



Ann HUI 許鞍華 (b. 1947)

Director

Born in Anshan, Liaoning in 1947 to a father who was a Nationalist Party official and a Japanese mother, Ann Hui moved to Hong Kong when she was five. She graduated from The University of Hong Kong with a Master's degree in English and comparative literature. After studying at The London Film School, she returned to Hong Kong in 1975 to serve as an assistant to director King Hu. Hui later joined Television Broadcasts Limited (TVB) as a screenwriter and director, directing dramas such as *Social Worker* and *CID*, as well as the documentary *Wonderfun*. In 1977, she shot the drama series *ICAC* for the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC). Hui joined the Television Division of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) in the following year to make documentaries and short dramas. *From Vietnam* (1978), a feature she shot for the RTHK series *Below the Lion Rock*, became the first instalment of her celebrated 'Vietnam Trilogy'.

Hui directed her first feature film, *The Secret* in 1979 and became the mainstay of Hong Kong New Wave cinema. Her following work, *The Spooky Bunch* (1980), established her position as one of the up-and-coming directors of Hong Kong at the time. She subsequently completed the 'Vietnam Trilogy' with *The Story of Woo Viet* (1981) and *Boat People* (1982); the latter won a number of awards such as Best Film and Best Director at the 2nd Hong Kong Film Awards. Hui also brought literary classics to the silver screen, including *Love in a Fallen City* (1984), *Eighteen Springs* (1997), and *Love After Love* (2021) adapted from Eileen Chang's novels; *The Romance of Book and Sword* and its sequel *Princess Fragrance* (both 1987) based on Jin Yong's *wuxia* novels; and *The Postmodern Life of My Aunt* (2007), adapted from the story of the same title by the Mainland writer Yan Yan, etc.

Hui has more than 20 features under her belt and has received countless awards: *Summer Snow* (1995), which won Best Film, Best Director and a few other awards at the 15th Hong Kong Film Awards; *Ordinary Heroes* (1999) was titled Best Film at the 19th Hong Kong Film Awards; the work also won Best Feature Film, Best Director and several other accolades at the 36th Golden Horse Awards in Taiwan. Hui later bagged Best Director with *The Way We Are* (2008) at the 28th Hong Kong Film Awards. Her *A Simple Life* (2012) won Best Film, Best Director and a few major accolades at the 31st Hong Kong Film Awards; as well as Best Director at the 48th Golden Horse Awards in Taiwan. *The Golden Era* (2014) received Best Film, Best Director and several other awards at the 34th Hong Kong Film Awards; she was again titled Best Director at the 51st Golden Horse Awards in Taiwan with the film. *Our Time Will Come* (2017) won a number of awards such as Best Film and Best Director at the 37th Hong Kong Film Awards. Her other prominent works include *Starry is the Night* (1988), *Song of the Exile* (1990), *Visible Secret* (2001), *July Rhapsody* (2002), etc. Hui once served as the president of the Hong Kong Film Directors' Guild and the vice chairman of the Hong Kong International Film Festival Society. She was honoured the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Asian Film Awards in 2011. In 2020, Hui joined hands with six directors and made *Septet: The Story of Hong Kong*, in which Hui directed the segment titled 'Headmaster'. In the same year, she was awarded the Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement at the 77th Venice International Film Festival.