



YIM Ho 嚴浩 (b. 1952)

Director, Screenwriter, Producer

A native of Wuxian, Jiangsu, Yim Ho was born in Hong Kong to the famous novelist Yim Hing-shu (with pen names including Tang Jen). Yim started writing at a young age. After graduating from secondary school, Yim worked at a bank for three years before studying at the London Film School in 1973. Upon his graduation in 1975, he was introduced to work at Television Broadcasts Limited (TVB) as a screenwriter. He wrote some episodes of *Kung Fu* (1975) and appeared on screen. Yim became a screenwriter and director for the film team in 1977 and directed *Wonderfun* (1976), *Social Worker* (1976), and *The Young Generation* (1977). An episode he directed for the series *C.I.D.* (1976) won the Bronze Award at the International Film & TV Festival of New York.

Yim founded Film Force Productions Limited with Ronny Yu Yan-tai, Dennis Yu, and Philip Chan in 1978 and made his directorial debut with *The Extras* (1978), which was considered one of Hong Kong New Wave's earliest works. He later joined Golden Harvest (HK) Limited and wrote and directed the social realist film *The Happenings* (1980) and comedy *Wedding Bells, Wedding Belles* (1981). After his first three works, Yim presented the critically acclaimed *Homecoming* in 1984, which was lauded by the cultural sector. The film won multiple awards, including Best Film and Best Director, at the 4th Hong Kong Film Awards. This was followed by *Buddha's Lock* (1987), filmed in the depths of Sichuan's Liangshan region. A big detour from conventional Hong Kong films, the drama told the tale of a crashed American airman enslaved by the Yi people.

While finding success in non-mainstream films, Yim continued to look for possibilities in striking a balance between commercial viability and artistic vision. An example would be *Red Dust* (1990), an epic WWII romance with a stellar cast and loosely based on literary figures during the turbulent era. *King of Chess* in 1992 was based on the novels of the same title from Taiwan and the Mainland of China respectively. The film's production underwent changes and eventually became a co-directed work with Tsui Hark. Subsequently, he found a suitable subject and created the work that ultimately shone at international film festivals. *The Day the Sun Turned Cold* (1995) won the Tokyo Grand Prix and the Award for Best Director at the 7th Tokyo International Film Festival, and he was one of the juries in the following year. Although *The Sun Has Ears* (1996) won the Silver Bear for Best Director at the 46th Berlin International Film Festival, the film was not in wide release in Hong Kong. Yim continued to forge new paths by directing *Kitchen* (1997), an adaptation of the eponymous novel by Japanese writer Yoshimoto Banana. The film won the Puchon Choice at the 1st Bucheon International Fantastic Film Festival.

During the 2000s, Yim directed the Chinese-American production *Pavilion of Women* (2001), which was also released in the US. He also directed *A West Lake Moment* (2005) and *Floating City* (2012). Besides making films, Yim also directed in 1983 a stage play based on Eugene O'Neill's *Desire Under the Elms*, and adapted by Shu Kei. Yim also writes columns about healthy living, another passion of his, for which he has written many books.
