



YUEN Woo-ping 袁和平 (b. 1945)

Director, Martial Arts Choreographer, Executive Producer

A native of Beijing, Yuen Woo-ping was born in Guangzhou. His father Simon Yuen Siu-tin, a famous martial artist of the northern schools, taught him the trade at an early age. He also learned action skills from Yu Zhanyuan. Yuen worked as a martial artist alongside his father in his teenage years and became a martial arts choreographer in 1971, designing actions for *The Mad Killer*, directed by Ng See-yuen. The two had later collaborated for a few other titles; Yuen was the martial arts choreographer for Ng's kung fu titles, *The Bloody Fists* (1972), *The Secret Rivals, Part 2* (1977) and *The Invincible Armour* (1977). In the same time, Yuen also choreographed a wide range of actions films for Shaw Brothers (Hong Kong) Ltd. Upon producer Ng See-yuen's invitation in 1977, Yuen directed his first film, *Snake in the Eagle's Shadow* (1978), starring Jackie Chan. The film, combining Yuen's slick action choreography and Chan's skills, was a smash at the box office. They teamed up with Ng again on *Drunken Master* (1978) that grossed over HK\$6 million; Yuen was thus recognised as one of the most talented action directors in the industry with promising box-office appeal. Yuen subsequently directed a number of films, including *The Magnificent Butcher* (1979), *Dreadnaught* (1981), *The Miracle Fighters* (1982) and *Drunken Tai Ji* (1984), which were well-known for his choreographed actions.

In the 1990s, Yuen continued to score well in action choreography. His prominent works in this period include *Once Upon a Time in China II* (1992) directed by Tsui Hark, as well as his own directorial feature *Iron Monkey* (1993); both featured with breathtaking and spectacular fight scenes. He made a leap to the Hollywood in late 1990s and became the action choreographer for the sci-fi thriller, *The Matrix* (1999), a record-breaking blockbuster that further earned him international recognition. Yuen won five Best Action Choreography awards at the Hong Kong Film Awards for *Once Upon a Time in China II*, *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* (2000), *Kung Fu Hustle* (2004), *Fearless* (2006) and *The Grand Master* (2013). *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* also won him Best Action Choreography at the 37th Golden Horse Awards in Taiwan in 2000. On top of that, he garnered the distinguished Professional Achievement Award at the 20th Hong Kong Film Awards in 2001.

His later prominent works include *The Legend of Zu* (2001), *Kill Bill: Vol. 2* (2004) and *Ip Man 3* (2015). Yuen's recent directorial works include *The Thousand Faces of Dunjia* (2017) and *Master Z: The Ip Man Legacy* (2018).
