



CHEUNG Tung Joe 張同祖 (1944–)

Director, Screenwriter, Producer, Actor

Born in Guangxi, Cheung Tung Joe moved to Hong Kong with his family at a young age. He harboured a strong passion for film as a student and began working summer jobs at the shooting unit of Shaw Brothers (Hong Kong) Limited. Cheung joined the film industry after secondary school, working his way up from entry-level jobs. He worked as continuity supervisor for *Wrath of the Sword* (1970) and *The Way of the Dragon* (1972), and as assistant director for *Changing Love* (1972). Cheung went to Taiwan in the mid-1970s, serving as assistant director and scriptwriter for director Pai Ching-ji. He later made his directorial debut in Taiwan with *Kung Fu of Dammo Styles* (1978).

After his return to Hong Kong in the late 1970s, he wrote and directed the martial arts films *The Incredible Kung-Fu Master* (1979) and *The Killer in White* (with Thomas Tang as co-writer, 1980). With the growing popularity of comedies, Cheung directed *Pom Pom* (1984), which grossed over HK\$20 million. He also wrote and directed the youth film *Challenge on Chasing Girls* (1984). When gangster films became prevalent in the mid- to late- 1980s, he directed *The Flame Brothers* (1987); *Bet on Fire* (1988), which was dubbed a female version of heroic bloodshed films; and *Return Engagement* (1990), which he co-wrote with Wong Kar-wai. Cheung founded New Prima Film Production Ltd. with Stephen Tung Wai in the early 1990s and took on multiple roles, including writer, director and producer, in films like *Pom Pom & Hot Hot* (1992) and *The True Hero* (co-written with Patrick Yuen and Jimmy Sin Chi-wai, 1994). His film in the late 1990s, *My Dad is a Jerk!* (1997), explored the father-son relationship.

After over a decade, Cheung returned to the director's chair with *Kung Fu Wing Chun* in 2010. He has also acted in films since the start of his career and continues to make cameo appearances in many films, including *In the Mood for Love* (2000), *Infernal Affairs II* (2003), and *The Sparring Partner* (2022). Cheung also appeared in television series with memorable roles such as the hospital chief in *Healing Hands II* (2000).

In addition to filmmaking, Cheung is a strong advocate for the film and performing arts industry, having served in many public service positions. He was previously President of Hong Kong Film Awards Association Board of Directors. He was also President and is now Honorary President of the Hong Kong Film Directors' Guild, and was involved in planning and writing *Twin Dragons* (1992), a fund-raising project for the organisation. He is committed to the development of Hong Kong Film Awards and has promoted the development of professional organisations in the industry, including Society of Film Editors Hong Kong, Hong Kong Film Arts Association, and Federation of Hong Kong Filmmakers.
