

Ms Sylvia Chang Ai-chia

Doctor of Humanities *honoris causa*

Citation

Born in Taiwan, Ms Sylvia Chang moved to Hong Kong as a primary five student, but after a year at New Method College, she went to school in New York until she was 15, when she moved back to Taiwan and studied at Sacred Heart Girls High School and graduated from Taipei American School. Aged 17, she went into television and then the film industry, becoming one of the few performing arts stars in both Hong Kong and Taiwan.

Since the 1970s, Ms Chang has made a lot of best-selling music albums, appeared in over a hundred films and a number of television and stage dramas, and won many awards. She has finished her first script in 1972. She directed her first film in 1981, and has now directed 16 films and written over 20 scripts. Her passion in creativity and performing arts, and courage to venture make her becoming one of the most versatile, prolific and creative performing artists in the Chinese-speaking world.

A transit from front to backstage is never simple or easy, but Ms Chang, who describes herself as someone who perseveres untiringly, and always rolls with the punches, was determined to make the move. When challenged, she used to calm herself down first and then listen to her inner voice, sure that everything was predetermined. She firmly believes that with patience, an accommodating attitude and flexibility, we can get through the tough times.

Ms Chang's creative career and life are closely connected to her charity work, which has greatly influenced her. When she was at the Sacred Heart Girls High School in Taipei, she and her classmates joined the "Loving Club", run by Mexican nuns, which visited handicapped children every weekend. The sisters told her that body contact would build up mutual trust, and she used to help a blind boy who avoided most people cut his nails. After a while, the little boy started to smile whenever she was there. In 1993, she accepted an invitation from the World Vision to help with "30-Hour Famine" fundraising activities. She visited war-torn countries in Africa in order to better understand their needs and then gave the World Vision her ideas on how to support victims after a disaster. Now, she still works with the World Vision, and has visited to South Asia, the Middle East and Central and South America, saying "these voluntary activities have shown me that our world is so big that we should treasure and also to share what we have now." Ms Chang believes that everyone is responsible for taking

care of others, and she sees films as a way for her to share her care, which is how warmth and mutual respect have become her specific creative style. When she directs a film, she looks after every actor, is actively involved in every detail, and mixes with her whole team. This not only reflects her true moral values, but also shows her qualities as an outstanding leader.

Mr Chairman, in recognition of Ms Chang's outstanding achievements in the film industry and performing arts, and her significant contributions to charity in Hong Kong and throughout the world, may I present Ms Sylvia Chang for conferment of the degree of Doctor of Humanities *honoris causa*.

Citation written and delivered by Professor Emilie Yeh

張艾嘉女士

榮譽人文學博士

贊辭

張艾嘉女士生於台灣，小學六年級時移居香港，入讀新法書院，一年後負笈紐約就學，十五歲時回到台灣，就讀聖心女子中學和台北美國學校 (Taipei American School)。兩年後，年僅十七歲的張艾嘉開始踏足廣播、流行音樂和電視行業，之後走進電影界，分別在香港和台灣開展演藝生涯，成為在港台兩地家喻戶曉的明星。

從上世紀七十年代開始，張艾嘉灌錄過多張暢銷音樂專輯，參演過上百部電影、電視劇和舞台劇，獲獎無數。早在1972年，她編寫了第一個劇本；1981年，她初執導筒，至今導演了16部電影，完成了20部電影劇本。她對表演與創作的熱情和敢於嘗試的勇氣，使她的演藝生涯歷久彌新，創新不斷，成為華語世界中最多才多藝及最多產的演藝家之一。

從台前到幕後，過程並不容易，但並未讓張艾嘉卻步。她形容自己是個「在逆境中行走的人。」鍥而不捨是她一直秉持的生活態度。在面對難題時，她會先冷靜聆聽內心的聲音，相信只要沉著、以耐心和靈活應對，任何問題都能迎刃而解。

張女士的創作生涯與生活態度，跟影響她一生至為深遠的慈善工作息息相關。在台北聖心女子中學就讀期間，每逢週末和同學參加由墨西哥籍修女帶領的「關愛小組」(Loving Club)，探訪殘疾兒童。修女教導她說，只有真正接觸這些小朋友，才能建立互信。那時她的任務是給一位失明的小男孩剪指甲，本來不願與人靠近的小孩，經過一段時間之後，只要她出現，就會面帶笑容。1993年，她欣然接受世界宣明會的邀請，就「饑饉30」的籌款活動親自走訪多個受戰火蹂躪的非洲國家，了解當地的需要，並向宣明會建議如何幫助當地居民。至今，她在宣明會的工作未曾間斷，足跡遍及南亞、中東、中南美洲，還有許多偏遠的世界角落。她說：「這些義務工作，讓我感受到世界之大，同時提醒我珍惜和分享眼前所有。」她深信每個人都有責任去關懷他人，而電影正是她分享人文關懷的

媒介。身為導演，她喜歡與工作人員打成一片，事事親力親為，悉心照顧每位演員。因此，她的作品總是充滿溫情，而同理心和相互尊重的元素更貫穿在她的創作中，成為她電影的獨特風格，並體現她的領導才能。

主席先生，為表彰張艾嘉女士在電影業與表演界的卓越成就，以及對香港和全世界慈善公益活動長年的無私奉獻，本人謹恭請閣下頒授榮譽人文學博士學位予張女士。

贊辭由葉月瑜教授撰寫及宣讀