



## LO Wei 羅維 (1918–1996.1.20)

### Actor, Director, Executive Producer, Producer

A native of Jiangsu and born with the surname Cheung, Lo was given the family name of Lo after being adopted by his mother's brother at a young age. During the Second Sino-Japanese War, he was a theatre and film actor in Chongqing and Shanghai. Lo arrived in Hong Kong after the war and joined Yung Hwa Motion Picture Industries Ltd in 1948. He acted in *The Soul of China* (1948) and *Sorrows of the Forbidden City* (1948), gradually rising to become an established actor in Mandarin cinema. In the early 1950s, he made his directorial debut with *The Husband's Diary* (1953) that he co-directed with Tang Huang. Later he co-founded Swank Motion Picture with Lau Leung-wah, where he directed and acted in films such as *Romance on Lake Emerald* (1958) and *Mischievous Girl* (1958). In 1961, he joined Motion Picture and General Investment Co Ltd (MP&GI) and directed *Song Without Words* (1961), *The Golden Arrow* (1963), *The Better Halves* (1964), etc. Meanwhile, he took part in productions of other companies, such as Shaws' *Diau Charn* (1958) and *Empress Wu Tse-tien* (1963), both directed by Li Han-hsiang.

Lo joined Shaw Brothers (Hong Kong) Ltd in 1965 and directed *Crocodile River* in the same year. During his five years with Shaws, he directed a dozen of box-office hits, including spy films *The Golden Buddha* (1966) and *Angel with the Iron Fists* (1967) that he made in the early days. Later he focused on shooting *wuxia* titles, such as *Dragon Swamp* (1969), *Raw Courage* (1969), *Brothers Five* (1970), *The Shadow Whip* (1971) and *Vengeance of a Snow Girl* (1971). Among them, *Dragon Swamp* scored over HK\$1 million at the box office.

At the end of 1970, Lo joined the then newly founded Golden Harvest (HK) Limited. Both he and Huang Feng were hailed as the most productive directors in the early years of Golden Harvest, while Lo was acclaimed for his ability to make the highest grossers for the company in those days. *The Invincible Eight* (1971), the inaugural production of Golden Harvest which Lo directed, earned more than HK\$900,000 at the box office. He later scripted and directed two blockbusters that broke Hong Kong box-office records: *The Big Boss* (1971) and *Fist of Fury* (1972), both starring Bruce Lee. Lo continued to make *A Man Called Tiger* (1973), *Back Alley Princess* (1973), *China Town Capers* (1974) and *Naughty! Naughty!* (1974); all of them grossed over HK\$1 million. He left Golden Harvest in 1974 and set up his own company, Lo Wei Motion Picture Co Ltd, where he produced and directed *The Girl with the Dexterous Touch* (1975), *Shantung Man in Hong Kong* (1975), etc. Lo later signed a contract with Jackie Chan to film *New Fist of Fury* (1976) and *The Killer Meteors* (1976) in Taiwan. He stayed active as an independent Hong Kong-Taiwan film producer until the 1980s when he moved on from directing, but continued to work as an executive producer. He was last credited as executive producer in *Blade of Fury* (1993). Lo died of a heart attack on 20 January 1996. He was honoured posthumously with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 34th Golden Horse Awards in Taiwan the following year.