



**Paul LAI 黎永強** ( b. 1958 )

**Production Manager, Actor**

Lai, who later acquired the name Lai Kwun-fai, began his passion in drama during secondary school when he won a Hong Kong drama competition in 1971. He joined Rediffusion Television (RTV) as a part-time broadcaster when he was a junior secondary school student and had also tried his hand at screenwriting. He later got accepted by Commercial Radio Hong Kong and worked as their broadcaster under the stage name 'Lai Ming'. His experience in drama and broadcasting led him to apply Television Broadcasts Limited's (TVB) performing artist training programme. Upon graduating in 1973, he started acting and had a starring role as the male lead in the television drama series *The Blundering Swordsman* (1974). After a few years, he developed his career behind the scenes as a production assistant. He later acquainted with the legendary actor Kwan Tak-hing through producing the television series *Wong Fei Hung*. He even became Kwan's disciple in 1976.

Lai acted in *Fun, Hong Kong Style* in 1974. From 1978 to 1979, he was assistant director and involved in the production on a number of films, including *For Whom to Be Murdered* (1978), *One Way Only* (1979) and *Crazy Partner* (1979). During the early days of Cinema City, he was involved with production behind the scenes while occasionally making cameo appearances in front of the camera. The films on which he was production manager include *Laughing Times* (1980), *Beware of Pickpockets* (1981), *All the Wrong Clues (...for the Right Solution)* (1981) and *Aces Go Places* (1982). In 1982, he was promoted to senior production manager and produced *He Lives by Night* (1982), *Aces Go Places II* (1983), *Esprit D'amour* (1983), *Aces Go Places III—Our Man from Bond Street* (1984), *Banana Cop* (1984), *A Family Affair* (1984), *Kung Hei Fat Choy* (1985) and *Working Class* (1985).

In 1986, Lai immigrated to Canada but returned to the industry in the late 1980s. As associate producer, he worked frequently with Clifton Ko Chi-sum and Raymond Wong on films such as *Chicken and Duck Talk* (1988), *Mr. Coconut* (1989), *City Squeeze* (1989), *How to Be a Millionaire* (1990), *Happy Ghost IV* (1990) and *The Gambling Ghost* (1991); and he was line producer for *The Magic Touch* (1992). Meanwhile, he also produced VHS films, such as his directorial work *Toronto Banana Girl* (co-directed by Chen Meng-hao) and *Fatal Maple* (1994).

In 1996, Lai set up the non-profit Seniors Wellness Paradise Association in Canada, where he frequently organised drama performances produced and acted by fellow filmmakers.