



CHU Kea 珠璣 (1920.1.6–1988.1.3)

Director, Screenwriter

A native of Shunde, Guangdong, Chu was born in Guangzhou with the original name Chu Yat-chuen. His father was a scriptwriter of a Cantonese opera troupe. At the age of 12, he came to Hong Kong and joined Unique Film Productions (HK branch) in the following year, where he honed his skills in film processing and editing. He had served as photography assistant for *Burning of the Efang Palace* (1935) and had acted in films. For example, he played Shijiu, the attendant of Liang Shanbo in *The Butterfly Lovers* (Part 1 & 2, 1935) under the stage name Chu Ling-wan. He later switched to Nanyue Film Company where he worked initially as an editor, but soon became a screenwriter and assistant director. He kick-started as a director in 1941 with *The Swallows Fly* (1941) and *Mother and Son* (1941), both co-directed with Yan Meng. He made his independent directorial debut with *An Unfaithful Wife* (1941).

In 1952, he teamed up with various filmmakers and founded The Union Film Enterprise Ltd, during which time he directed *A Home of a Million Gold* (1953), *An Orphan's Tragedy* (1955), *Blood Money* (1957), and made cameo appearances in *Sworn Sisters* (1954) as well as *A Beautiful Corpse Comes to Life* (1956). In 1957, Chu left The Union Film and signed a contract with Liangyou Film Company, for which he directed several Amoy-dialect films such as *The Everlasting Love* (1957), *A Filial Daughter Avenges for Her Father* (1957) and *Teddy Girls* (1958).

He also made films for other companies, including Cantonese opera titles and musicals *Tales of Two Kingdoms* (1957), *Swallows Come Home* (1958), *How Third Madam Educated Her Son* (1958), *The Dream Meeting Between Emperor Wu of Han and Lady Wai* (1959); melodramas *The Hypocritical Heart* (1955), *Mother Was Grand* (1956), *Madam Wan* (1960), *The Search for Loved One* (1961) and *No Return Without Victory* (1963), etc. Chu later established Haiyang Film Company and Jincheng Film Company, producing films such as *Xi Shi, the Eternal Beauty* (1960), *The Roots of All Evils* (1964), *The 12 Hairpins and the 12 Balustrades* (1964) and *Family Doctrine* (Part 1 & 2, 1965). Chu's last independent directorial title was the colour musical *Colourful Paradise* (1969). Chu had directed over 250 films in his entire career, and was considered one of the most prolific filmmakers.

He retired from filmmaking upon directing *A Wonderful Marriage* (1969). He was once a columnist for the weekly magazine *HK TV NEWS*, in which he related personal stories and industry anecdotes. Chu passed away of illness in Hong Kong on 3 January 1988. His elder brother, Chu Chiu, and younger sister, Chu Yat-hung, both worked in the film industry as assistant directors.