



WAI Ka-fai 韋家輝 (b. 1962)

Screenwriter, Director, Producer

Born in Hong Kong, Wai graduated with Form Five education. In 1981, he applied for and enrolled in the Television Broadcasts Limited's (TVB) screenwriter training programme. He became a screenwriter before graduation and took part in the writing of television series *You Only Live Twice*. Later he also took on the screenwriting of *The Return of the Condor Heroes* (1983) and *Police Cadet* (1984). In 1985, he was promoted to script supervisor, and created *The Feud of Two Brothers* (1986), *The Final Verdict* (1988), etc. He became producer in 1988 and completed such celebrated television series as *Looking Back in Anger* (1989) and *The Greed of Man* (1992). In 1990, along with Simon Yam, Felix Wong and Szeto Kam-yuen, he switched to Asia Television Limited (ATV), where he produced *Heaven's Retribution* (1990) and *The Burning Rain* (1991) before returning to TVB in 1992.

By the time Wai was in television, he had already started writing screenplays for films. His early works include *Young Cops* (1985), *Easy Money* (1987), *The Story of My Son* (1990), and *Gun n' Rose* (1992). He was invited by Chow Yun-fat in 1993 to make his directorial debut, *Peace Hotel* (1995), which starred Chow himself. In 1996, he co-founded Milkyway Image (Hong Kong) Limited with Johnnie To, his long-time partner in film production, and directed the company's debut, *Too Many Ways to Be No.1*, (co-written with Matt Chow and Szeto Kam-yuen, 1997). This highly experimental offering features multiple endings resulting from the different courses of action taken by the protagonist, a brand new attempt to subvert the narrative tradition in Hong Kong gangster cinema. His subsequent productions *The Odd One Dies* (written by Wai, 1997) and *The Longest Nite* (1998) not only redefined the gangster genre, but also established Milkyway Image's unique style. Subsequently, he created *Where a Good Man Goes* (1999), which follows a former gang boss who wishes to return to the right path after serving his sentence, only to find himself defeated and rejected by the society.

Between 2000 and 2003, Wai co-directed some popular and lucrative comedies with Johnnie To, namely *Needing You...* (2000) and *Love on a Diet* (2001). In 2003, he won the 23rd Hong Kong Film Awards for Best Screenplay for *Running on Karma*, which was also the Best Film of the year. From 2004 onwards, he directed a couple of Chinese New Year comedies including *Fantasia* (2004), *Himalaya Singh* (2005) and *The Shopaholics* (2006). In 2008, he again received the Best Screenplay accolade at the 27th Hong Kong Film Awards for *Mad Detective* (2007). He went on to pen the screenplays for *Don't Go Breaking My Heart* (2011), *Romancing in Thin Air* (2012), *Blind Detective* (2013), *Don't Go Breaking My Heart, Part 2* (2014), etc., and directed *Written By* (2009) and *Detective Vs. Sleuths* (2021).
