



CHANG Cheh 張徹 (1924.1.17–2002.6.22)

Director, Screenwriter, Executive Producer

A native of Qingtian, Zhejiang Province and with the original name Zhang Yiyang, Chang was born in Hangzhou and grew up in Shanghai. He received secondary education in Chongqing during the Second World War and later studied politics at the Law Faculty of the National Central University. Before the end of the war, Chang was appointed as a special cultural commissioner to station in Shanghai. He therefore had the opportunity to make acquaintances with people from the film industry. Chang penned his first screenplay *Girl's Mask* in 1947 and travelled to Taiwan the following year to shoot *Happenings in Ali Shan* (1950), Taiwan's first locally produced Mandarin film which he wrote and co-directed with Chang Ying. He also composed the song 'Green over the Hill' for the film, which remained a popular folk song to date. Owing to the unstable political situation, Chang stayed in Taiwan after the film was completed and was appointed as a political commissioner of Kuomintang by Chiang Ching-kuo. Tired of politics, Chang resigned in 1957 and came to Hong Kong at the invitation of actress Helen Li Mei to direct *Wild Fire* (1958). He later began to publish film reviews in *New Life Evening Post* with the pseudonym He Guan and was a columnist for *United Daily News* in Taiwan. In the early 1960s, Chang joined Motion Picture and General Investment Co Ltd (MP&GI) as screenwriter, putting out works such as *Song Without Words* (1961) and *It's Always Spring* (1962).

Chang joined Shaw Brothers (Hong Kong) Ltd in 1962 and was appointed chief screenwriter. He co-directed *The Butterfly Chalice* (1965), a *huangmei diao* film, with Yuan Qiu-feng the following year. He later scripted and directed *Tiger Boy* (1966), which was regarded as a forerunner of the new *wuxia* genre. *One-Armed Swordsman* (1967) further made him a 'million-dollar director' and established his position as a major director in Shaws. Some of his prominent works during this time included *The Assassin* (1967), *Golden Swallow* (1968), *The Heroic Ones* (1970), *Vengeance!* (1970), *Boxer from Shantung* (1972) and *The Blood Brothers* (1973). Chang further bagged Best Director with *Vengeance!* at the 16th Asian Film Festival. In 1973, with the support of Shaws, Chang founded Chang's Film Co and made Taiwan as its production base to shoot *Heroes Two* (1974), *Shao Lin Martial Arts* (1974), *Disciples of Shaolin* (1975), etc. He returned to Shaws after Chang's closed down and made a series of films based on Jin Yong's novels, including *The Brave Archer* (1977), *Legend Of The Fox* (1980) and *The Sword Stained With Royal Blood* (1981). Chang founded Chang Ho Motion Picture Co Ltd in 1983. He began to work in the Mainland in 1985 and directed martial arts films *Great Shanghai 1937* (1986) and *Cross The River* (1988). His last work, *Ninja in Ancient China* was made in 1993. Chang directed nearly 100 films throughout his career. He nurtured many talents, including Jimmy Wang Yu, Lo Lieh, Di Long, John (David) Chiang, Chan Koon-tai, Alexander Fu Sheng, Danny Lee, Wu Ma and John Woo, who all contributed to the development of Hong Kong cinema. In April 2002, Chang was honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 21st Hong Kong Film Awards. He passed away on 22 June in Hong Kong the same year.
