



Jimmy WANG Yu 王羽 (1943.3.28–2022.4.5)

Actor, Director, Screenwriter, Producer

Originally named Wang Zhengquan, Jimmy Wang Yu was born in Shanghai with his family from Wuxi, Jiangsu. In 1961, young Jimmy relocated to Hong Kong and attended the Chu Hai College. A record-breaker of the Hong Kong Chinese Swimming Competition at the time, he was an avid swimmer and water polo player. Wang made his onscreen debut as an extra in *The Ghostly Murderer* (1964), a Cantonese film produced by the Overseas Chinese Film Co. In July 1964, the Shaw Brothers (Hong Kong) Ltd organised an open casting call for the male lead of action film *Tiger Boy* (1966), directed by Chang Cheh. Wang won the audition and emerged as a new star. He continued to collaborate with Chang and rocketed to fame in *One-Armed Swordsman* (1967), a megahit that broke box-office records with its over HK\$1 million take. Wang subsequently starred in *The Assassin* (1967), *The Golden Swallow* (1968), and *Return of the One-Armed Swordsman* (1969), where he was crafted a distinct persona of a cold and proud young hero. He also performed in melodrama *Auntie Lan* (1967). Shot on location in Korea, his directorial debut *The Chinese Boxer* (1970), which he also starred in, became the highest-grossing film of the year.

Wang left Shaw Brothers in 1970 and moved to Taiwan to continue his film career. He starred in over a dozen films in just between 1971 and 1972, including Kugan Film Company's *The Invincible Sword* (1971), Golden Harvest (HK) Limited's *A Man Called Tiger* (1973), First Film Organisation Limited's *Furious Slaughter* (1972) and *Dragon Fist* (1973) and *Zatoichi and One-Armed Swordsman* (1971), in which he reprised his signature role. Golden Harvest then co-produced *The Man from Hong Kong* (1975) with an Australian film company. Wang starred as the lead while co-directing alongside Brian Trenchard-Smith, working with the foreign stunt crew to choreograph modern, eye-catching action sequences. At this point, Wang was wearing the many hats of actor, director and screenwriter, delivering *The Brave and the Evil* (1971), *Beach of the War Gods* (1973), *One-Armed Boxer vs the Flying Guillotine* (1976), among other film titles. He went on to found the Cheng Ming (H.K.) Film Co., directed and starred in *Return of the Chinese Boxer* (1977), before co-establishing the Wang Chiang Film Company with David Chiang. The duo co-directed *The One-Armed Swordsmen* (1977) as the company's film debut.

Wang switched his gears in the 1980s and became a businessman, but occasionally appeared in films in cameo roles, such as *The Millionaires' Express* (1986) and *Shogun & Little Kitchen* (1992). He was actor, chief planner and executive producer of *Island of Fire* (1991). Wang also produced *Song of the Exile* (1990) and *Eighteen Springs* (1997), both directed by Ann Hui. In 2010, Wang accepted director Peter Chan Hoi-sun's invitation to make a comeback in *Wuxia* (2011) and was nominated Best Supporting Actor in both the 31st Hong Kong Film Awards and the 48th Taipei Golden Horse Awards. He later starred in *Soul* (2013), directed by Chung Mong-hong, which won him Best Actor Award at the 15th Taipei Film Festival. He married actress Jeanette Lin Tsui in 1969, but the couple later divorced. They were parents to three girls, including singer and actress Linda Wong. Wang died of illness in Taiwan on 5 April 2022.