



LAU Kar-leung 劉家良 (1937.10.6–2013.6.25)

Director, Martial Arts Choreographer, Actor

A native of Xinhui, Guangdong, Lau Kar-leung was born in Guangzhou. His father Lau Cham was a pupil of kung fu master, Lam Sai-wing. Lau started practicing Hung Fist and moves from other kung fu clans at the age of seven from his father. He moved to Hong Kong in 1949 with his family and ventured into the film industry the following year, taking up roles as a martial artist and bit player. He was featured in a number of Wong Fei-hung films, including *How Wong Fei-hung Defeated Three Bullies with a Rod* (1953) and *Wong Fei-hung's Rival for the Fireworks* (1955). In 1963, Lau became a martial arts choreographer and partnered with Tong Kai to design actions for *South Dragon, North Phoenix* (1963), directed by Wu Pang. The pair later shot to fame with their martial arts directions in The Great Wall Movie Enterprises Ltd's *The Jade Bow* (1966) and were swiftly recruited by Shaw Brothers (Hong Kong) Ltd.

After joining Shaws, Lau first took part as martial arts choreographer for Hsu Tseng-hung's *Temple of the Red Lotus* (1965) and Chang Cheh's *The Magnificent Trio* (1966). He later also worked with other directors. Lau and Tong collaborated and worked most often for Chang Cheh in his box-office hits such as *One-Armed Swordsman* (1967), *Golden Swallow* (1968), *The Boxer from Shantung* (1972) and *The Blood Brothers* (1973). In 1974, Lau ended his collaboration with Tong and followed Chang to film in Taiwan for Chang's Film Co. In *Heroes Two* (1974), *Shaolin Martial Arts* (1974) and *Five Shaolin Masters* (1974) directed by Chang, he began integrating Hung Fist into his choreography, which had become his signature style. In 1975, he returned to Shaws as a director. Lau's directorial debut *The Spiritual Boxer* (1975), which featured Hung Fist's Five Animal Fist, was a box-office smash. He subsequently directed a series of 'real' kung fu films, including *Challenge of the Masters* (1976), *Executioners from Shaolin* (1977), *Shaolin Mantis* (1978) and *Martial Club* (1981). Lau won Best Action Film with *The 36th Chamber of Shaolin* (1978) and *Heroes of the East* (1978) respectively at the 24th and 25th Asian Film Festival.

In 1986, Lau directed *Martial Arts of Shaolin*, a collaboration of Shaws and Sil-Metropole Organisation Ltd. in the Mainland. He then made a number of films such as *Aces Go Places V* (1989) for Cinema City Company Limited. His later major works included *Tiger on Beat* (1988) and *Drunken Master II* (1994), a fundraising project for Hong Kong Stuntman Association. Lau and the JC Stunt Team bagged Best Action Choreography at the 31st Golden Horse Awards in Taiwan and at the 14th Hong Kong Film Awards with the latter title. Lau's last directorial work was *Drunken Monkey* (2003). He last acted and took part as martial arts choreographer in Tsui Hark's *Seven Swords* (2005), with which he won Best Action Choreography together with Stephen Tung Wai and Xiong Xinxin at the 42nd Golden Horse Awards in Taiwan. Lau was honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 29th Hong Kong Film Awards in 2010. He passed away on 25 June 2013.
