



LIU Kai-chi 廖啟智 (1953–2021.3.28)

Actor

Affectionately known as 'Uncle Chi' (*Chi Suk*), Liu Kai-chi was born in Hong Kong with ancestral roots in Bao'an, Guangdong. He joined the film and television industries after secondary school education, initially working at the recording studio at Clear Water Bay Film Studio and later as a camera assistant at the Television Division of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK). To achieve his dream of being an actor, he applied twice for the performing artist training programme at Television Broadcasts Limited (TVB) and eventually succeeded. Liu graduated as part of the class of 1979 along with Barbara Chan Man-ye, who later became his wife. He starred in television dramas and gained wide recognition for the role of Cheung-kwai, in *The Bund* (1980). During his early career, he made a brief appearance in *Father and Son* (1981). Since then, he took up a range of drama and variety programme jobs, always conducting himself as a consummate professional.

In the late 1980s, Liu appeared occasionally in films. He delivered an exceptional performance in *Cageman* (1992) and was awarded Best Supporting Actor at the 12th Hong Kong Film Awards. His film appearances increased slowly and steadily, with performances in films including *Mr. Sardine* (1994) and *Moonlight Express* (1999). After the 2000s, Liu continued to rise in prominence, giving subtle and nuanced performances even in supporting roles, like the veteran cop in *The Detective* (2007) and the customs chief in *Protégé* (2007). He was nominated for Best Supporting Actor at the Hong Kong Film Awards for *Infernal Affairs II* (2003), *SPL* (2005), *The Stool Pigeon* (2010), *The Bullet Vanishes* (2012), *Weeds on Fire* (2016) and *Project Gutenberg* (2018), and won the award for the second time with his performance in *Beast Stalker* (2008). For *Love Endures* (2015), Liu was awarded Best Leading Actor at Malaysia's MFFF Golden Butterfly Awards.

Not only was Liu a versatile actor, he was also keen to support young directors. For instance, he starred in *Fu Bo* (2003), the directorial debut of Wong Ching-po and Lee Kung-lok. Liu also appeared in the independent film *3 Narrow Gates* (2009), directed by Vincent Chui, as well as in the documentary *Datong: The Great Society* (2011). Liu appeared in over 100 television series and created numerous memorable roles, including the lead roles in *The Election* (2014, Hong Kong Television Network, HKTV), *Law Dis-Order* (2016, TVB), and *Limited Education* (2019, ViuTV).

Liu was also involved with theatre work. Already a stage actor in the 1990s, Liu performed in various theatrical productions after the 2000s, including *Tuesdays with Morrie* (2008). For his performance in *18M* (2010), he received the Best Supporting Actor Award (Tragedy/Drama) at the Hong Kong Drama Awards in 2011. Starting in 2010, Liu became Lecturer in Acting Techniques at the Academy of Film of Hong Kong Baptist University (HKBU). To offer his students practical experience, he directed an episode of RTHK's docudrama *The Moment 2* (2013). Liu also starred in HKBU graduate Steve Chan Chi-fat's debut film, *Weeds on Fire*. Held in high esteem by his students, Liu continued to teach until his illness advanced. In 2021, Liu succumbed to his illness and passed away in Hong Kong.
