



LEONG Po-chih 梁普智 (b. 1939.12.31)

Director

A native of Taishan, Guangdong, Leong Po-chih was born in Northampton, the UK in 1939. Brought up in the UK, Leong earned a bachelor degree of Philosophy at the University of Exeter and studied at the London Film School. He later joined the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) as an editing trainee and worked there for two years. He moved to Hong Kong in 1967 to work as a writer-director at Television Broadcasts Limited (TVB). Leong co-founded Adpower, an advertising company, with cinematographer Tony Hope two years later. The TV commercials he shot for brands such as Asia Pacific Airlines has won him numerous awards in the US.

In 1976, Leong co-directed with Josephine Siao Fong-fong his first feature-length film, *Jumping Ash*. Characterised by realistic details and on-site shooting, the film established a new scene for Hong Kong cop cinema and was a sellout, charting at number two among local films at the box office that year. Leong went on to direct films, with prominent works such as *Foxbat* (1977), *He Lives by Night* (1982), *Banana Cop* (1984), *Hong Kong 1941* (1984), *The Island* (1985) and *Fatal Love* (1988). Both *Hong Kong 1941* and *The Island* were awarded the Best Cinematography at the Hong Kong Film Awards.

Incorporating concepts from *Banana Cop*, Leong once filmed *Ping Pong* (1986) for UK's Channel 4. In 1991, he directed the Hong Kong-produced English feature *Shanghai 1920* (1991), starring John Lone. From 1995 onwards, he spent three years directing the documentary series *Riding the Tiger* (1997-98) with his daughter Leong Sze-wing for UK's Channel 4, chronicling the transfer of sovereignty over Hong Kong to China. Leong later focused on shooting English films, such as *The Wisdom of Crocodiles* (1998), and *Out of Reach* (2004) starring Steven Seagal. In recent years, he has returned to the Chinese film industry and directed *Baby Blues* (2013) and *The Jade Pendant* (2017).