



## Jeff LAU 劉鎮偉 (b. 1956)

### Director, Screenwriter, Producer

Jeff Lau was born in Hong Kong. He sometimes went by the penname 'Kay On' as a screenwriter. He studied art in the UK when young; upon returning to Hong Kong, he first worked at an advertising agency and then at a finance company. The latter eventually established Century Motion Picture & Dist. Co., Ltd. to venture into film business, where Lau became the person in charge, responsible for administration and film distribution. Later, Century reorganised into Continental Century Motion Picture & Distribution Co., Ltd. Lau had the first taste of film production when he served as the associate producer for *Man on the Brink* (1981). He was subsequently the producer for numerous films, such as *The Imp* (1981), *Nomad* (co-produced with Dennis Yu, 1982), and *Beloved Daddy* (co-produced with Dennis Yu, 1984), before Continental Century closed down in 1985. In 1987, Lau joined In-Gear Film Production Co. Ltd. established by Alan Tang and became the line producer for *Flaming Brothers* alongside Wong Kar-wai. In the same year, Lau wrote and directed horror comedy *The Haunted Cop Shop* for In-Gear, grossing over HK\$10 million. His work, *The Haunted Cop Shop II* (1988) was well-received too, establishing his trademark as a horror comedy director for many other film companies.

In 1990, Lau co-directed *All for the Winner* with Corey Yuen Kwai for Ng See-yuen's Seasonal Film Corporation; the film was co-produced with Golden Harvest (HK) Limited. Lau demonstrated his wit through the fantastical plot and Stephen Chow's unique comedic performance, landing the film on a record-breaking box office of over HK\$40 million. Lau has then given chances to work with A-listers on numerous productions, such as *92 The Legendary la Rose Noire* (1992), which he wrote and directed under aliases 'Kay On' and 'Chan Sin-chi' respectively; *The Eagle Shooting Heroes Dong Cheng Xi Jiu* (1993), which was produced by Jet Tone Films Limited, a film company co-founded by Lau and Wong Kar-wai; and *Days of Tomorrow* (1993), which Lau directed under pseudonym 'Lau Yu-ming'. Besides directorial works, the screenplays of *The Legend of Fong Sai Yuk* and its sequel which was written by Lau as 'Kay On' were also bold and original and became commercial successes.

Lau rejoined Stephen Chow for collaborations in 1995, producing a two-part fantastical version of the Monkey King's romantic story—*A Chinese Odyssey Part One-Pandora's Box*, and *Part Two-Cinderella*. The films became an instant hit in the Mainland. Upon finishing *Timeless Romance* in 1998, Lau relocated to Canada. Then in 2001, he reemerged to first direct and pen *Second Time Around* (2002) for One Hundred Years of Film Co Ltd, and then *Chinese Odyssey 2002* (2002), which was produced by Wong Kar-wai's Jet Tone. From then on, Lau has set his base in the Mainland and continued to direct numerous films such as *A Chinese Tall Story* (2005), *Just Another Pandora's Box* (2010), *East Meets West* (2011), *A Chinese Odyssey Part Three* (2016), and *Kung Fu League* (2018).