



Stephen CHOW 周星馳 (b. 1962)

Actor, Director, Screenwriter, Producer

A native of Ningbo, Zhejiang, Stephen Chow was born in Hong Kong. He enrolled in Television Broadcasts Limited's (TVB) performing artist training programme in 1982. After graduation, Chow appeared in *Angels and Devils* (1983) and was transferred to host the children's show *430 Space Shuttle* in the same year. He returned to the drama group in 1987 and appeared in television series including *My Father's Son* (1988) and *The Tribulation of Life* (1988), gaining recognition for his idiosyncratic approach to comedy. Chow made his film debut in *He Who Chases After the Wind* (1988). In the same year, he won Best Supporting Actor at the 25th Golden Horse Awards for his role in *Final Justice*.

In 1989, Chow began to play lead roles in TV series *The Final Combat* and *The Justice of Life*. With his 'mo lei tau' (nonsensical) comedic style, he became immensely popular and cemented established himself a comedy star. Starting in 1990, he focused on making films. Among the films that he starred in that year, *Love Is Love*, *My Hero*, *Curry and Pepper*, and *Look Out, Officer!* all passed the HK\$10 million mark in box office easily. *All for the Winner* became a phenomenal hit and broke Hong Kong's box-office records with more than HK\$40 million in ticket sales. This was quickly followed by more of Chow's films including *Fight Back to School* (1991), *All's Well End's Well* (1992), and *Justice, My Foot!* (1992) that kept on breaking local box-office records, allowing him to join the likes of Jackie Chan and Chow Yun-fat as major box office draws. Besides having an outstanding box office, Chow's *A Chinese Odyssey Part One: Pandora's Box* (1995) and *A Chinese Odyssey Part Two: Cinderella* (1995) were bold reinventions of the Chinese classic *Journey to the West* that are widely discussed in the Chinese language film industry.

Chow's directorial debut was *From Beijing with Love* (with Lee Lik-chee, 1994), a film he also starred in and co-wrote. He then co-direct hits like *Forbidden City Cop* (1996) with Vincent Kok and collaborated again with Lee Lik-chee as co-directors in *The God of Cookery* (1996) and *King of Comedy* (1999). In 2001, he topped his streak of hits with *Shaolin Soccer* which he both starred in and directed. Earning over HK\$60 million, the film broke the Hong Kong box-office records and won six awards including Best Film, Best Director and Best Actor at the 21st Hong Kong Film Awards. In 2004, as actor and director of *Kung Fu Hustle*, Chow yet again broke the Hong Kong box-office records set by *Shaolin Soccer* with over \$61 million in local box office. The film also became the Mainland's top-selling film of the year with RMB 160 million in ticket sales. It won five awards including Best Feature Film and Best Director at the 42th Golden Horse Awards. Chow has devoted himself to directing and has ceased starring in films after *CJ7* (2008). His work, *Journey to the West: Conquering the Demons* (2013) became the year's top-selling film in China with RMB 1.246 billion at the Mainland box office. *The Mermaid* (2016) later broke Mainland's box office record with RMB 3.388 billion in sales. In 2017, *Journey to the West: The Demons Strike Back* (2017) which Chow produced and Tsui Hark directed reached over RMB 1.6 billion in box office. Chow also co-directed *The New King of Comedy* (2019) with Herman Yau.
