



WONG Tin-lam 王天林 (1928.10.23–2010.11.16)

Director

A native of Shaoxing, Zhejiang, Wong was born in Shanghai. Before the Japanese occupation, he came to Hong Kong and followed his uncle Wong Pang-yik, who was a film producer and introduced him to the film industry in 1945. Wong had been assigned to a variety of roles, including assistant to film processing, assistant to recording, continuity and assistant director. In 1950, he started taking on the role of director and made his directorial debut with the Cantonese *wuxia* film *The Flying Sword Hero from Mount Emei* (Part 1 & 2). He started to shoot a large number of Cantonese *wuxia* films in the early 1950s and occasionally some Mandarin films. As Amoy-dialect films became popular, Wong directed more than 20 Amoy-dialect productions including *Zhuang Zi Test His Wife* (1955) and *Shrews from Afar* (1958).

In 1956, Wong directed *Songs of the Peach Blossom River* (co-directed with Zhang Shankun), a box-office hit for Hsin Hwa Motion Picture Company. The film pioneered the trend of Mandarin musicals, and Wong adopted a focused approach and directed many more similar productions for Hsin Hwa. Wong joined Motion Picture & General Investment Co. Ltd. (MP & GI) (which later restructured into Cathay Organisation [HK] [1965]) in 1959. Before his departure in 1970, he directed a number of memorable classics including *All in the Family* (1959), which won him the Best Director honour at the 7th Asian Film Festival; comedy *Lady on the Roof* (1959), starring Linda Lin Dai; the musical masterpiece *The Wild, Wild Rose* (1960) with Grace Chang in the lead role; 'The Greatest' film franchise (1961-64), a series of comedies on the cultural differences and reconciliation between Northern and Southern China; *Her Pearly Tears* (1962), the first *huangmei diao* opera film from MP & GI and featured Lucilla You Min as the lead; *Father Takes a Bride* (1963), a film scripted by Eileen Chang, and the *wuxia* comedy *A Mad, Mad, Mad Sword* (1969).

Wong joined Television Broadcasts Limited (TVB) in 1973 as a writer and director, and was later promoted as producer. During his tenure in TVB, he wrote, directed and produced a string of classics in the history of Hong Kong television including *The Fatal Irony* (1974), *Book and Sword* (1976), *Luk Siu-fung* (1976), *The Romantic Swordsman* (1978), *Chor Lau Heung* (1979), *Yesterday's Glitter* (1980), *The Shell Game* (1980), and *The Legend of the Condor Heroes* (1983). While working at TVB, he also adapted the pseudonym of Wang Tao and directed for Sun Luen three Cantonese films: *The Rollick Marriage* (1978), *The Good, the Bad and the Beauties* (1978), and *The Utmost Greatness* (1979). His last film as a director (under the name Wang Zhen) is *Pursuit* (1980). Wong retired from TVB in 1992. Starting in 1998, he frequently made guest appearances in films of his protégé Johnnie To and son Wong Jing. Wong passed away in Hong Kong on 16 November 2010.