



WU Jiexiang 吳家驥 (1919.7.7–1993.3.20)

Actor, Director

A native of She County, Anhui, Wu was born in Beijing. At the early stage of the War of Resistance Against Japan, he took part as a performing actor in the Anti-Enemy Backing-Up Society drama troupe in Hankou; he also appeared on stage on behalf of a Shanghai drama association for amateurs. Prior to entering the Central Motion Picture Studio in Chongqing as a junior actor, he was recruited in the military unit as propaganda officer. During his time as an actor-trainee, Wu had only acted in three films although he possessed ample performing experience in drama.

Wu came to Hong Kong at the end of 1945, and *Gone are the Swallows When the Willow Flowers Wilt* (1946) was the first film that he acted in after his arrival. He was a regular actor for film companies such as Yung Hwa, 50th Year and Hsin Hwa. In 1953, Wu began doubling as assistant director while acting in films. Tu Guangqi's *Rose, Rose, I Love You* (1954) was the first film in which he performed the dual duty as assistant director and actor. Recruited by Motion Picture & General Investment Co Ltd (MP & GI) in September 1957, he was considered a rare gem as a character actor. He had appeared in films such as *Murder in the Night* (1957), *The Wayward Husband* (1959), *The Bedside Story* (1960) and *Song Without Words* (1961). Wu won Best Supporting Actor at the 4th Golden Horse Awards for *The Beggar's Daughter* (1965). During his years at MP & GI, acting was only one part of his life; he was also mentored under directors such as Evan Yang, honing the craft as an assistant director.

Father and Son (1963) was his debut as an independent director, followed by other works including *City Fantasy* (1964), *Passion* (1967) and *The Fortune Teller's Daughter* (1968). In 1965, he left for Shaw Brothers as a staple actor and director upon completing his contract with MP & GI. Teaming up with Shaws, he directed such films as *Sweet and Wild* (1966) and *Guess Who Killed My Twelve Lovers* (1970). In the 1970s, he acted in Tong Shu-shuen's *Sup Sap Bup Dup* (1975) and King Hu's *Raining in the Mountain* (1979).

In 1980, Wu joined China Television Company Ltd in Taiwan as a staple actor. In the 1980s, he acted in a number of Hong Kong films including *The Legend of the Owl* (1981), *Dragon Lord* (1982) and *Ninja in the Dragon's Den* (1982). Wu passed away of illness in Hong Kong on 20 March 1993.