



CHOW Yun-fat 周潤發 (b. 1955.5.18)

Actor

A native of Guangdong, Chow grew up on Lamma Island, Hong Kong. In 1973, he joined Television Broadcasts Limited's (TVB) performing artist training programme, and became a contract actor upon graduation. The first television series that he starred in was *The Itinerant Boy* (1976). In 1979, he played in *The Good, the Bad and the Ugly*, a drama with an extremely high rating. In 1980, he played a gangster figure of 1930s Shanghai in *The Bund* with such a commanding aura that his reputation rose even higher. He proceeded to act in such well-known television series as *The Brothers* (1980) and *The Fate* (1981), with which his status as the most popular male star was confirmed.

As he pursued his career on television, Chow became a contract actor with Goldig Films (H.K.) Ltd. in 1976, for which he acted in *Massage Girls* (1976), *The Hunter, the Butterfly and the Crocodile* (1976), *Hot Blood* (1977), *Pursuit* (1980) and more. He was once carried the title 'box office poison'. In 1981, he acted in Ann Hui's *The Story of Woo Viet* (1981), and his capacity as a film actor began to get recognised. Subsequently, he made other impressive performances as in *The Last Affair* (1983), *Love in a Fallen City* (1984), *Hong Kong 1941* (1984), *Women* (1985) and *Dream Lovers* (1986).

In 1986, Chow played Mark, a gangster in *A Better Tomorrow* (1986) directed by John Woo. The romantic hero figure, suave and carefree, has gone deep into the heart of the viewers. The film grossed more than HK\$30 million, and his performance in the film earned him Best Actor at the 6th Hong Kong Film Awards. In the following year, Chow established himself as a versatile and skilled actor by acting in *City on Fire*, *An Autumn's Tale* and *Prison on Fire*—all met with high ticket sales. He was again named Best Actor at the Hong Kong Film Awards, for his portrayal of an undercover cop in *City on Fire*. 1987 was a prolific year for Chow, who also starred in *Tragic Hero*, *The Romancing Star*, *Spiritual Love* and more, making him one of the most bankable actors in the ensuing years. Films such as *Eighth Happiness* (1988), *All About Ah-Long* (1989), *The Killer* (1989), *God of Gamblers* (1989) and *Hard-Boiled* (1992) all enjoyed box-office success.

After the completion of *Peace Hotel* (1995), Chow sought to develop his career in the US, where he acted in *The Replacement Killers* (1998) and *Anna and the King* (1999). He also played Li Mubai in Ang Lee's martial arts film *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* (2000). He then returned to Hong Kong and the Mainland, and acted in *Curse of the Golden Flower* (2006), *Confucius* (2010), *Let the Bullets Fly* (2011); as well as films by Hong Kong directors, such as *The Postmodern Life of My Aunt* (2007), the *From Vegas to Macau* series (2014-16), *Cold War II* (2016) and *Project Gutenberg* (2018).