



CHU Kea 珠璣 (1920–1988)

Director

A native of Shunde, Guangdong, Chu was born in Guangzhou with the original name Chu Yat-chuen. Chu's father was a scriptwriter of a Cantonese opera troupe. Chu came to Hong Kong at age 12 and joined Unique Film Productions in the following year, where he honed his skills in film processing and editing. He was the photography assistant for *Burning of the Efang Palace* (1935) and had acted in *The Butterfly Lovers* (1935). He later switched to Nanyue Film Company to work initially as an editor, but soon became a screenwriter and assistant director.

Chu kick-started as a director in 1941 with *The Swallows Fly* (1941) and *Mother And Son* (1941), both co-directed with Yan Meng. He made his independent directorial debut with *An Unfaithful Wife* (1941). As one of the founders of The Union Film Enterprise Ltd, he directed *A Home of a Million Gold* (1953), *An Orphan's Tragedy* (1955), *Blood Money* (1957), and made cameo appearances in *Sworn Sisters* (1954) as well as *A Beautiful Corpse Comes to Life* (1956). In 1957, Chu left The Union Film and signed a contract with Liangyou Film Company, for which he directed several Amoy-dialect films such as *The Everlasting Love* (aka *A Couple of Seven Lives*, 1957), *A Filial Daughter Avenges for Her Father* (1957) and *Teddy Girls* (1958).

He also made films for other companies, including Cantonese opera titles and musicals *Tales of Two Kingdoms* (1957), *Swallows Come Home* (1958), *How Third Madam Educated Her Son* (1958), *The Dream Meeting Between Emperor Wu of Han and Lady Wai* (1959); melodramas *The Hypocritical Heart* (1955), *Mother Was Grand* (1956), *Madam Wan* (1960), *The Search for Loved One* (1961) and *No Return Without Victory* (1963), etc. Chu established Haiyang Film Company and Jincheng Film Company, producing films such as *Xi Shi, the Eternal Beauty* (1960), *The Roots of All Evils* (1964), *The 12 Hairpins and the 12 Balustrades* (1964) and *Family Doctrine* (in two parts, 1965). Chu's last independent directorial title was the colour musical *Colourful Paradise* (1969). Chu had directed over 250 films in his entire career, and was considered one of the most prolific filmmakers.

He retired from filmmaking upon directing *A Wonderful Marriage* (1969). He was once a columnist for the weekly magazine *HK TV NEWS*, in which he related personal stories and industry anecdotes. His younger brother, Chu Chiu and sister, Chu Yat-hung both worked in the film industry as assistant directors.
