



## Michael CHAN Wai-man 陳惠敏 (b. 1945.7.10)

### Actor, Producer, Screenwriter, Action Choreographer

Chan was born in a walled village in Tsuen Wan, and worked at various times as a correctional officer and a policeman. He learnt Shaolin boxing at 12, and later received training in western boxing. In 1971, he was the lightweight champion of the East Asian Martial Arts Combat Competition. Due to his agility of movements, he was invited to play in films as an action star. In 1972, he made his debut with *Love and Blood* (1972), directed by Ho Fan. He went on to appear in *Black List* (1972), *All Men are Brothers* (1975), and was action choreographer for *Only the Brave Stands* (1973) and *The Bravest Fist* (1974), etc. Chan also set up his own production company and released *Martial Arts* (1974). In 1976, he played the silent but deadly killer in the box-office hit *Jumping Ash* to wide acclaim, a role that's tailor-made for his appearance and aura. He continued to be known for the part of professional hitman in later films, such as *Godfather's Fury* (1978) and *The Servants* (1979). He also wrote and acted in *The Handcuff* (1979).

Chan gained recognition for his role as a fearless gangster Ah Sai in *The Club* (1981), the directorial debut of Kirk Wong. This also shaped his screen persona as he starred in many gangster action films. His personal experiences lent authenticity to his performances with his tattoos making him immediately recognisable. In addition to roles as hitman, he also appeared in period martial arts films like *Judgement of an Assassin* (1977), *The Proud Youth* (1978) and *The Deadly Breaking Sword* (1979). He occasionally appeared in television series including taking on the key role of Japanese swordsman in Rediffusion Television's (RTV) *wuxia* series *The Spirit of the Sword* (1978).

In 1989, Chan starred in *My Heart Is That Eternal Rose*, *Triads—The Inside Story* and *Bloody Brotherhood* as underworld figures with different backgrounds, expanding his range in acting. In the same year, he produced and starred in *Carry On Yakuza* (1989), a comedy surrounding Japan's Yakuza. He was successful in adding warmth and comedic touches to his gangster roles in *The Unmatchable Match* (1990) and *Enter The Phoenix* (2004). Chan's major acting credits include *Young and Dangerous III* (1996), *The Kingdom of Mob* (1999), *Bullets of Love* (2001), *Bad Blood* (2010), *Triad* (2012), *Gangster Payday* (2014) and *Chasing the Dragon* (2017).

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