



Karl MAKKA 麥嘉 (b. 1944.2.29)

Producer, Director, Screenwriter, Actor

Born Mak Kar-sheung in Taishan, Guangdong, Maka moved to Hong Kong at a young age and immigrated to the US with his parents after secondary school. He studied electrical engineering at the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn in New York. Due to his love for photography and film, he pursued his master's degree in film at New York University. He returned to Hong Kong in 1973.

In 1975, Maka made his screenwriting/directorial debut with *The Good, the Bad and the Loser* (1976), setting off the 'bachelor comedy' trend. In 1976, he directed *Iron Fists* (1979) in Taiwan. A year later, he wrote and directed *Winner Takes All* (1977). In 1978, he teamed up with Sammo Hung and Lau Kar-wing to form Gar Bo Films (H.K.) Company and presented features such as *Dirty Tiger, Crazy Frog!* (1978) and *Odd Couple* (1979). In 1979, he founded Warriors Film Co. with Dean Shek and Raymond Wong, directing and starring in *Crazy Crooks* (1980) and *By Hook or by Crook* (1980). Warriors regrouped as Cinema City in 1980.

Maka mainly served as producer in Cinema City, while he expanded the creative team by recruiting Eric Tsang, Tsui Hark, Nansun Shi and Teddy Robin to create and produce films collectively. In 1981, he produced the glamorous *All the Wrong Clues (...for the Right Solution)*, which established the brand of Cinema City. He also directed the hugely popular *Chasing Girls* in the same year. In 1982, Cinema City recruited a team of special effects experts from Hollywood to participate in the production of *Aces Go Places* (1982). Starring the highly paid Sam Hui, the film was a record-breaking success and grew into a series of five films (1982–89).

In 1986, Cinema City changed its operational structure and was divided into three production teams. Maka worked with Ringo Lam and produced *City on Fire* (1987), *Prison on Fire* (1987) and *School on Fire* (1988). Meanwhile, Maka directed and starred in *The Thirty Million Rush* (1987).

As an actor, Maka demonstrated his flair as the eccentrically-styled villain in works such as *Laughing Times* (1980) and *All the Wrong Clues (...for the Right Solution)* (1981). In 1983, Maka received the Best Actor accolade at the 2nd Hong Kong Film Awards along with Sammo Hung for their respective performances in *Aces Go Places* and *Beware of Pickpockets* (both 1982).

In the early 1990s, Cinema City dissolved and Maka founded Cinema Capital Entertainments Ltd., producing *Skinny Tiger and Fatty Dragon* (1990), *Undeclared War* (1990) and *In the Lap of God* (1991). He gradually made his exit from filmmaking afterwards. In 2000, he co-produced *Winner Takes All* (2000) with Raymond Wong, in which he also had a starring role. The following year, he appeared in the Asia Television's (ATV) drama *Zen Master* (2000) and made a guest appearance in *The Bodyguard* in 2016. He also demonstrated his penchant for Cantonese opera by starring, along with Raymond Wong, in the musical *Coquettish Diva*.
