



LAU Koon-wai 劉觀偉 (b. 1949.12.20)

Director, Cinematographer

Lau's family was originally from Zhongshan, Guangdong, but he was born and raised in Hong Kong. He quit school in Form 3. Since Lau's father was a filmmaker, he literally 'grew up' at Diamond Hill's Grandview Studio, and later worked as a technician at Chow Sze-ching's camera equipment shop. He entered the film industry as an assistant cinematographer in 1967, and apprenticed under Japanese cinematographer Nishimoto Tadashi at a time. His first credit as cinematographer was the Taiwanese film *17 Years Desperate Search* (1971), directed by Liang Chefu.

In 1978, he worked the cameras for Sammo Hung's *Enter the Fat Dragon*. From then on, he became a cinematographer Hung came to depend upon, resulting in films such as *Warriors Two* (1978), *Knockabout* (1979), *The Prodigal Son* (1981) and *Winners & Sinners* (1983); as well as productions of Hung's Bo Ho Films, such as *Pom Pom* (1984) and *Hocus Pocus* (1984).

Sammo Hung, Karl Maka, Wu Ma and Barry Wong used to discuss and vex scripts together, which inspired Lau to be a director. Lau's early works as a director include *Crazy Couple* (1979) and *Two Toothless Tigers* (1980). In 1985, he directed the horror-comedy *Mr Vampire* for Bo Ho Films, which scored HK\$20 million, thus starting a craze for vampire films in Hong Kong and Taiwan. Riding on this wave, he followed it with sequels *Mr Vampire II* (1986), *Mr Vampire III* (1987) and *Mr Vampire Saga IV* (1988).

After Hung left Golden Harvest, Lau continued to direct films for Hung's Bojon Films, including *Encounter of the Spooky Kind II* (1990). Later he directed films for various studios, such as *Mr Vampire 1992* (1992), *The Romance of the Vampires* (1994) and *Life in Last Hour* (1999). After 2007, he mostly worked in the Mainland, directing such works as *I Am Chinese* (2012) and *Celestial Return* (2017).
