



## LAM Ching-ying 林正英 (1952.12.27–1997.11.8)

### Actor

Born Lam Kan-bo, Lam was a native of Shanghai. Due to poverty, he could not afford formal schooling and had to drop out in Primary two. His parents later enrolled him to Fen Ju Hua's Spring and Autumn Drama School in Hong Kong. He spent five years in the school, during which John Lone, Austin Wai and Stephen Tung Wai were also studying there. At 17, he began to work as a stuntman in films, doubling for many actresses including Cheng Pei-pei. Two years later, he tried his hand at action choreography. His impressive performance in Golden Harvest's *The Big Boss* (1971) won Bruce Lee's favour. Thereafter he would assist in the martial arts choreography of many of Bruce Lee films.

After Sammo Hung directed his first film *The Iron-Fisted Monk* (1977), Lam joined the Hung's Troupe and began to play supporting roles in his movies while also working as martial arts choreographer. Examples include *Encounter of the Spooky Kind* (1980), *The Dead and the Deadly* (1982) and *Winners & Sinners* (1983). He first won popular acclaim with his cross-dressing part of an opera diva in *The Prodigal Son* (1981). His later turn as a Taoist priest in *Mr. Vampire* (1985) finally put his name on the map. He went on to play the role as the vampire slayer in the ensuing sequels, which would turn him into an icon of the Hong Kong vampire film.

Later, funded by Golden Harvest, Lam co-founded Diagonal Pictures Limited with Chua Lam and Nam Nai-choi. He directed and starred in the company's first production *Vampire vs Vampire* (1989), playing again the Taoist priest. His last film credit was *The Green Hornet* (1994). After that, he starred in the Asia Television Limited (ATV) drama series *Vampire Expert I & II* (1995–96), where he again played the popular Taoist priest. He passed away of liver cancer in 1997.