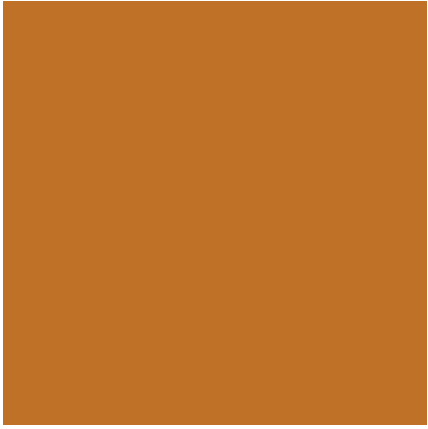


Wong Kar-wai

Wong Kar-wai BBS (born 17 July 1958) is a Hong Kong film director, screenwriter, and producer. His films are characterised by nonlinear narratives, atmospheric music, and vivid cinematography involving bold, saturated colours. A pivotal figure of Hong Kong cinema, Wong is considered a contemporary auteur, and ranks third on Sight & Sound's 2002 poll of the greatest filmmakers of the previous 25 years. His films frequently appear on best-of lists domestically and international-ly. Born in Shanghai, Wong emigrated to British Hong Kong as a child with his family. He began a career as a screenwriter for soap operas before transitioning to directing with his debut, the crime drama *As Tears Go By* (1988). While *As Tears Go By* was fairly successful in Hong Kong, Wong moved away from the contemporary trend of crime and action movies to embark on more personal filmmaking styles. *Days of Being Wild* (1990), his first venture in such a direction, did not perform well at the box office. It however received critical acclaim, and won Best Film and Best Director at the 1991 Hong Kong Film Awards. His next film, *Ashes of Time* (1994), met with a mixed reception because of its vague plot and atypical take on the wuxia genre. Exhausted by the time-consuming filming and post-production of *Ashes of Time*, Wong directed *Chungking Express* (1994), a smaller film that he hoped would rekindle his love of cinema.^[note 1] The film, expressing a more lighthearted atmosphere, catapulted Wong to international prominence, and won Best Film and Best Director at the 1995 Hong Kong Film Awards. Wong followed up with the crime thriller *Fallen Angels* in 1995. Although it was initially tepidly received by critics, *Fallen Angels* has since come to be considered a cult classic of the Golden Age of Hong Kong cinema, being especially representative of Wong's style. Wong would go on to consolidate his worldwide reputation with the 1997 drama *Happy Together*, for which he won Best Director at the Cannes Film Festival. The 2000 drama *In the Mood for Love*, revered for its lush visuals and subtle storytelling, concretely established Wong's trademark filmmaking styles. Among his other work are *2046* (2004) and *The Grandmaster* (2013), both of which received awards and nominations worldwide.

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