



TAM Bing-man 譚炳文 (1934–2020.9.5)

Actor, Voice Actor, Director, Producer

Tam Bing-man was born in Hong Kong to a family hailing from Xinhui, Guangdong. He worked in his father's gold and jewellery shop after graduating from secondary school and participated in theatre and broadcasting activities held by trade groups, which piqued his interest in performing. He joined the industry by enrolling in Rediffusion Radio (RTV)'s broadcaster training class and became popular through voice-acting in radio dramas, later appearing in RTV programmes and even did Cantonese dubbing for foreign language films. He voice-acted in the radio drama *The Modification of a Country Girl* in 1964, which became a hit and was adapted into a film by Hing Fat Film Co., starring the original cast with Tam as the leading actor. The film did well at the box office, making him a rising star. Later, Hing Fat boss Tang Shi-leung took a liking to Tam and arranged for him to co-star with veteran actors such as Cheung Wood-yau and Nam Hung in *Farming Is My Profession* (1965). Tam then became a contract actor and took up roles in *The Forbidden Love* (1966), *A Talented Lady* (1968), as well as co-starring with Tina Ti in *Lucky Seven* (1970) and *Lucky Seven Strike Again* (1970). He also made films for other companies, such as *The Love of the Red Leaf* (1968), which was produced by Kowloon Film Company and shot in Japan.

Tam started to work for Television Broadcasts Limited (TVB) in March 1968, mainly to work as a horse-racing commentator. Later, he also hosted variety shows and participated in *Enjoy Yourself Tonight*, for which Tam created the comedic character 'Bumpkin Bing Moon', and later even brought the character to the silver screen. Tam teamed up with Lee Hong-kum and Lydia Sum to found Joy Film Co., and released several films with that character including *The Country Bumpkin* (1974) and *Country Bumpkin and the Scavenger* (1976), which he also directed. He acted in a number of comedy films during that time that featured the same TV cast and crew, such as *Hong Kong 73* (1974), *Fun, Hong Kong Style* (1974) and *Cunning Tendency* (1978), which he also directed. He founded Tam's Film Company, which produced *The Great Man* (1977), starring and directed by himself, and *The Utmost Greatness* (1979), which he starred in and produced.

The 1970s was the peak of Tam's film career. Among his works, *Enjoy Longevity - 300 Years* (1975) tells a meaningful story through an immortal protagonist. After the 1980s, Tam only took part in *The Banquet* (1991) as part of an ensemble cast. He focused on TV work during this time, taking part in both onscreen performances and offscreen voice work. He had an outstanding dubbing career, notably the Taiwanese series *Justice Pao* during the 1970s and 90s.

After the 2000s, Tam appeared in multiple Johnnie To films, such as *Election* (2005) and *Election 2* (2006). His last appearances on film were *House of Wolves* (2016) and *Sky on Fire* (2016). Tam made a mark in his half century-long career, from broadcasting, dubbing, TV, film, to even singing (he was the lead singer of the hit song 'Old Loves Like a Dream').
