



## John CHIANG 姜大衛 (1947–)

### Actor, Director, Producer

With the birth name Chiang Wai-nin, John Chiang was born in Shanghai to a family from Suzhou, Jiangsu. His father Yan Hua and mother Hong Wei were both film actors. Chiang started acting in films at about four years old, under the stage name Yan Wai, with roles in *Blue Sky* (1953) and *Little Angels of the Streets* (1957), before switching to the stage name David Chiang in *Street Boys* (1960). In the mid-1960s, Chiang's elder brother Paul Chun worked on the American film *The Sand Pebbles* (1966), which involved many foreign stuntmen. He brought Chiang in as part of the crew, and Chiang thus became a martial arts stuntman.

In 1966, Chiang joined Shaw Brothers (Hong Kong) Ltd. as a stuntman, and worked on *The Golden Swallow* (1968) as a stand-in. His quick moves impressed director Chang Cheh and the two started a long-term cooperative relationship. Chang advanced Chiang's career by giving him a supporting role in *Dead End* (1969) and making him the lead actor in *The Wandering Swordsman* (1970). Chiang thereafter starred in many well-known works such as *The Heroic Ones* (1970), *The New One-Armed Swordsman* (1971), and *The Blood Brothers* (1973). In addition to period action films, Chiang also participated in modern-day teen dramas such as *Young People* (1972) and *Friends* (1974). He won Best Actor at the Asian Film Festival for *Vengeance!* (1970) and was awarded the 'Most Contemporary Actor' by the film festival for *The Generation Gap* (1973).

Chiang followed Chang overseas to develop his career in the early 1970s. He released his directorial debut *The Drug Addicts* (1974) and directed *A Mad World of Fools* (1974). He returned to Shaw Brothers in the late 1970s while acting in other companies' films such as *The Challenger* (1979). He remained committed to his directing, forming Wang Chiang Film Company with Jimmy Wang Yu and co-directing the company's debut film *The One-Armed Swordsmen* (1977).

Chiang also established Zenith Film Production Co. with Paul Chun. He directed and acted in *The Legend of the Owl* (1981), which his younger brother Derek Yee wrote. He also directed *Heaven Can Help* (1984) for Cinema City Company Limited. He later acted in the films of D & B Films Co., Ltd. and directed *Silent Love* (1986), a drama which put the spotlight on society's disadvantaged groups, for them. He successively directed a number of films like *The Wrong Couples* (1987), *Double Fattiness* (1988), and *Mother of a Different Kind* (1995), exhibiting his directing chops across genres. Chiang also produced *Lover's Tears* (alongside Tang Yat-ming, 1996).

Chiang gradually switched to TV dramas from the 1980s onwards. He first performed in Rediffusion Television (RTV)'s *Dynasty* (1980). He then joined Television Broadcasts Limited (TVB) and starred in *Fate of the Clairvoyant* (1994). He has worked with TVB for many years but he also starred in drama series for HKTU Network. Chiang immigrated to Canada with his wife Maggie Li in the early 1990s and only performed sporadically. He returned to Hong Kong in 2007 and has occasionally appeared in TV series and films such as *From Vegas to Macau III* (2016).

---