



Jimmy WANG Yu 王羽 (b. 1943)

Actor, Director

Wang's original name was Wang Zhengquan and he was born into a family from Wuxi, Jiangsu. Wang was a swimming athlete in his youth in Shanghai. He came to Hong Kong in 1960 and studied Civil Engineering at Chu Hai College. Wang gained his first lead role in Shaw Brother's *Tiger Boy* (1966) through open audition, and rose to public prominence with *One-Armed Swordsman* (1967), directed by Chang Cheh. Following this success, he continued to work with Chang on *The Assassin* (1967), *Golden Swallow* (1968) and *Return of the One-Armed Swordsman* (1969). As the embodiment of a cool, arrogant young hero so rarely seen on the silver screen in those days, Wang emerged to become the major actor to star in a series of colour *wuxia* features produced by Shaws. He debuted as a director with *The Chinese Boxer* (1970), which became the highest grosser of the year with box-office earnings of over HK\$2 million.

He left Shaws in the same year and moved to Taiwan to continue his film career. From then on, he was very active in the Taiwan film scene and worked on many of Golden Harvest (HK) Limited's outreach projects in Taiwan and overseas. His first collaboration with the company was *Zatoichi and the One-Armed Swordsman* (1971), which was shot in Japan. In 1973, he starred in Lo Wei's *A Man Called Tiger*, which made over HK\$2 million at the box office. He also took part in other Golden Harvest productions, including *The Invincible Sword* (1972), *Seaman No. 7* (1973); and directed, wrote and acted in *One-Armed Boxer* (1972) and *Beach of the War Gods* (1973). Wang also took up the leading role in *The Man from Hong Kong* (1975) and *A Queen's Ransom* (1976), both star-studded ventures produced by Golden Harvest. From the late 1960s to the late 1970s, Wang was one of the most influential stars in Hong Kong and Taiwan.

He gradually faded out from the cinematic scene in the 1990s. His being active again in front of the camera led to his recent performances including *Wu Xia* (2011) directed by Peter Chan Ho-sun, *Let's Go!* (2011) directed by Wong Ching-po, *The Guillotines* (2012) directed by Andrew Lau, and *Soul* (2013) directed by Taiwanese filmmaker Chung Mong-hong.
