hong Kong Film Awards. Fong continued to explore the non-mainstream while crafting his own narrative style. In his second feature *Ah Ying* (1983), Fong cast non-professionals with the plot based on their true experiences. The film entered into the 34th Berlin International Film Festival. His next film, *Just Like Weather* (1986), was more experimental than his previous works and was widely discussed among film critics. Fong won Best Director for both films at the Hong Kong Film Awards, making him a three-time winner of the award. It was not until four years later that he presented his fourth feature film, *Dancing Bull* (1990), which he also served as executive producer (with Willy Tsao). His subsequent work *A Little Life-Opera* (1998) is Fong's last full-length drama film to this date.

Allen Fong made fewer films after the mid-1980s but remained active in culture and the performing arts. For the City Contemporary Dance Company, Fong produced video works and directed the play *The Inn*, making his debut as stage director in April 1987. In the same year, he was also invited by Television Broadcasts Limited (TVB) to direct episodes from the anthology series *Echoes of the Heart* (1988) which were based on true stories. From the late 1980s to the 1990s, Fong worked as a producer for RTHK again, shooting television films in the series *Film Drama*, *Elderly* and *Below the Lion Rock* as well as an episode of *Art Panorama*. Fong also directed a Buddhist television programme that was broadcast at Hong Kong Cable Television and the documentary *Tibetan Tao* (2000). In 2000, Fong moved to Toronto, Canada.

Fong was invited by fellow New Wave directors to make cameos in films including *Shanghai Blues* (1984) and *Summer Snow* (1995). In 2016, Allen Fong received the Honorary Award at the 2015 Hong Kong Film Directors' Guild Awards.
