



YIP Wing-cho 葉榮祖 (1945–2003)

Director, Actor, Production Manager

Yip's family originally came from Ningbo, Zhejiang, and his father is film screenwriter Yip Yut-fong (Yi Fang) who is renowned in Shanghai and Hong Kong. He moved from the Mainland to Hong Kong after secondary school graduation. With a passion for films, he entered the film industry to hone his craft in cinematography. He was a cinematography assistant at The Great Wall Movie Enterprises Ltd and Feng Huang Motion Picture Co., and participated in film productions including *The Jade Bow* (1966). In the late 1960s, he worked at the Shaw Brothers (Hong Kong) Ltd and became assistant director to Lo Wei with film credits including *The Golden Sword* (1969) and *Brothers Five* (1970). He was highly regarded and was promoted to become a director in 1970. His directorial debut was *The Eunuch* (1971) which was immediately followed by *The Black Tavern* (1972).

Yip followed Lo Wei in joining the newly established Golden Harvest (HK) Limited as his assistant director with works including *The Invincible Eight* (1971). He directed *The Blade Spares None* (1971) by himself and became a high-profile director on the rise. He subsequently signed with Far East Film Co in filming works including *The Bloody Ring* (1974) and *The Chinese Tiger* (1977) while directing *Death Blow* (1973) and *Who Holds the Golden Key* (1977). One of his directorial works, *Beba, the Mermaid* (1978), was filmed in the Philippines with screenplay by Juliana Chiang Yun. Chiang, previously a screenwriter for Shaw Brothers, was briefly married to Yip in the early 1970s before their subsequent divorce.

In the end of the 1970s, Yip was invited to direct *Sleeping Fist* (1979) and *The Thundering Mantis* (1980) in Taiwan. He then briefly detoured from directing films. Subsequently, he was introduced by Sammo Hung to join D & B Films Co., Ltd. as production manager, resulting in works including *The Return of Pom Pom* (1984), *Hong Kong 1941* (1984) and *Mr. Boo Meets Pom Pom* (1985). He was also the production coordinator for *From Here to Prosperity* (1986). After D & B rented the Kin Shing Production Studio as its film studio, he was appointed as the studio manager. His last directorial work after his return was *Pom Pom Strikes Back!* (1986).

During the 1990s, Yip remained active in a variety of off-screen roles. He was the associate producer for films including *The Tantana* (1991), *Blade of Fury* (1993) and *Don't Give a Damn* (1995), and was the producer for films including *Ghost Punting* (1992) and *The Romance of the Vampires* (1994); in addition, *The Gambling Ghost* (1991) was presented by him. Other than off-screen works, he continued to appear in films especially taking on cameo comedy roles during the 1980s and 1990s. From *It's a Mad, Mad, Mad World* (1987), *Chicken and Duck Talk* (1988) to later films like *Partners* (2002), he appeared on screen in more than 70 films.

In 2003, Yip contracted pneumonia while filming in Shanghai and went back to Hong Kong for medical treatment. He passed away in the same year.
