



YUEN Tai-yung 阮大勇 (b. 1941.4.1)

Poster Designer, Illustrator

A native of Cixi, Zhejiang, Yuen moved to Hong Kong in 1957 after completing secondary education in Shanghai. He first worked for a cotton mill and fabric merchant before finding employment at a film studio and publishing house. He then embarked an advertising career and rose to the position of art director in nine years. From 1975 to 1981, he had worked at the publishing house Z Productions and Malcoml Glenn Advertising Ltd (now J. Walter Thompson).

In 1975, Yuen drew his very first movie poster for *The Last Message* and again for *The Private Eyes* in the following year. His rising reputation gained him invitations for drawing movie posters from the likes of Lai Ying-chau and Karl Maka at Warriors Film Co. After the establishment of Cinema City, Yuen kept designing movie posters for both Cinema City and Golden Harvest on a freelance basis until November 1981, when Cinema City and Golden Princess jointly employed him as their art director. Besides designing and drawing movie posters and illustrations for Cinema City, he was also in charge of the newspaper advertisements for Golden Princess' productions and designed posters as a part-timer for independent production studios. After Golden Princess ceased its operations in 1992, he also retreated from illustrating posters and his last piece of poster work was *Legend of the Liquid Sword* (1993). In 1995, he immigrated to New Zealand. It was not until 2007, when he moved back to Hong Kong, that he picked up his drawing pen again for personal interest. He still occasionally produced artworks, including drawing the poster for *Keep Calm and Be a Superstar* (2018).

Having a strong interest in drawing since he was a child, Yuen was self-taught and became especially skilled with portraits. His lively, cartoonish portrait poster designs were highly appreciated by the film industry and illustration community. From the 1970s to 90s, he drew around two hundred movie posters for productions by various film studios, including *Warriors Two* (1978), *Knockabout* (1979), *Encounter of the Spooky Kind* (1980), *All the Wrong Clues (...for the Right Solution)* (1981), *Aces Go Places* (1982), *Twinkle Twinkle Little Star* (1983), *Project A* (1982), *Esprit D'amour* (1983), *Carry on Dancing* (1988), *Chicken and Duck Talk* (1988), *Little Cop* (1989), *Sentenced to Hang* (1989), *Saga of the Phoenix* (1990) and *Cageman* (1992).

Yuen's other reputable works include four overseas posters of Bruce Lee's films, as well as posters for *My Hero* (1990), *Fist of Fury 1991* (1991) and *Legend of the Dragon* (1991), all starring Stephen Chow. He was also responsible for the cover illustrations of 256 volumes of *Jademan Comics* since its launch. As a tribute to his art and genius, he received the Professional Achievement Award from the Hong Kong Film Awards in 2017, and the World Outstanding Chinese Artist Award in 2018.
