



John CHONG 莊澄 (1957–)

Producer, Executive Producer, Screenwriter, Lyricist

Born Chong Koon-nam in Hong Kong, John Chong later adopted the pen name Tian Li. After graduating from the Department of Philosophy at The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Chong became a researcher at Television Broadcasts Limited (TVB). He switched to Golden Princess Amusement Co. Ltd. in 1983 to work as a publicist for films and was responsible for translating foreign film titles into Chinese. Some of his best works include *Sim Ling* (literally 'Flickering Spirit') for *The Shining* (1980) and *Gwang Tin Pau* (literally 'Sky Cannon') for *Lethal Weapon* (1987).

In 1987, Chong's talent was spotted by director Ringo Lam and was given the chance to take on screenwriting duties for films like *City on Fire* (1987) and *Prison on Fire* (1987). For the latter film, Chong also wrote the lyrics to 'Full of Hope', the film's theme song which was nominated for Best Film Song at the 7th Hong Kong Film Awards. Chong thus became a part-time screenwriter and was involved in the production of films including *Framed* (1989) and *Point of No Return* (1990).

In March 1994, Chong co-founded the Media Asia Group with six other former colleagues including Ma Fung-kwok and Wellington Fung. Responsible for production, Chong produced many critically acclaimed blockbusters including *First Option* (1996), *Beast Cops* (1998), and *Infernal Affairs* (2002), which established the company's reputation. After taking on the role of CEO, Chong participated in the productions of *Initial D* (2005), *Triangle* (2007), and *Love in a Puff* (2010) as executive producer.

In 2012, Chong left Media Asia Group and joined Pegasus Motion Pictures Production Limited at Raymond Wong's invitation. During his brief stint as CEO of Pegasus Motion Pictures, he produced the films *Z Storm* (2014) and *Kung Fu Angels* (2014). Chong rejoined Media Asia Group in 2018 as Special Advisor to Chairman. He has also occasionally produced films as an independent film producer, for example *The Invincible Dragon* (2019) and *Look Up* (2022).

Dedicated to fostering young film talents, Chong was an assessment panel member of Hong Kong Film Development Council's 'First Feature Film Initiative'. In 2013, he established the Certificate in Motion Picture and Television Production and Distribution at Caritas Bianchi College of Careers. Chong was also Chairman of Hong Kong Screenwriters' Guild and Vice Chairman of Hong Kong Film Awards Association Board of Directors. He is also the author of two books in which he shares his insights into the film industry.
