



Tony LEUNG Ka-fai 梁家輝 (b. 1958.2.1)

Actor

Born in Hong Kong, Leung studied advertising design at Hong Kong Polytechnic. He enrolled in Television Broadcasts Limited's (TVB) performing artist training programme in 1981, and was discovered by Li Han-hsiang in 1982 to play the lead role Xianfeng Emperor in *The Burning of the Imperial Palace* and *Reign Behind a Curtain* (both 1983). His performance in the latter won him the 3rd Hong Kong Film Awards for Best Actor. Since both films were shot in the Mainland, they were banned in Taiwan until the martial law was lifted in 1987. Thus, he was unable to break into the Taiwanese market during this period. In 1987, he co-starred with Chow Yun-fat in Ringo Lam's *Prison on Fire*, which grossed more than HK\$30 million at the box office. The film established his on screen image as a middle-class intellectual and made him one of Hong Kong's top-notch actors. Soon after, he acted in *Farewell China* (1990), which landed him another Best Actor at the 27th Golden Horse Awards.

In 1992, Leung rose to international fame with the French production *L'amant*; he was also widely acclaimed for his comic turn as inspector Lui Kay in *92 The Legendary la Rose Noire*, which won him Best Actor at the Hong Kong Film Awards. From there, he became a popular box-office draw and played a wider range of roles. Apart from sophisticated dramas like *Ashes of Time* (1994) and *The Christ of Nanjing* (1995), he was also exemplary in colourful comedies, such as *A Roof with a View* (1993), *Tom, Dick & Hairy* (1993) and *He Ain't Heavy, He's My Father* (1993). A highly-skilled actor, Leung took different approaches in portraying the gang leader character in *Island of Greed* (1997), *Jiang Hu—the Triad Zone* (2000) and *Election* (2005). He clinched his third Best Actor title at the Hong Kong Film Awards for his role in *Election*.

Apart from Hong Kong, Leung is also a prominent actor in Taiwan and the Mainland. He co-starred with Sylvia Chang in *My Mother's Teahouse* (1990), a film by Taiwanese director Chen Kun-hou; he also played the lead actor in the Taiwanese thriller *Double Vision* (2002), directed by Chen Kuo-fu. In the Mainland, Leung co-starred with Gong Li in Sun Zhou's *Zhou Yu's Train* (2003), and co-starred with Fan Bingbing in *Lost in Beijing* (2007).

Leung did not take any long break from his acting career and went on to deliver solid performances in numerous films, including *Men Suddenly in Black* (2003), *Throw Down* (2004), *Bodyguards and Assassins* (2009). In 2013, he picked up his fourth Best Actor prize at the Hong Kong Film Awards for his role in *Cold War* (2012). His other important works include *The Taking of Tiger Mountain* (2015), *Our Time Will Come* (2017) and *Chasing the Dragon II: Wild Wild Bunch* (2019). In 2019, he directed and acted in the Mainland film *Midnight Diner*.
