



Maggie CHEUNG 張曼玉 (1964–)

Actress

Born in Hong Kong with ancestral roots in Shanghai, Maggie Cheung immigrated to the UK with her family as a child. After completing her secondary education, she returned to Hong Kong and became a commercial model. She participated and was the runner-up in the Miss Hong Kong Pageant 1983. She then joined Television Broadcasts Limited (TVB), which greatly supported her budding career. She was already cast in lead roles for her earliest TV appearances, beginning with the TV series *Rainbow 'Round My Shoulder* (1984) and *Police Cadet '84* (1984).

Her film debut was Shaw Brothers (Hong Kong) Limited's *Prince Charming* (1984); later she starred in the company's *Behind the Yellow Line* (1984) and *Girl with the Diamond Slipper* (1985), after which she fully committed to a career in film. Cheung received many acting opportunities, including the action film *Police Story* (1985) and several comedies, such as *It's a Drink! It's a Bomb!* (1985), *Happy Ghost III* (1986), and *The Romancing Star* (1987), which often touted her beauty as a selling point. She also took up roles in more serious drama films such as *Lost Romance* (1986) and *The Game They Called Sex* (1988). A turning point came with her performance in Wong Kar-wai's directorial debut, *As Tears Go By* (1988), in which her nuanced portrayal drew respect for her acting chops as well as her first Best Actress nomination at the Hong Kong Film Awards.

Cheung worked with many new-generation directors afterwards, and stood out often in relatively non-mainstream works, including Stanley Kwan's *Full Moon in New York* (Taiwan: 1989; Hong Kong: 1990), Clara Law's *Farewell, China* (1990), Yim Ho's *Red Dust* (1990), Ann Hui's *Song of the Exile* (1990), etc. She has won five Hong Kong Film Awards for Best Actress for *A Fishy Story* (1989), *Comrades, Almost a Love Story* (1996), *The Soong Sisters* (1997), *In the Mood for Love* (2000), and *Center Stage* (Taiwan: 1991; Hong Kong: 1992), for which she even won the Silver Bear for Best Actress at the Berlin International Film Festival. Her other notable works include *The Heroic Trio* (1993) and *Green Snake* (1993).

Cheung began starring in foreign films at the turn of the millennium, including the French films *Irma Vep* (1996) and *Augustin, roi du kung-fu* (1999), as well as *Chinese Box* (1997) directed by Wayne Wang. She won Best Actress at the Cannes Film Festival for *Clean* (2004). During this period, she reduced her number of onscreen performances considerably, only appearing in *Hero* (2002) and making guest appearances in *2046* (2004) and *Hot Summer Days* (2010). In 1997, 1999 and 2007, she served as a competition jury member at the Berlin International Film Festival, Venice Film Festival, and Cannes Film Festival respectively. In more recent years, she played the role of Mazu in British artist Isaac Julien's video work *Better Life* (2010) and appeared in another of his works, *Playtime* (2014). She also entered the music industry, composing and singing the theme song of the Mainland film, *Cities in Love* (2015).
