



Leslie CHEUNG 張國榮 (1956.9.12–2003.4.1)

Actor, Singer

Born in Hong Kong with the real name Cheung Fat-chung, Cheung is a native of Meizhou, Guangdong. He changed his name to Cheung Kwok-wing when he was at secondary school and was referred by his fans as 'Gor Gor' (literally big brother in Cantonese). He studied abroad in the UK when he was 13 and returned to Hong Kong after his first year at the University. He began his career in Rediffusion Television (RTV) as an actor-singer in 1977 after winning first runner-up in RTV's Asian Amateur Singing Contest. In 1983, he switched to Television Broadcasts Limited (TVB) and signed with Capital Artists Limited. Later on, he became one of the most popular singing idols in the 1980s and 90s.

Cheung's appearances in movies started in the late 1970s. His early acting credits include *Encore* (1980), *Job Hunter* (1981), *Teenage Dreamers* (1982) and *The Drummer* (1983). His performance in *Nomad* (1982) earned him his first Best Actor nomination at the Hong Kong Film Awards. In the mid-1980s, Cheung became a superstar singer, during which time he continued to act in films, capitalising on his pop-idol charisma. *Behind the Yellow Line* (1984), *For Your Heart Only* (1985) and *Last Song in Paris* (1986) were some of his notable acting credits during this period. In *A Better Tomorrow* (1986), Cheung developed a remarkable on-screen chemistry with Ti Lung and Chow Yun-fat. Signed to Cinema City and Cinepoly Records in 1987, Cheung went on to star in *A Chinese Ghost Story* (1987), in which he also sang the theme song. He then featured in *A Better Tomorrow II* (1987), *Fatal Love* (1988), *A Chinese Ghost Story II* (1990), *Once a Thief* (1991) and the blockbuster *All's Well, End's Well* (1992), which grossed over HK\$48 million at the box office.

With his uninhibited image and delicate charm, Cheung was responsible for various unforgettable performances in films such as *Rouge* (1988), *Temptress Moon* (1996) and *Happy Together* (1997). He was awarded Best Actor at the Hong Kong Film Awards for *Days of Being Wild* (1990), Best Actor (Foreign Language Film) at the Japan Movie Critics Awards for *Farewell My Concubine* (1993) and Best Actor at the Hong Kong Film Critics Society Awards for *Ashes of Time* (1994). The theme song he composed and sang for *The Bride with White Hair* (1993) won Best Original Song at the Golden Horse Awards.

Cheung once left the music industry in 1989 and focused on his acting career. He even tried out different behind the scenes roles. For example, in 1994, Cheung played the lead in *He's a Woman, She's a Man* and participated in the writing of its screenplay. The following year, he took up multiple roles as line producer, composer and lead actor in *The Phantom Lover* (1995). He also guest-directed the film within the film in *Viva Erotica* (1996). From 1999 to 2002, he starred in movies such as *The Kid* (1999), *Moonlight Express* (1999), *Okinawa-Rendez-vous* (2000), *Double Tap* (2000) and *Inner Senses* (2002). He committed suicide on 1 April 2003.
