



HSIA Tsu-hui 夏祖輝 (b. 1933.11.10)

Director

Born in Nanjing, Jiangsu in 1933, Hsia's father worked for the air force of Kuomintang. Following his father's decision, Hsia's family relocated to Taiwan in 1948. Hsia later graduated from Department of Film and Theatre at Fu Hsing Kang College, studying film and drama. He joined China Motion Picture Studio in the 1960s, directing and screenwriting newsreels, documentaries and military education films. When Li Han-hsiang filmed *Storm Over the Yangtse River* (1969) and later *The Story of Ti Ying* (1971) for China Motion Picture, Hsia was appointed as assistant director to Li. He further composed the music for the latter, winning Best Music (Non-musical) at the 9th Golden Horse Awards. Hsia's directorial works in Taiwan include *Blood Splashing Over Rainbow Bridge* (1973) and *A Sentimental Girl* (1974).

Upon the invitation of Li Han-hsiang in the mid-1970s, Hsia served as Li's assistant director with *The Empress Dowager* (1975) and *The Last Tempest* (1976). He later decided to settle in Hong Kong and continued to work as assistant director to Li at Shaw Brothers (Hong Kong) Ltd. Some of their collaborations include the 'Qianlong Series' (1977-82) and *The Dream of the Red Chamber* (1977). While at Shaw Brothers, Hsia participated in directing *Hello, Sexy Late Homecomers* (1978), a segmental feature shot by several renowned directors. He had also made a return to Taiwan and directed *Cold Current* (1976), the first TV drama shot on 16mm in Taiwan.

In 1982, after Li Han-hsiang left Shaw Brothers to film in the Mainland, Hsia went back to Taiwan to shoot TV dramas. In the 1980s, he had offered uncredited assistance to Li in making films such as *The Snuff Battle* (1988) and *The Empress Dowager* (1989). In the 1990s, Hsia was executive director to Li for four erotica including *The Demon Wet Nurse* (1992). In 1992, he directed *The Legend of White Snake* (1992), an utter high-rating TV drama series in Taiwan, Hong Kong and the Mainland, starring Angie Chiu Nga-chi and Cecilia Ip. In 1996, he assisted Li to shoot the TV drama *Burning of Efang Palace* in Beijing. Hsia took the remaining directing chores and finished the project after Li died of a heart attack during production. Hsia has now retired and takes up residence in Hong Kong.