



Tony LEUNG Chiu-wai 梁朝偉 (1962–)

Actor

Born in Hong Kong with family ancestry in Taishan, Guangdong, Tony Leung Chiu-wai worked as a salesperson after graduating from secondary school, before gaining admission to the Television Broadcasts Limited (TVB) performing artist training class in 1981 alongside Stephen Chow, who had persuaded him to sign up. Upon graduation, he hosted a children's programme. Afterwards, he acted in TV dramas with the strong support of the company, which led to leading roles in successive dramas, including *Beyond the Rose Garden* (1983), *The Duke of the Mount Deer* (1984), and *Police Cadet '84* (1984), etc. During this time, he also acted in the film *Young Cops* (1985), and gave outstanding performances in *The Lunatics* (1986) and *Love Unto Wastes* (1986).

Leung focused on acting in TV series until 1989, and only occasionally appeared in films. Yet by this time he had already won Best Supporting Actor twice at the Hong Kong Film Awards for *People's Hero* (1987) and *My Heart Is That Eternal Rose* (1989). Afterwards, he switched tracks to developing a full-fledged film career and acted in various types of films, such as *Don't Fool Me* (1991), *A Chinese Ghost Story III* (1991), *The Magic Crane* (1993), *The Longest Nite* (1998), etc. He collaborated with United Filmmakers Organisation multiple times, taking up a diverse range of roles in many modern metropolitan productions, including *The Days of Being Dumb* (1992), *Tom, Dick & Hairy* (1993), *Returning* (1994), *Mack the Knife* (1995), and *Heaven Can't Wait* (1995). He won Best Actor at the Hong Kong Film Awards for his performance as a gloomy undercover agent in *Infernal Affairs* (2002), which was also the highest-grossing film in Hong Kong that year.

Leung has been working closely with director Wong Kar-wai since *Days of Being Wild* (1990). He appeared in *Ashes of Time* (1994), *The Grandmaster* (2013), and winning Best Actor at the Hong Kong Film Awards for *Chungking Express* (1994), *Happy Together* (1997), *2046* (2004), and *In the Mood for Love* (2000), for which he even won Best Actor at the Cannes Film Festival. He has worked with many well-known directors locally and abroad over the years, including John Woo's *Hard-Boiled* (1992) and *Red Cliff Parts I & II* (2008/2009); Hou Hsiao-hsien's *A City of Sadness* (1989) and *Flowers of Shanghai* (1998); *Cyclo* (1995) by French-Vietnamese director Trần Anh Hùng; *Hero* (2002) by Zhang Yimou; and *Lust, Caution* (2007) by Ang Lee.

Leung gradually appeared in fewer films after the millennium, but remained a star actor in the Chinese-language film industry, taking up roles in films such as *The Great Magician* (2012), *See You Tomorrow* (2016), *Monster Hunt 2* (2018), *Where the Wind Blows* (2023), etc. He also appeared in the Bhutanese film *Hema Hema* (2016) and starred in the Hollywood blockbuster *Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings* (2021). He is also a singer, releasing many solo albums in Hong Kong and Taiwan from the 1980s to the end of the millennium. The song he sang with Andy Lau for *Infernal Affairs* won Best Original Film Song at the Hong Kong Film Awards.

In 2023, Leung was awarded the Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement at the Venice Film Festival.
