



TONG Shu-shuen 唐書璇 (b. 1941)

Director, Screenwriter

A native of Yunnan Province, Tong Shu-shuen was born in Hong Kong. After secondary school education, she further pursued her studies in the US, at the film department of the University of Southern California. Tong stayed in the US after graduation and made commercials. She returned to Hong Kong in the late 1960s, directed and wrote her first title *The Arch* (1970). It was featured at various international film festivals such as Cannes, San Francisco, Locarno and Mannheim with critical acclaim. *The Arch* also won the Best Leading Actress, Best Black-and-White Photography, Best Art Direction for Black-and-White Films and a special award for Best Creativity at the 9th Golden Horse Awards. Tong finished shooting *China Behind*, a film written by herself, in Taiwan and Hong Kong in 1974. The film centres around young intellectuals fleeing from China to Hong Kong during the Cultural Revolution. The Cultural Revolution was still raging at the time, thus most filmmakers in Hong Kong shied away from this sensitive topic. *China Behind* was banned for release in Hong Kong until 1987.

Tong later directed and wrote two more titles, including the omnibus film *Sup Sap Bup Dup* (1975) as well as *The Hong Kong Tycoon* (co-scripted with Wang Jingxi, 1979), telling the story of an ordinary man who went from rags to riches. In 1975, Tong solely founded the film publication *Close Up Magazine*, which ceased publishing in 1978. Tong migrated to the US the next year.

Tong became the scriptwriter and production manager for the Sino-American TV drama *Peking Encounter* in 1981, and went with the crew to Beijing for shootings. In 2012, Tong produced and wrote an English musical *I, Ching*, which was performed by the Hong Kong theatrical troupe 'Theatre Space' in Los Angeles.
