



## NG Mang-tat 吳孟達 (1952.1.2–2021.2.27)

### Actor

Born in Fujian, Xiamen, Ng Mang-tat moved to Hong Kong with his family as a youngster. In 1973, he took part in the performing artist training programme at Television Broadcasts Limited (TVB) alongside Chow Yun-fat, Ringo Lam, and Lo Hoi-pang. Ng appeared in several TV series and variety shows after graduation, becoming well-known for his portrayal of Wu Tit-fa in *Chor Lau Heung* (1979), which stirred a storm in Taiwan when it aired there. He briefly moved to Taiwan to advance his career, but hit a wall soon after. It was not until *Police Cadet '84* (1984), in which he played an upstanding police academy chief, that his career saw a resurgence and Ng thereafter continued to appear in many TV dramas.

Ng began to act in films as early as 1975, mostly as extras, with bigger bit parts in *The Great Man* (1977) and *Dog Bites Dog Bone* (1978), until the late 1980s when opportunities arose for more important roles, such as *All About Ah-Long* (1989). In 1989, the TV series *The Final Combat* and *The Justice of Life* hit the screens to great fanfare, making Ng and Stephen Chow household names. The comedic collision between the old and the young sparked a chemistry that ignited the film industry. The duo left an indelible mark on Hong Kong cinema in the 1990s, most notably for Ng's role as Uncle Tat in *All for the Winner* (1990), where his hilarious interactions with Chow playing his nephew led the film to record-breaking success at the Hong Kong box office. Ng and Chow subsequently starred in related works such as *God of Gamblers II* (1990). The two also collaborated on *Fight Back to School* (1991), *Love on Delivery* (1994), *The God of Cookery* (1996), *Shaolin Soccer* (2001), as well as period comedies set in ancient China, such as *Royal Tramp* (1992), *Hail the Judge* (1994), *A Chinese Odyssey Part One—Pandora's Box* (1995), and *A Chinese Odyssey Part Two—Cinderella* (1995).

Ng was equally adept at playing non-comedic roles. In *King of Comedy* (1999), he played an irascible undercover cop stationed on a film set. He shone as a gigolo and a father in *It's Now or Never* (1992), and a loving father protecting his rebellious son in *Love and the City* (1994).

Ng was nominated for Best Supporting Actor at the Hong Kong Film Awards for the first time in 1991 for *A Moment of Romance* (1990) and *All for the Winner*, and won the award for his performance in the former film. He was later nominated for three more times for *Fight Back to School*, *Aberdeen* (2014) and *The Menu* (2016).

Around the 2000s, Ng began to develop his career in the Mainland. Despite taking up fewer roles, he began exploring new opportunities, such as the major Mainland sci-fi production *The Wandering Earth* (2019). Over the years, he achieved brilliant success despite playing mostly supporting roles; he also took up the leading role in works such as the Mainland production, *Big Big Man* (2011). Ng's health started to decline in 2014. Still, he continued to take up occasional roles until he succumbed to his illness in February 2021.

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