



John CHAN Koon Chung 陳冠中 (b. 1952)

Producer, Screenwriter, Associate Producer

Born in Shanghai with his family originally from Ningbo in Zhejiang, Chan moved to Hong Kong when he was four years old. In 1971, he studied Sociology at the University of Hong Kong. In addition to being concerned with social issues, he is also passionate about films. After graduation, he continued to study journalism at Boston University in the United States. Chan worked briefly at newspaper *The Star* upon his return to Hong Kong in 1975. Invited by his good friend Peter Dunn, he later co-founded the *City Magazine*.

Chan started to pen screenplays in the early 1980s but they were often failed to materialise on the silver screen. During this time, he was the associate producer for *My Darling, My Goddess* (1982), and wrote the screenplay of *Nomad* (1982) for director Patrick Tam. Due to changes in the filming schedule, the screenplay was later revised by other screenwriters. He also wrote the first draft of *Shanghai Blues* (1984). His first solo screenplay was *Hong Kong 1941* (1984), followed by *My Name Ain't Suzie* (1985). He also adapted *Love in a Fallen City* for the Hong Kong Repertory Theatre.

After D & B Films Co., Ltd. was established, Chan worked on a freelance basis for the film company. In addition to writing the screenplay for *Hong Kong 1941*, he was also the film's associate producer and began formally involved in film production. He continued to participate in films by D & B in an off-screen capacity with films mostly with smaller budgets and unconventional topics. His works, including *Silent Love* (1986), *The Lunatics* (1986) and *Sapporo Story* (1987), all garnered acclaim. Chan was also committed to help new directors as he produced *Conduct Zero* (1986) and *Caper* (1986). His screenplays also included *Kiss Me Goodbye* (1986) and *The Wrong Couples* (1987) with a role tailor-made for Josephine Siao Fong-fong for which she won her first Hong Kong Film Award for Best Actress.

Chan formed Maverick Film Ltd. in 1984 with John Sham. He initially produced *Welcome* (1985), and was both the co-producer and screenwriter for *My Heart is That Eternal Rose* (1989). He was also the executive producer of films including *Eight Taels of Gold* (1989). Although he was not a film director, he co-founded Hong Kong Film Directors' Guild in 1989.

Chan began to be involved in American film productions in the late 1980s, and was executive producer of *Eat a Bowl of Tea* (1989) and *Life is Cheap... But Toilet Paper is Expensive* (1989). He was also briefly involved in developing low-cost videotape production in the US, and developed Asian-themed film plans for Francis Ford Coppola. He joined Chinese Television Network Inc. (CTN) in 1992 and was mainly responsible for expanding its business in the Mainland. More than two years later, he participated in the development of the then-new cable television in Taiwan. Chan later relocated to Beijing in the late 1990s and devoted himself to writing. Focused on issues related to China and Chinese, he is a renowned writer in the Chinese literary world.
