



Derek YEE 爾冬陞 (b. 1957.12.28)

Director, Screenwriter, Producer, Actor

Born in Hong Kong, of Tianjin descent, Derek Yee's father was Er Guang, a veteran producer and associate producer, while his mother was Hong Wei, an actress. His half-brothers on his mother's side, Paul Chun and John (David) Chiang, were both actors. After graduating from high school in 1975, he joined Shaw Brothers (Hong Kong) Ltd as an actor. His debut film is *Lady Exterminator* (1977), but he made his name with *Death Duel* (1977). After that, he played in a number of period *wuxia* movies, such as *Full Moon Scimitar* (1979) and *Bat Without Wings* (1980); as well as a few modern titles like *Let's Make Laugh II* (1985). He left Shaw Brothers around 1984. Until the 1990s, Yee was cast in major roles in many films, including *Magnificent Warriors* (1987), *Goodbye Hero* (1990), *This Thing Called Love* (1991), *Master of Zen* (1994), and *La Peintre* (1994). Yee also participated in behind-the-scenes work quite early in his career. Using the pseudonym 'Yee Siu-bo', he co-wrote *The Legend of the Owl* (1981); and contributed to *Love with the Perfect Stranger* (1985) as actor and associate producer. In the mid-1980s, he made his directorial debut with *The Lunatics* (1986) which he scripted single-handedly; the film, which examined the lives of the mentally ill, won Best Film, Best Director, and Best Screenplay at the 6th Hong Kong Film Awards. This set Yee off on a creative journey as film director and screenwriter, and he subsequently created *People's Hero* (1987) and *The Bachelor's Swan Song* (1989).

In 1992, Yee founded Film Unlimited Production Co. Ltd, for which he scripted and directed *C'est la Vie, mon Cheri* (1993). A box-office and critical success, the film bagged six awards at the 13th Hong Kong Film Awards, including Best Film, Best Director and Best Screenplay. Yee's subsequent works were equally strong, but featured a realistic style, a concern for different social groups, and revelations of the city's underbelly; they included *Full Throttle* (1995), *The Truth about Jane and Sam* (1999), *Lost in Time* (2003), *2 Young* (2005), *Protégé* (2007), and *Shinjuku Incident* (2009). *Viva Erotica* (1996), which Yee co-directed with Lo Chi-leung, was a satirical observation of the movie industry that contended for the Golden Bear at the 47th Berlin International Film Festival. *One Nite in Mongkok* (2004) bagged Best Director and Best Screenplay at the 24th Hong Kong Film Awards. Yee went on to make China-Hong Kong co-productions *Triple Tap* (2010) and *The Great Magician* (2012). He also wrote and directed *I Am Somebody* (2015). In 2016, Yee remade *Death Duel*, a 1977 film in which he was known for being the leading actor, into a 3D film.

Since the late 1990s, Yee was producer for over 20 titles such as *My Dad is a Jerk!* (1997), *Double Tap* (2000), *July Rhapsody* (2002), *Inner Senses* (2002), *Overheard* (2009), *The Bullet Vanishes* (2012), *Insanity* (2015), *A Witness out of the Blue* (2019), and *Guilt by Design* (2019); they also included quite a few works of novice directors such as *Summer I Love You* (2002) and *Somewhere Beyond the Mist* (2018). Yee also produced films in the Mainland, including *Knife in the Clear Water* (co-produced with Zhang Meng and Pema Tsenden, 2018). Besides all this, he is committed to the development of the film industry, serving as the Chairman of the Hong Kong Film Awards Association Board of Directors (2019-2021); he was also twice elected as the director of the Hong Kong Film Directors' Guild, serving a total of eight consecutive years.
