



CHOR Yuen 楚原 (b. 1934.10.8)

Director, Screenwriter

A native of Meixian, Guangdong, Chor was born in Guangzhou with the original name Cheung Bo-kin. He graduated from the Faculty of Chemistry at Sun Yat-sen University in Guangzhou. Under the influence of his father Cheung Wood-yau, who was a famous Cantonese film actor, Chor began working as a screenwriter and assistant director for Cantonese films in 1956. He joined Kong Ngee Motion Picture Production Company in the following year, learning screenwriting and directing under Chun Kim. He co-directed *Blood Stains the Valley of Love* (1957) with Chun and later made his individual directorial debut with *The Natural Son* (1959). Chor rose to fame in 1960 with *The Great Devotion*, which depicted the wretched conditions of the lowest social strata. He then started shooting for other production companies, making him the backbone of emerging directors in the 1960s. Chor has been a prolific filmmaker of versatile style, with famous *wenyi* titles such as *A Man's Betrayal* (Part One and Two, 1962), *Rose in Tears* (1963), *The Mad Woman* (1964), *Winter Love* (1968), *The Youth* (1969) and *The Prodigal* (1969). Among them, *Rose in Tears* was the inaugural production of Rose Motion Picture Company, founded by Chor and his wife, Nam Hung. Chor also filmed a number of comedies, including *The Diary of a Husband* (1964), *The Precious Mirror* (1967) and *The Pregnant Maiden* (1968); and directed contemporary heroine features such as *Black Rose* (1965), *Spy with My Face* (1966) and *To Rose with Love* (1967). When Cantonese cinema fell into decline in the 1960s, Chor has already directed over 70 Cantonese films. At the end of 1968, he joined Cathay Organisation (HK) (1965) Ltd and shot four titles, including his first *wuxia* film in Mandarin, *Cold Blade* (1970) which paved way for his subsequent aesthetic and romantic *wuxia* films.

Chor joined Shaw Brothers (Hong Kong) Ltd in 1971 and directed the well-received *Intimate Confessions of a Chinese Courtesan* (1972), a rather unconventional *wuxia* film scripted by Chiu Kang-chien; and *The House of 72 Tenants* (1973), a Cantonese satire of contemporary Hong Kong which broke box-office records and led to the resurgence of Cantonese cinema. Starting with *Killer Clans* (1976) and *The Magic Blade* (1976), he made full use of the Shaws' studios and shot a series of romantic *wuxia* films that were box-office hits. They subsequently set the trend of adapting Gu Long's novels in both Hong Kong and Taiwan television and film industry. Chor himself has directed 18 films based on the works by Gu, including *Clans of Intrigue* (1977), *Death Duel* (1977) and *The Sentimental Swordsman* (1977). He also won Best Action Film Director with *Murder Plot* (1979) at the 25th Asian Film Festival. Chor penned many of his works under the pseudonym Chin Yu. Chor left Shaws when the company ceased production in 1985. He formed Rical Production Co. Ltd and shot *Last Song in Paris* (1986). He later filmed *That Enchanting Night* (1987) and *The Diary of a Big Man* (1988) for other companies. Chor has directed over 120 films throughout his career. His latest work was *Blood Stained Tradewinds* (1990). Chor joined Television Broadcasts Limited (TVB) in 1991 as an actor and retired in 2004. He received the Professional Achievement Award and the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Hong Kong Film Awards respectively in 1998 and 2018.
