



TU Guangqi 屠光啟 (1914.8.26–1980.5.30)

Director, Screenwriter, Actor

A native of Shaoxing, Zhejiang and with the original name Tu Guangqi (in different Chinese characters), Tu was a graduate of the National Drama School in Nanjing. In 1937, he joined a theatre troupe in Shanghai and took part in plays such as *Sunrise*. He debuted on screen in 1939 with Huacheng Film Company's *Ge Nenniang*. He later became the assistant director to Zhu Shilin and co-directed *Meng Lijun* (1940) with him. Tu then directed the critically acclaimed *New Fisherman's Song* (1941). During the Orphan Island period in Shanghai, he shot *Oh Boys! Oh Girls!* (1943) for China United Film Holdings Company Ltd (Huaying). He subsequently filmed the well-received *Spy Number One* (aka *Code Name 'A'*, 1946).

He came to Hong Kong in 1949 and worked as a director for Shaws, Hsin Hwa, Yung Hwa, MP&GI and Cathay. Tu was one of the major directors of Shaw & Sons Ltd in the early 1950s and specialised in making *wenyi* titles, such as *To See the Clouds Roll* (1950), *Modern Wives* (1951), *Tears of Songstress* (1953), *Closed Chamber* (1953) and *Meal Time* (1953); he also scripted and directed *Sorrowful Glory* (1953), *The Mortal Wind* (1954), *Love and Duty* (1955) and *Where Is My Bride?* (1958). Meanwhile, Tu directed *The Goddess and the Devil* (1952), *General Chai and Lady Balsam* (1953), *The Dawn of China's Revolution* (1953), *Halfway Down* (1957), as well as *The Daring Gang of Nineteen From Verdun City* (1960) and *The Heroic Couple from the Ancient Tomb* (1961), which he made after getting involved in the *wuxia* genre in the 1960s, for other production companies. In 1967, he switched to Cathay Organisation (HK) (1965) Ltd and shot a number of films including *The First Sword* (1967), *Lotus Camp* (1969) and *The King's Sword* (1970). Tu also filmed Cantonese titles such as *Shadow of Tear* (1964) and *Homeless Children* (1964); and Chaozhou-dialect works *The Crab Beauties* (1964), *Four Appeals* (1964), etc. He had over 80 films to his directorial credit throughout his career. His last work was *The Crush* (1972).

Tu made a cameo appearance in King Hu's *The Valiant Ones* (1975) in later years. He moved and settled in the US in 1973, publishing his memoirs in the *Panorama Magazine* the following year. He was not only a filmmaker but an author of *wuxia* novels. Tu passed away on 30 May 1980 in Los Angeles, US.