



Louis KOO 古天樂 (b. 1970.10.21)

Actor, Producer

Born in Hong Kong, Koo is a native of Zhongshan, Guangdong Province. His father, Koo Chun-kwong, was a Cantonese film actor with the screen name Ko Fung. He started out modelling for advertisements and karaoke videos before joining Television Broadcasts Limited (TVB) in 1993. Capitalising on his attractive appearance, TVB went on to groom him into a leading actor. After starring in both *The Condor Heroes 95* (1995) and *At the Threshold of an Era* (1999), he successfully cemented his status as an A-list actor at TVB. In that time, he had already made his foray into film.

In 1997, Koo started playing in the low-budget horror series *Troublesome Night* and began to gain attention from the media. After finishing his signature TV drama *A Step into the Past* in 2001, he stepped away from television to focus on his film career. He was immediately cast as the male lead in major productions including hit comedies *La Brassiere* (2001) and *Love For All Seasons* (2003). His comedic performances received critical acclaim while he became one of the favourite actors of director Johnnie To.

In *Election* (2005) and *Election 2* (2006), the two classic gangster films directed by Johnnie To, Koo delivered a natural performance in the demanding role of Jimmy, the new triad chairman desperate to leave the triad and make money. He went on to tackle a variety of film genres and displayed his versatility as an actor. For example, he was seen acting in the comedy *Run Papa Run* (2008); the crime thriller series *Overheard*, the cops-and-gangsters film *Drug War* (2013) and *Accident* (2009), as well as *Don't Go Breaking My Heart* (2011) and *Aberdeen* (2014).

For his performance in *Paradox* (2017), Koo was awarded Best Actor at the 37th Hong Kong Film Awards. In addition to performing, he established One Cool Film Production Limited in 2013. A prolific executive producer, he produced such films as *Naked Ambition 3D* (2014), *Little Big Master* (2015), *Men on the Dragon* (2018) and *A Witness Out of the Blue* (2019). In 2018, he was elected as the president of the Hong Kong Performing Artistes Guild. In 2021, he was elected to be the President of Federation of Hong Kong Filmmakers.
