



## Arthur WONG Ngok-tai 黃岳泰 (b. 1956.7.2)

### Cinematographer, Director, Producer, Actor

A native of Taishan, Guangdong Province, Wong was born in Hong Kong. As the son of renowned 1950s and 60s cinematographer Wong Chit, he followed in his father's professional footsteps first in 1973 when he joined the Hong Kong production team of the Western film, *The Man from Hong Kong* (1975), produced by Golden Harvest (HK) Limited. After working on a few films for Golden Harvest as cinematographer, he moved to Shaw Brothers in 1975 to assist his father. As cinematography assistants were switched from permanent positions to freelance basis at Shaw, he was afforded the opportunities to work with and learn from a great number of cinematographers. When he was promoted to cinematographer in 1976, his first film was *The Criminals 3 - Arson* (Hua Shan's segment *Gun Snatchers*, 1977), and followed this immediately with Lau Kar-leung's *The 36th Chamber of Shaolin* (1978). He quickly garnered acclaim within the industry for his skilful handling of the camera in coordination with action sequences.

As an early acquaintance of Karl Maka while working on foreign productions, Wong was invited to join Cinema City Company Limited upon its establishment in the early 1980s. His early collaborations with Cinema City include *Life After Life* (1981) and *Aces Go Places* (1982) for which he served as cinematographer. His use of innovative lighting and camera movements to create a thrilling atmosphere in *He Lives by Night* (1982), earned him the distinction of being the first ever winner of Best Cinematography at the Hong Kong Film Awards in 1982.

Wong has worked with a host of renowned Hong Kong and Taiwan directors on over 150 films, including *Dirty Ho* (1979), *Man on the Brink* (1981), *Heart of Dragon* (1985), *Eastern Condors* (1987), *Mr. Canton and Lady Rose* (1989), *Once Upon a Time in China* (1991), *A Confucian Confusion* (1994), *Somebody Up There Likes Me* (1996) and *Gen-X Cops* (1999), winning Best Cinematography at the Hong Kong Film Awards numerous times. Aside from *He Lives by Night*, his other award-winning films include *The Soong Sisters* (1997), *Sleepless Town* (1998), *Purple Storm* (1999), *Visible Secret* (2001), *The Floating Landscape* (2003), *The Warlords* (2007), *Painted Skin* (2008) and *Body Guards and Assassins* (2009). Among these, *Purple Storm* also earned him Best Cinematography at the 36th Golden Horse Awards.

Aside from cinematography, he has also written and directed *The Fool Escape* (1980), co-directed with Brandy Yuen on *In the Line of Duty III* (1988) and directed *Ulterior Motive* (2015), while serving as producer on several others. He is a founding member and honorary chairman of the Hong Kong Society of Cinematographers.