



Dean SHEK 石天 (1949.6.17–2021.9.20)

Producer, Director, Actor

Born Lau Wai-shing in the Mainland, Shek moved to Hong Kong at the age of three. After graduating from secondary school, he received training at Shaw's Southern Drama Group in 1967 and became a contract actor at Shaw Brothers in 1969. Besides acting in more than twenty films including *Dark Semester* (1969), *Young Lovers* (1970), *Guess Who Killed My Twelve Lovers* (1970), *The Singing Killer* (1970) and *The Delinquent* (1973), he also did voice acting in Mandarin. He was adept at playing everymen and villainous characters. After he left Shaw Brothers, he continued to act in comedies such as *Games Gamblers Play* (1974) and *The Last Message* (1975), among others. His hilarious performances in such kung fu comedies as *Snake in the Eagle's Shadow* (1978) and *Drunken Master* (1978) helped to establish his reputation as a comedic actor.

In 1975, at the invitation of Golden Harvest, famous Taiwanese director Ting Shan-hsi came to Hong Kong to shoot *My Wacky, Wacky World*, Shek was assistant director and also acted in the film. In the same year, he directed his first feature *The Kung Fu Monks*. He took the role of associate producer and assistant director in *Gonna Get You* (1976) and *The Iron-Fisted Monk* (1977) respectively, while both films also saw his involvement in screenwriting.

The friendship between Shek and Karl Maka grew along with their collaborations in *Winner Takes All* (1977), *Dirty Tiger, Crazy Frog!* (1978) and *Odd Couple* (1979), etc. In 1979, they co-founded Warriors Film Co. with Raymond Wong, producing *Crazy Crooks* (1980) and *By Hook or by Crook* (1980), both of which starred Shek. As Warriors was reorganised into Cinema City Company Limited in 1980, Shek became the company's lead actor and continued to exercise his comedic talent by starring in the company's debut production *Laughing Times* (1980), as well as other blockbusters such as *Chasing Girls* (1981), *It Takes Two* (1982) and *Aces Go Places* (1982). Shek's respective portrayals of a lecherous grandfather, retired gang leader and anti-Japanese war hero in *A Family Affair* (1984), *A Better Tomorrow II* (1987) and *The Raid* (1991) demonstrated his versatility in acting.

In addition to acting, Shek also directed for the company, including *The Perfect Wife?!* (1983), *A Family Affair* (1984) and *Kung Hei Fat Choy* (1985). He also produced *All the Wrong Spies* (1983), *Esprit D'amour* (1983), *Papa, Can You Hear Me Sing?* (1983), *Aces Go Places III—Our Man from Bond Street* (1984), *Lady in Black* (1987) and *Fractured Follies* (1988), etc. Taking charge of Taiwanese version's title, dialogue and dubbing, Shek was also prominent for Cinema City's success in Taiwan.

In the early 1990s, Shek founded Cinema City Entertainment Company Limited. After producing *The Dragon from Russia* (1990) and *The Raid* (1991), he retreated from the industry. In 2016, he made a guest appearance in *The Bodyguard*. He passed away in 2021.
