



Mabel CHEUNG 張婉婷 (b. 1950)

Director, Screenwriter, Associate Producer, Producer

Mabel Cheung was born in Hong Kong and educated in the University of Hong Kong, majoring in English literature and psychology. Upon graduation, she attended the University of Bristol to study drama and visual arts. Later, she joined BBC as a translator, production assistant and continuity. From 1978 to 1980, she joined Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) as a television director, and produced TV dramas such as *Cheerful Congee* (1978), *Let Them Perish* (1980), *Baby Killer* (1981), for the anthology series *Under the Same Roof*. After that, Cheung went to study a master's degree in film at New York University where she met her schoolmate Alex Law, who later became her life partner. Cheung and Law were then sponsored by the Shaw Brothers (Hong Kong) Ltd for their graduation film project, *The Illegal Immigrant* (1985). The film was directed by Cheung, written and produced by Law, and subsequently won the Special Jury Award at the 30th Asia Pacific Film Festival and Best Director at the 5th Hong Kong Film Awards. The duo then returned to Hong Kong and made films together as a team for the decades to come. Cheung usually directed their film projects, while Law wrote and produced; sometimes they switch roles.

In 1987, *An Autumn's Tale* came out and it is a romantic story between a young lady who is studying in New York, and an immigrant chap from China Town. Directed by Cheung and written by Law, the film became a commercial success, and won three awards at the 7th Hong Kong Film Awards, including Best Film and Best Screenplay, as well as Best Leading Actor at the 24th Golden Horse Awards. The characters that Chow Yun-fat and Cherie Chung played became the iconic couple on the silver screen. Later, Mabel Cheung directed *Eight Tales of Gold* (1989), starring Sammo Hung, which completed her 'migration trilogy'. During that time, she has co-written *Painted Faces* (1988) and *Now You See Love... Now You Don't* (1992) with Law. She was the producer of both films, while Law was the director.

Cheung then directed *The Soong Sisters* (1997), a large-scale production that took place in Mainland, gathering a cast comprised of actors from Hong Kong, the Mainland and Taiwan, depicting the historical figures of the Soong family. After that, Cheung directed *City of Glass* (1998) and *Beijing Rocks* (2001). In 2003, Cheung directed a documentary on Jackie Chan's father Fang Daolong, titled *Traces of a Dragon: Jackie Chan and His Lost Family*. In 2015, Cheung directed a drama feature film titled *A Tale of Three Cities*, that was based on Fang Daolong's life.

In 2010, Cheung produced *Echoes of the Rainbow* for Alex Law, who wrote and directed the film. The film won the Crystal Bear for the Best Film in the Children's Jury 'Generation Kplus' category at the 2010 Berlin Film Festival. Cheung has also been a guest lecturer at the Academy of Film of the Hong Kong Baptist University. Since 2019, she has chaired the Hong Kong Film Directors' Guild. In 2022, she completed *To My Nineteen-Year-Old Self* (co-directed with William Kwok Wai-lun), a 10-year documentary project to support the campus reconstruction of Ying Wa Girls' School, which won Best Film at the 41st Hong Kong Film Awards in midst of controversies.
