



## LAU Kar-wing 劉家榮 (b. 1943)

### Director, Martial Arts Choreographer, Actor

A native of Xinhui, Guangdong, Lau Kar-wing was born in Shaoguan in 1943. He moved to Hong Kong with his family in 1949. Lau started learning Hung Fist at the age of ten from his father Lau Cham and elder brother Lau Kar-leung. He appeared occasionally in films alongside his father and brother in the early-1950s and became a martial artist later in the decade, following his brother and Tong Kai. He debuted as a martial arts choreographer in *The Elusive Golden Butterfly* (1966) and choreographed *Five Fingers of Death* (aka *King Boxer*, 1972), a sellout in the US, for Shaw Brothers (Hong Kong) Ltd in 1972. Lau was also once sent to Spain to help with the shooting of western films. He took the leading role in *The Inheritor of Kung Fu* (1974) directed by Chen Hung-lieh. Lau later left for Taiwan to work as a martial arts choreographer; he was the martial arts choreographer and lead in *Tiger & Crane Fists* (1976) and *One-arm Chivalry Fight Against One-arm Chivalry* (1977) for First Film Organisation Limited. He also acted in *The Good, the Bad and the Loser* (1976) in Taiwan, a *wuxia* comedy directed by Karl Maka.

Lau returned to Hong Kong in 1976 and directed his first film *He Has Nothing But Kung Fu* (1977). The box office scored over HK\$1 million, consolidating Lau's status as a director. He had become both a director and actor ever since. He founded Gar Bo Films with Karl Maka and Sammo Hung and made *Dirty Tiger, Crazy Frog* (1978), *Odd Couple* (1979) and etc. Afterwards, Lau established Lau Brothers Film Co. with his brother Lau Kar-leung, for which he directed *Dirty Kung Fu* (1978) and *Fist and Guts* (1979). The kung fu comedies produced by these two companies demonstrated Lau's versatility in terms of action style and variety. Lau also acted frequently in films directed by his elder brother, Lau Kar-leung, who was then collaborating with Shaws. Their duel in which the two are battling with ancient weapons in *Legendary Weapons of China* (1982) was considered particularly remarkable.

Lau was the director for *Till Death Do We Scare* (1982) and martial arts choreographer for *Aces Go Places II* (1983), both produced by Cinema City Company Limited. He also directed a few blockbusters such as *The Dragon Family* (1988) and *Skinny Tiger & Fatty Dragon* (1990) for other film companies. Lau took part as martial arts choreographer in Tsui Hark's *Once Upon a Time in China* (co-choreographed with Yuen Cheung-yan and Yuen Shun-I, 1991) and was awarded Best Action Choreography at the 11th Hong Kong Film Awards in 1992. He later participated in Ringo Lam's *Full Contact* (1992) as action director.

His latest directorial work is *Innocent Killer* (1994). Since then, Lau only appears occasionally in films and TV dramas.

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