



Ivy HO 岸西 (1958–)

Screenwriter, Director

Born Ho Bik-man in Macau, Ivy Ho moved to Hong Kong at the age of 14, where she continued with her studies and developed an interest in writing. She joined Commercial Television in the mid-1970s after graduating from secondary school, and worked as performing artist training course assistant and programme assistant. Later she started working for Television Broadcasts Limited (TVB). There, she worked as production coordinator and screenwriter, and also performed onscreen, including an appearance in an episode of *Seven Women* (1976) under her own name. The monologue she performed directly facing the camera was also her screenwriting debut. She was also one of the three female leads in the sitcom *Take 3 Girls* (1977), and was one of the screenwriters for the Rediffusion Television (RTV) series *In Cold Blood* (1977-78).

Ho left TV and worked in public relations and advertising in the 1980s and 90s, and wrote scripts in her spare time. From 1980 to 1985, she mainly worked as a screenwriter for the drama programmes of the Television Division of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK), including *Lily in the Field*, *Under the Same Roof*, *Faces & Places*, *Crossroads*, *Profile*, etc., writing over 30 works. Subsequently, she set foot in the film industry and participated in the screenwriting of *Silent Love* (with Siu Kwok-wah as co-writer, 1986) and in two films directed by Peter Chan Ho-sun, *The Age of Miracles* (1996), as one of the screenwriters; and *Comrades, Almost a Love Story* (1996), which she wrote on her own and won Best Screenplay at the Hong Kong Film Awards. Afterwards, she decided to become a full-time screenwriter, writing more screenplays for United Filmmakers Organisation, including *Anna Magdalena* (1998) and *And I Hate You So* (2000).

Apart from the aforementioned works, Ho was also on the creative teams behind big-budget action films. She wrote the story for Jackie Chan's *Gorgeous* (1999), the screenplay for *The Accidental Spy* (2001), and was screenwriting supervisor for the Chu Yen-ping film, *The Treasure Hunter* (2009). During this time, she also penned screenplays for films such as *Divergence* (2005) by Benny Chan, *2 Become 1* (2006) by Law Wing-cheong, and *Linger* (2008) by Johnnie To. She also wrote *July Rhapsody* (2002) and *Goddess of Mercy* (2004) by Ann Hui, the former of which won her another Hong Kong Film Award for Best Screenplay.

Ho's screenplays tell wonderfully detailed and perceptive stories about the delicate emotional relationships of urbanites. She has ventured into directing as well, with her self-penned directorial debut *Claustrophobia* (2009) continuing to build on this style of storytelling. In the following year, she wrote and directed *Crossing Hennessy* (2010), which depicts the relationship drama of the leading lovers with a fresh sense of humour, and its older supporting characters are likewise full of wit. Since then, Ho has written screenplays for two short films as part of Canon's marketing campaign 'Love Movie' in 2012. She also wrote and directed *Two for the Night*, the first episode of RTHK's *Below the Lion Rock* (2014). The monograph *Ivy Ho Unsaid*, which analyses her creative process, was published in 2017.
