

### **Mr WOO Kai-sau (WOO Fung)**

Woo Fung, whose birth name was Woo Kai-sau and is also known as Sau Gor or Brother Sau, is a popular veteran actor of Hong Kong's film and TV industry. His stage name "Fung" is the Chinese character for maple, which has an auspicious meaning of "long-lasting popularity". Since he entered the film industry in 1953, Mr Woo has served as a director, screenwriter and actor. He started working in TV in the 1970s, and was honoured with the Gold Bauhinia Award and TVB Anniversary Award for Lifetime Achievement in 2003. It has been more than six decades since Mr Woo became an actor, and he has appeared in over 260 films and TV programmes. But he is still full of energy, and whenever he is given a new piece of work he does all he can to find the best way to interpret and portray his role. He also analyses his strengths and weaknesses after each performance to seek for improvements.

With the emergence of numerous talents, Mr Woo thinks today's performing arts industry is more competitive than ever. Even those who have achieved fame will inevitably lag behind or be cast out if they don't progress. Long-lasting fame is not unattainable but one must work hard and continuously improve. In terms of mastering and refining his acting skills, Mr Woo's improvements are due to his personal efforts and continuous practice since he has not received any formal training. His accomplishments today—successful career, happy family, popularity, and numerous godchildren—or secret of success in life can also be attributed to his sincerity and caring for others.

Whether it be with his wife, children, grandchildren or friends, he believes that there is an element of luck in his human relationships. Mr Woo and his wife Lui Wing-ho have been married for sixty years, and they have been described as a model couple in the industry. Mr Woo praised his wife for managing the family meticulously well while not being a babbler. He reiterated, "No man likes to listen to his wife rattling on when he comes home".

He can feel contented simply from having a plate of pork-chop rice. He said once on a chilly day he was very cold and hungry, and when a plate of pork-chop rice was brought before his eyes, he immediately felt on top of the world. Since then pork-chop rice has become "happy pork-chop rice" to him.

Mr Woo calls on the younger generation not to expect to be able to "reach the sky with a single step" but to work with focused attention and perseverance. This can be seen from his love for and habit of walking. He has had a passion for walking since he was 21, and has seized every chance to indulge it. Even while visiting

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his friend for dinner one evening, he still made an effort to get up and stroll around the house to continue with his habit of walking. He jogs gently for an hour every day at home and walks whenever he can. Despite being over 80, he still walks with brisk and agile steps. A friend once quipped that the distance he had covered amounted to circling the earth 22 times. As the circumference of the earth is about 40,000 kilometres, Mr Woo must have walked 880,000 kilometres over the last 62 years if this is true!

Mr Woo first developed the habit of walking after seeing its curative effects on a sick person, and he has been “walking the path to good health” for sixty years. From today’s perspective, this is indeed both an efficient and an environmentally-friendly method. Mr Woo has practised what he preaches day in, day out, influencing many family members and friends at the same time.

He began his acting career in 1953, becoming an overnight success with his debut film, *Men’s Hearts*. Today he still plays leading roles in TV programmes. From *Three Amigos Bon Voyage* broadcast two years ago to *Four Amigos Bon Voyage* premiered in August this year, Mr Woo has given natural and earnest performances. He and several veteran co-star friends have been full of wit, humour, and warmth, bringing much laughter and joy to a wide audience.

Mr Woo is extremely grateful for his successful career and happy family. He prefers to give encouraging words to young people, rather than singing the praises of his own personal achievements. This is what Mr Woo Fung wishes to share with you: whether acting on stage or living his life off stage, Mr Woo has upheld his principles of sincerity and caring for others. He shows immense humility, and remains highly focused in his work; at the same time, he is happy to let things take their own course. He has walked and worked incessantly, and has achieved a rich and fulfilling life.

Mr Chairman, for his dedication to acting and contribution to Hong Kong’s performing arts, may I present Mr Woo Fung to you for conferment of an honorary fellowship.

*Chinese citation written and delivered by Prof Chan Wai-ying*