



## HSU Tseng-hung 徐增宏 (b. 1935.11.19)

### Cinematographer, Director

Hsu's father was once a sound recorder for Great China Film Company in Shanghai. A native of Shanghai, Hsu came to Hong Kong in 1949 and worked as an assistant to cinematographer Law Kwun-hung at Nanguo Studio. He started working as a cinematographer for Hsin Hwa Motion Picture Company in 1951, but it was not until 1956 with *Fair Maidens Among the Melons* that his name appeared in the credits. In 1957, Hsu went to Japan to film some of Hsin Hwa's earliest colour productions, such as the musicals *Her Spring Breeze* (1957) and *Flying Together* (1958). Later he filmed *Love at First Sight* (1958), *The Daring Gang of Nineteen From Verdun City* (1960), *The Heroic Couple from the Ancient Tomb* (1961) and more.

He joined Shaw Brothers (Hong Kong) Ltd as a cinematographer in 1964 and shot *The Warlord and the Actress* (1964). Hsu also worked as assistant director for Chang Cheh's *The Butterfly Chalice* (co-directed with Yuan Qiu-feng, 1965) and *Tiger Boy* (1966). He was promoted to director the following year, demonstrating his creativity in *Temple of the Red Lotus* (1965) with realistic fighting scenes. The film also marked the beginning of an era of colour *wuxia* films produced by Shaws. He directed *The Twin Swords* the same year and his career as a director was henceforth linked inextricably with the *wuxia* genres, making films such as *The Sword and the Lute* (1967), *King Cat* (1967), *The Silver Fox* (1968), *Twelve Deadly Coins* (1969), *The Secret of the Dirk* (1970), *Swordsman at Large* (1971), etc. In the effort of Raymond Chow, Shaws sent a team led by Hsu to Japan to learn of ways to enhance production efficiency. After the trip, he set an amazing record of shooting over 60 shots in one day when making *The Thundering Sword* (1967).

Hsu joined Golden Harvest (HK) Limited in 1971 and directed the Chinese version of *Zatoichi and the One-Armed Swordsman*, a parallel to the Japanese version directed by Kimiyoshi Yasuda. With the support from Golden Harvest, he founded Kugan Film Company in Taiwan the very same year, where he made *The Gallant Duo* (1971) and *The Invincible Sword* (1972). Since then he had made many films, such as *18 Shaolin Disciples* (1975), *Thousand Mile's Escort* (1977), *The Invincible Super Guy* (1976) and *One-Armed Swordsman Vs Nine Killers* (1979). Hsu returned to Hong Kong in 1980 and became the manager of One Art Laboratory Ltd. He later migrated to Taiwan.