



Johnnie TO 杜琪峯 (b. 1955.4.22)

Producer, Director

A native of Puning, Guangdong, To was born in Hong Kong. At 17, he was a messenger at Television Broadcasts Limited (TVB); he later joined its drama unit and mentored under Chung King-fai. By Chung's recommendation, To enrolled in TVB's performing artist training programme in 1974. Upon graduation, he became a production assistant and was later being promoted to director. He worked closely with producer Wong Tin-lam, creating drama series such as *Book and Sword* (1976), *Luk Siu Fung* (1976), *Romantic Swordsman* (1978), and *Young's Female Warrior* (1981). His first TV directing debut was *Vanity Fair* (1978). In 1980, To directed his first film feature *The Enigmatic Case* (1980), yet he continued to work in television afterwards. In the late 1980s, he was mainly producing films for television.

To later returned to film and joined Cinema City in 1986, where he served as executive director on *Happy Ghost III* (1986) and directed *Seven Years Itch* (1987), *The Fun, the Luck & the Tycoon* (1990) as well as the box-office record breaker *Eighth Happiness* (1988). While his work in Cinema City was mainly comedy, he also directed the romantic flick *All About Ah-Long* in 1989, demonstrating his ability in mastering multiple film genres including drama genre films. In 1990, he founded Paka Hill Film Production Co. with Raymond Wong and Catherine Hun, directing such films as *Casino Raiders II* (1991) and *The Heroic Trio* (1993).

To joined Cosmopolitan Film Productions Co., Ltd. in the early 1990s, and directed *The Story of My Son* (1990), *The Mad Monk* (1993), *Loving You* (1995) and *Lifeline* (1997), etc. *Justice, My Foot!* (1992) did exceptionally well and grossed close to HK\$50 million at the Hong Kong box office. He co-founded Milkyway Image (HK) Ltd. with Wai Ka-fai in 1996 to produce a series of movies that balance both personal style and commercial appeal, including *Needing You* (2000), *Love on a Diet* (2001), *Running on Karma* (2003), *Mad Detective* (2007) and *Blind Detective* (2013). He won the Hong Kong Film Awards for Best Director three times for *The Mission* (1999), *PTU* (2003) and *Election* (2005), also the same accolade at the Golden Horse Awards for *The Mission* (1999), *Breaking News* (2004) and *Life Without Principle* (2011). His other signature works include *Where a Good Man Goes* (1999), *Running Out of Time* (1999), *Throw Down* (2004), *Election 2* (2006) and *Exiled* (2006), *Drug War* (2013), *Office* (2015) and *Three* (2016).

In 2000, To served as the Chief Operating Officer of China Star Entertainment Limited, and formed One Hundred Years of Film Co Ltd with other directors including Tsui Hark, Ringo Lam and Gordon Chan. Throughout the years, he has produced numerous films that helped groom new directing talent, such as *A Moment of Romance* (1990), *Too Many Ways to be No. 1* (1997), *The Longest Nite* (1998), *Eye in the Sky* (2007) and *Trivisa* (2016), etc. Since 2005, To has been actively promoting the Fresh Wave Short Film Competition organised by the Hong Kong Arts Development Council, which provides a platform for young film talent to showcase their work.
