



CHU Hak 朱克 (1919.4.1–2012.3.19)

Screenwriter, director, actor

With an ancestry in Taishan, Guangdong, Chu Hak wrote his first stage play, *Heung Wan*, in secondary school. Later, he co-founded Blue and White Drama Group with like-minded people. During the war, he began performing in plays across Southern China, Hubei and Hunan areas, and even joined the military drama troupe to call for resistance against Japanese aggression. After moving to Hong Kong in 1947, he became a magazine editor before entering the film industry, where he worked tirelessly as a director and screenwriter for many years.

Under the pseudonym Fong Yeung, Chu was cast in films such as *The Romantic Lovers* (1947) and *The Returning Soul* (1948), and co-wrote the screenplay for *Ideal Marriage* (1948) with Ho Pik-kin. Also, under his real name, he served as assistant director on *Everlasting Regret* (1948), and wrote the screenplays for *Laughter and Tears* (co-written with Ho Pik-kin, 1950), *Wild Flowers Are Sweeter* (1950), and *Kaleidoscope: 'Complaints'* (1950). In 1950, he first directed *Kowloon City Fire* (1950), then proceed to writing and directing *All Illusion of Paradise* (1951) with five other directors, and co-directing *The House of Hatred* (1963) with Wong Toi and *Debts and Relationships* (1964) with Lau Fong.

Chu started working on Mandarin films in 1952 as a screenwriter for The Great Wall Movie Enterprises Ltd, penning films such as *Parents' Love* (1953) and *Tales of the City* (1954). He also wrote the screenplay for Hung Sin Nui's first Mandarin film, *It So Happens to a Woman* (1955). Under the pen name Ding Ho, he scripted the film *Forever Waiting* (1957); during that time, he also wrote lyrics for film songs. He left Great Wall in 1958. His novel *Love on a Cliff* was adapted into the film *Colourful Youth* in 1966. Later, he expanded his Cantonese film repertoire to include more genres, from *wuxia* films such as *The Story of the Great Heroes* (Parts 1-4, 1960-61) to *wenyi* films like *A Private Affair* (co-written with Yau Kei, 1963).

In 1973, Chu joined Rediffusion Television (RTV), before moving to Television Broadcasts Limited (TVB), writing and directing television series including *Kung Fu* (1975) and *Three Years & Eight Months* (1976). After joining Commercial Television in 1978, he moved to Singapore for about a year and a half. In 1964, Chu founded the Hong Kong Repertory Theatre together with Keung Chung-ping, Wong Hang, Lee Hang and Chan Wan. He was also a member of the Hong Kong Movie TV Repertory Theatre which was founded in 1973. He adapted and directed *72 Tenants*, which set a record of performing 120 shows. In 1987, he contributed to the founding of the Hong Kong Movie TV Theatrical Society. In 2002, he created the stage drama *Romance of Xiguan* in his 80s. In 2008, the Hong Kong Federation of Drama Societies honoured him with a Lifetime Achievement Award.
