



Clifton KO Chi-sum 高志森 (b. 1958.8.6)

Screenwriter, Director, Associate Producer, Producer

A native of Zhongshan, Guangdong, Ko was born in Hong Kong. Upon graduation from secondary school, he joined Rediffusion Television (RTV) and wrote for television dramas such as *Crocodile Tears* (1978) and *Chameleon* (1978). Four years later, he joined Television Broadcasts Limited (TVB) as a production assistant.

In 1980, Ko wrote the screenplay for Cinema City's *No U-Turn* (directed by Clifford Choi Kai-kwong, 1981) and *Teenage Dreamers* (1982), as well as serving as an assistant director for the latter. He then joined Cinema City as a screenwriter and worked alongside Raymond Wong, writing *Till Death Do We Scare* (1982) and *Play Catch* (1983). In 1984, he grasped the chance to direct his first feature, *The Happy Ghost*, a low-budget movie grossing over HK\$17 million. He went on to direct another box-office hit *Merry Christmas* (1984) and *Happy Ghost II* (written by Ko, 1985), as well as writing and producing *For Your Heart Only* (1985). During the time, he formed 'The Trio' with Raymond Fung and Ronny Yu, and they switched to D & B Films Co., Ltd. in August 1985.

During his time at D & B, Ko created the Lunar New Year feature *It's a Mad, Mad, Mad World* (1987), which grossed over HK\$27 million and spawned series of sequels. Later, he collaborated with Michael Hui and directed *Chicken and Duck Talk* (1988) and *Mr. Coconut* (1989), succeeding again in the box office. In 1989, he founded Ko Chi Sum Productions Limited and collaborated closely with Raymond Wong's companies, producing films together such as *Happy Ghost IV* (directed by Ko, 1990) and *Happy Ghost V* (produced by Ko, 1991), as part of Cinema City's *Happy Ghost* series. In 1992, he directed *All's Well, End's Well*, which grossed a record-breaking HK\$48 million.

Ko's other directorial works include *All's Well Ends's Well Too* (1993), *I Will Wait for You* (1994), *Ninth Happiness* (1998) and *Love Paradox* (2000). He also co-wrote *Once a Thief* (1991) and produced *The Bride with White Hair* and *The Bride with White Hair II* (both 1993) with Ronny Yu; they repeated their collaboration one year after on *Satin Steel* (1994).

In 1994, Ko created a sensation when he adapted the stage musical *I Have a Date with Spring* for the screen, initiating his stage-to-film adaptations including *One of the Lucky Once* (1994), *The Umbrella Story* (1995) and *The Mad Phoenix* (1997). He founded The Spring-Time Group in 1995 and presented plays such as *A Sentimental Journey* and the musical *The Jubilee*, among others. He has remained active in the theatre circle and continued to be involved in the film and television industry. In 2016, he directed the musical *Coquettish Diva* starring Karl Maka and Raymond Wong. His other film works include *Wonder MaMa* (2015) and *All My Goddess* (2017), which he both wrote and directed.
