



**HO Fan 何藩** (1937.10.8–2016.6.19)

**Director, Actor**

A native of Guangdong, Ho was born in Shanghai. He came to Hong Kong in 1949 and graduated from New Asia College. He dedicated much of his time to photography since his school days and was well-known for his shots of Hong Kong streets of the 1950s and 60s. From 1958 to 1965, Ho had been elected into the top ten of The Photographic Society of America (PSA) for eight consecutive years. Eager to become a film director, he took a recruitment examination at Shaw Brothers (Hong Kong) Ltd. Since he had neither formal training nor working experience in filmmaking, Shaws signed him up only as an actor and gave him 10-month training. He worked as a continuity for *The Swallow Thief* (1961), directed by Griffin Yue Feng and acted in films such as *Love Without End* (1961), *Revenge of a Swordswoman* (1963), *Vermilion Door* (1965), *The Monkey Goes West* (1966), *Princess Iron Fan* (1966), *The Cave of the Silken Web* (1967), *Susanna* (1967), *The Millionaire Chase* (1969), etc. His most popular role was the Buddhist monk Tong in the series of films adapted from *Journey to the West*. Ho co-founded the University Life Film Club with several cinema aficionados including film critics Law Kar, Kam Ping-hing, Sek Kei, and made two experimental features, *Gulf* (1966) and *Lost* (co-directed with Sun Po-ling, 1970). The former further won Best Film Award at the Banbury International Film Festival in the UK.

Ho left Shaws in 1969 and became a director three years later upon the invitation of an individual film production company. His directorial debut was *Love and Blood* (1972). Ho later shot the well-received *Adventure in Denmark* (1973) and Shaws invited him back as a director on contract basis. Ho then directed *Girl with the Long Hair* (1975), *Innocent Lust* (1977), *The Notorious Frameup* (1978) for them. He also made comedies such as *The Adventurous Air Steward* (1974) for other companies.

Ho migrated to the US with his family in 1979, but often returned to teach as a guest professor at various universities and colleges in Hong Kong and Taiwan. He continued to work as a director and shot *Yu Pui Tsuen* (1987), *Erotic Nights* (1989), *Temptation Summary* (1990), *Wild at Heart* (1993), etc. Apart from eroticas, he focused on making *wenyi* titles and filmed *The Miserable Girl* (1975), *Two for the Road* (1980) and *Desire* (1987) in Taiwan. His last directorial work was *The Sichuan Concubines* (1995). Ho passed away on 19 June 2016 in the US.

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