



## John SHAM 岑建勳 ( b. 1952.5.21 )

### Producer, Associate Producer, Actor

Born in Hong Kong, Sham's family originated from Enping in Guangdong. A professional musician at one time, he was active in social movements in his youth. In 1975, he studied literature in the UK and worked as a local television documentary researcher, before going to Canada to take part in the production of television crime documentaries. At the end of 1978, he returned to Hong Kong to research for a documentary on drug trafficking, and became acquainted with local filmmakers. Later, he was made editor-in-chief of *City Magazine*. In 1982, he established *Metropolitan* and co-hosted *Three Hours Time Travelling* for Commercial Radio 1, voice acting as an angry man Lui King with a thick Chaozhao accent—an early prototype of his comedic persona in *Winners & Sinners* (1983), *Pom Pom* (1984), *The Return of Pom Pom* (1984), etc.

In the early 1980s, Sham was involved in the production of *Sealed with a Kiss* (1981), and assisted in the promotion of *Boat People* (1982). In January 1983, he joined Bo Ho Films Company Limited as an associate producer and collaborated with Johnny Mak on the production of *Long Arm of the Law* (1984). By the mid-1980s, he established D & B Films Co., Ltd with Dickson Poon and Sammo Hung. Before leaving his job at the end of 1987, he led all of the company's production developments. He not only produced commercial hits such as *Yes, Madam* (1985) and *Royal Warriors* (1986), but also alternate films such as *Hong Kong 1941* (1984), *The Lunatics* (1986), *Love Unto Wastes* (1986), *Final Victory* (1987), etc., and supported the filming of *An Autumn's Tale* (1987). The film was not only a box-office smash, it also won top honours for best film, best screenplay and best cinematography at the 7th Hong Kong Film Awards.

In 1985, Sham and John Chan Koon-chung established Maverick Films Ltd. They explored alternate market directions, launching first with the satirical comedy *Welcome* (1985), followed by *People's Hero* (1987), *My Heart is That Eternal Rose* (1989), *Seven Warriors* (1989), *Eight Taels of Gold* (1989), etc. They also supported the filming of *Soul* (1986). Sham had never directed independently, only part of a directing unit. He gradually faded out of film production in the late 1980s.

In the 1990s, Sham founded the *City Children Magazine*, and later moved to Taiwan to set up developments for cable TV channels. In 2004, he travelled to the Mainland and participated in operations of the cinema circuit for Dadi Century (Beijing) Company Limited, while producing *Wushu—The Young Generation* (2008) and *Confucius* (2010); he also fundraised for *Echoes of the Rainbow* (2010).