



Ringo LAM 林嶺東 (1955.10.28–2018.12.29)

Director, Screenwriter, Producer

A native of Chaozhou, Guangdong, Lam was born in Hong Kong. He graduated from Television Broadcasts Limited's (TVB) performing artist training programme in 1973, and started to appear in the series *On the Paektu Mountain* (1975) soon after. He later shifted to work behind the camera as Wong Tin-lam's assistant, during which he shot series such as *The Legend of the Book and the Sword* (1976). He was promoted to producer in 1976, and directed the long series drama *A House is Not a Home* (1977). In 1977, he joined Commercial Television.

In 1978, Lam moved to Canada, where he studied film production at York University. He joined Cinema City upon returning to Hong Kong and made his directorial debut with *Esprit D'amour* (1983). In 1985, he directed the romantic comedy *Cupid One*, which he also wrote the screenplay with Wellington Fung. Later he was entrusted by Karl Maka to direct the big-budget comedy *Aces Go Places IV* (1986), for which they wrote the screenplay together. They had maintained a close partnership ever since.

After the Cinema City's production team was divided into subgroups, Lam worked under Maka. He later directed the critically acclaimed work *City on Fire* (1987), which earned nearly HK\$20 million at the box office and brought him the honour of Best Director at the 7th Hong Kong Film Awards. In the same year, he began to create his realistic 'On Fire' action series, starting out with *Prison on Fire* (1987) which won him Best Director at the Asia-Pacific Film Festival. He then followed up by directing another topical work, *School on Fire* (1988), and later travelled to the Eastern Europe and shot the westernised production *Undeclared War* (1990). *Prison on Fire II* (1991) was also released the year after.

Lam founded Silver Medal Productions Limited with Tony Chow Kwok-chung and Chow Yun-fat in 1989, and directed the company's debut *Wild Search* (1989), followed by *Full Contact* (1992) and his first period drama *Burning Paradise* (1994). In the mid-1990s, he finished his first Hollywood production *Maximum Risk* (1996). Then he got a chance to direct *Replicant* (2001) and *In Hell* (2003). Before the Handover, he shot *Full Alert* (1997); the car chasing sequence in the film was shot on real location in Hong Kong, a filmic documentation of the 1997 local street scenes. His other directorial works include *The Suspect* (1998), *Victim* (1999) and *Triangle* (co-directed by Tsui Hark and Johnnie To, 2007). Other films that were also written by him include *Wild City* (2015) and *Sky on Fire* (2016).

In June 2015, Lam received Lifetime Achievement Award at the 14th New York Asian Film Festival. He passed away of sickness on 29 December 2018 at the age of 63. His last directorial work was *Septet: The Story of Hong Kong* (2021), a project billed as the work of seven Hong Kong directors. The film was selected to participate in the Cannes Film Festival in 2020.
