



## Herman YAU 邱禮濤 ( b. 1961 )

### Director, Screenwriter, Cinematographer

Born in Hong Kong, Yau's hometown is in Chaozhou, Guangdong. After graduating from high school, he studied Radiation Therapy at Hong Kong Polytechnic, and was admitted to the Department of Communication at Hong Kong Baptist College in 1981. He directed several independent short films for different film festivals in 1984. During his college years, Yau already worked as a continuity clerk on movie sets, and assisted with the filming of television series upon graduation. He later switched to become a cinematographer and was mainly the cameraman for features directed by Taylor Wong and Dennis Law, including *Sentenced to Hang* (1989) and *Fatal Contact* (2006). He was also the cinematographer for Michael Hui's *The Magic Touch* (1992), Tsui Hark's *Time and Tide* (2000) and Apple Kwan's independent film, *Reunion* (1988).

After making his directorial debut with *No Regret* (1987), Yau remained active in the film circle, directing over 70 films of different genres and styles. He was invited to direct *The Untold Story* by Danny Lee in 1993, a motion picture which shocked the industry with its intense violence and goriness. His films were touted as cult classics by Euro-Americans critics and audiences. Yau went on to direct *Taxi Hunter* (1993) and *Ebola Syndrome* (1996), both thrillers revolving around psychotic serial killers. He also ventured into the supernatural genre by teaming up with producer Nam Yin for the first six instalments of the *Troublesome Night* series (1997–99); other works of the same genre include *Walk In* (1997) and *The First 7th Night* (2009).

Yau is also a frequent director of triad and cops-and-gangsters films. His works include *City Cop* (1995), *War of the Under World* (1996), *Shark Busters* (2002), *On the Edge* (2006), *Rebellion* (2009) and *The Mobfathers* (2016). Yau was first nominated for Best Director at the Hong Kong Film Awards for *Shock Wave* (2017). Many of his works were selected as 'Films of Merit' by the Hong Kong Film Critics Society Awards.

A versatile director, Yau also directed romance films including *Fascination Amour* (1999) and *77 Heartbreaks* (2017), and the hybrid live-action/animated comedy *Master Q 2001* (2001). He also focused on social issues and directed realist films including *From the Queen to the Chief Executive* (2001), *Whispers and Moans* (2007), *True Women for Sale* (2008), the life-affirming musical tale *Give Me a Chance* (2003), and biographical films including *The Woman Knight of Mirror Lake* (2011) and *Ip Man: The Final Fight* (2013). Yau's works also include *The Leakers* (2018) and *The White Storm 2—Drug Lords* (2019).

Yau was also involved in the founding of the bi-weekly magazines *Movie* and *Scene Magazine*. In 1997, he founded a publishing company, Step Forward Multi Media Co Ltd, with his friends. In 2010, he published the book *Cultural Contemplations and Practice of a Film Director* on his views as a director. Yau also returned to study, completing his PhD in Cultural Studies in 2015.

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