



Gordon CHAN 陳嘉上 (1960–)

Director, Screenwriter, Producer

Gordon Chan was born in Hong Kong, though his family had roots in Bao'an, Guangdong. After secondary school, Chan studied urban geography in Toronto. He initially worked at his family's construction company upon returning to Hong Kong. Chan joined Shaw Brothers (Hong Kong) Ltd. in 1982, producing special props for *Twinkle Twinkle Little Star* (1983). He later headed the special effects department. In 1983, Chan switched to filmmaking positions, working on the script of *Behind the Yellow Line* (1984). He once worked for Tsui Hark's Film Workshop and wrote *The Big Heat* (1988). With Chan Hing-kai (aka Nip Wang-fung) and Ip Kwong-kim, Chan later co-wrote *Heart to Hearts* (1988) by D & B Films Co., Ltd., which won Best Screenplay at the Hong Kong Film Awards. Chan was also the film's executive director.

Chan made his directorial debut with *The Yuppie Fantasia* (1989), a commercial and critical success that ushered in a new era of urban comedies. Chan and his two co-writing partners founded People's Productions Ltd. with Lawrence Cheng and produced many innovative low-budget films, including *Brief Encounter in Shinjuku* (1990) and *Inspector Pink Dragon* (1991), both directed by Chan. He was also the associate producer of *Murder* (with Chan Hing-kai, 1993). He wrote and directed the critical and commercial hit *The Final Option* (1994), which featured a cast of emerging young actors and pioneered a popular trend in local films focusing on the 'Flying Tiger Squad' (Special Duties Unit). Chan worked with Stephen Chow in *Fight Back to School* (1991), which was the year's top-selling film. This was quickly followed by *Fight Back to School II* (1992) and *King of Beggars* (1992), both of which expanded Chow's oeuvre in comedies.

Chan's films were able to maintain both quality and commercial viability in the mainstream film market, including *Long and Winding Road* (1994), focusing on the theme of male friendship; *Fist of Legend* (1994), a new take on the character Chen Zhen; Jackie Chan action films *Thunderbolt* (1995) and *The Medallion* (2003); and *A-1 Headline* (co-directed with Chung Kai-cheong, 2004), a thriller set in the newspaper industry. *Beast Cops* (1998), which he co-wrote with Chan Hing-kai and co-directed with Dante Lam, won Best Film, Best Director and Best Screenplay at the Hong Kong Film Awards. As Chan forayed into the Mainland, he directed the Mainland-Hong Kong co-production *Painted Skin* (2008), a supernatural fantasy film which earned more than RMB 200 million at the box office. Chan continued to make commercial hits like *Mural* (2011) and the *The Four* trilogy (co-directed with Janet Chun, 2012-14), and later directed the historical epic *God of War* (2017), the romance film *Tempting Hearts* (2021), and the spy thriller *Faces in the Crowd* (2023). Meanwhile he directed the English-language film *The King of Fighters* (2010).

Chan was also CEO of Emperor Multimedia Group (HK) Limited from 2001 to 2003, and produced films including *Heroes in Love* (with Jan Lamb, 2001) and *Time 4 Hope* (2002). He was President of the Hong Kong Film Directors' Guild from 2007 through 2011, and served as the Chairman of the Board of the Hong Kong Film Awards Association from 2008 to 2015.
