

Pan LAI 朴若木 (1959–2024.12.25)

Art Director, Costume Designer, Executive Producer

Originally employed at an optics manufacturing company, Pan Lai was introduced to the film industry by photographer John Fung. Lai worked as the still photographer for several films by Hong Kong New Wave directors, such as Ann Hui's *Boat People* (1982) and Tony Au's *The Last Affair* (1983). He ventured into film art direction with *Love in a Fallen City* (1984) and earned a joint nomination for Best Art Direction at the 4th Hong Kong Film Awards with Tony Au. In 1987, Lai was responsible for art direction as well as costume and makeup design for Stanley Kwan's *Rouge* (1988), winning the 24th Golden Horse Award for Best Art Direction together with Ma Kwong-wing. His later collaborations with Kwan all garnered awards, including Best Makeup & Costume Design at the 26th Golden Horse Awards for *Full Moon in New York* (1990), Best Art Direction at the 12th Hong Kong Film Awards for *Center Stage* (1992), Best Art Direction as well as Best Makeup & Costume Design at the 31st Golden Horse Awards for *Red Rose, White Rose* (1994).

Lai exclusively works on arthouse films. In 1994, he briefly stepped back from film work to teach at The City University of Hong Kong. In the last 30 years, he has participated in a few productions, working with Mainland actress and director Joan Chen on *Xiu Xiu: The Sent Down Girl* (1998) and *Hero* (2022) as art director. Lai served as executive producer as well as art director for Chen's upcoming film *English*. One of his most notable works is *Lust, Caution* (2007) directed by Ang Lee, for which he was nominated for Best Costume Design at the 61st BAFTA Awards, and won Best Makeup & Costume Design at the 44th Golden Horse Awards (with Lui Fung Shan). Lai's unique aesthetic style played an important part in shaping the iconic, award-winning roles of actresses Anita Mui, Maggie Cheung and Tang Wei. Lai passed away in 2024 in Beijing.

