



Cecilia YIP 葉童 (b. 1963)

Actress

Born Lee Sze-sze, a native of Guangdong Panyu, Cecilia Yip was born in Hong Kong. Yip worked as a part-time model while studying in secondary school. She was then scouted by director Patrick Tam to star in his film *Nomad* (1982), which later earned her a nomination of Best New Performer in the 2nd Hong Kong Film Awards. She was subsequently signed as actress under the Century Motion Picture & Dist. Co., Ltd., going by the stage name Yip Tung. Simultaneously, Yip performed for *Coolie Killer* (1982), directed by Terry Tong, which was screened before *Nomad*, and so it became Yip's first released film. Her first two performances were exceptional, and her open-minded attitude towards erotic scenes has garnered much support from the critics, praising her for her unique personality and temperament. Yip then continued to appear in films by new directors, including *Esprit D'amour* (1983) by Ringo Lam and *Let's Make Laugh* (1983) by Alfred Cheung; in which the latter has earned her Best Actress at the 3rd Hong Kong Film Awards.

Yip became one of the strongest actresses in 1980s and 90s. She has received several accolades, including nominations for Best Actress by *Hong Kong 1941* (1984) and *Peace Hotel* (1995). She was honoured Best Supporting Actress in the 9th Hong Kong Film Awards by *Beyond the Sunset* (1989), and nominated in the same category by *To Be Number One* (1991). She was awarded Best Actress again in the 11th Hong Kong Film Awards by *This Thing Called Love* (1991) for her portrayal of a troubled divorcee. Yip also delivered unforgettable performances as Brigitta Lin, a restive beauty pageant contestant in *Wonder Women* (1987); and Donna Mang, a famous Peking opera performer in *Lord of East China Sea I* and *II* (both 1993). The latter's character arc spanned over several decades, but Yip has managed to deliver brilliantly. Yip has also appeared in *The Infatuation* (1985), directed by Louis Tan, whom Yip married in 1988. She was also Tan's producer for his documentary production *Dare Ya!* (2002).

Throughout her acting career, Yip's period roles were only a handful, one of which was in *Swordsmen* (1990), which attracted Taiwanese producers' attention, and subsequently invited Yip to portray Xu Xian, cross-dressing as the male protagonist in TV drama *The Legend of the White Snake* (1992). The series became a success in both Mainland and Taiwan. Her first TV drama was *The Story of Two Women* (1988), an anthology series produced by Television Broadcasts Limited (TVB). Post-millennium, Yip received nominations for the Hong Kong Film Awards for Best Supporting Actress by *The Avenging Fist* (2001) and *May and August* (2002), before slowly fading out from film appearances. Nevertheless, she has continued to perform for TV and the stage, for example, playing the lead role for a theatrical mime version of *King Lear* in 2021.

Being very supportive of new directors, Yip appeared in the 'Cement' of *Good Take!* (2016), directed by Derek Tsang Kwok-cheung; *Distinction* (2018) by Jevons Au; *The Lady Improper* (2019) by Tsang Tsui-shan; *Still Human* (2019) by Oliver Chan Siu-kuen; and *Drifting* (2021) by Jun Li. Yip has also appeared in *Ren Jian Yan Huo* (2021), a short feature film directed by Stanley Kwan.
