



## Peter PAN Lei 潘壘 (1926.8.4–2017.7.22)

### Screenwriter, Director

A native of Hepu, Guangdong, Pan was born with the name Pan Rongsheng in Haiphong, Vietnam. As the only son of the family, he fled to Kunming with his sister and brother-in-law during the Second World War. Pan enlisted in 1943, and stationed in India and later at the Sino-Indo-Burmese front. He changed his name to Peter Pan Lei around this time. He was promoted to lieutenant when the war ended. The Indochina War broke out not long after Pan retired from the army and returned to Vietnam. He was again forced to leave his home country and enrolled in a medical college in Shanghai as an overseas Chinese student. It was then that he started writing modern poetries, proses and short stories. Upon graduation, he worked in a commercial organisation owned by Kuomintang and thus moved to Taiwan. In May 1949, he founded the first literary magazine in Taiwan. Pan won a major Chinese literary award for three consecutive years from 1955 to 1957.

He joined the production department of Central Motion Picture Corporation as a script editor and taught screenwriting and directing at the National Taiwan Academy of Arts. His was first credited as the screenwriter in the Taiwanese-dialect title, *A Girl with Leprosy* (1957). He left Central Motion Picture in 1957 and directed *On Mount Hehuan* for an independent company, followed by *The Golden Age* (1959). He then made *Typhoon* (1962) and *Sea Gulf Weather* (co-directed with Akinori Matsuo, 1963) for Central Motion Picture. *Typhoon*, an entry at the 7th Asian Film Festival, caught Run Run Shaw's attention and Pan was recruited into Shaw Brothers (Hong Kong) Ltd in 1963. He returned to Taiwan in the following year to script and direct *Lover's Rock* (1964) and *Song of Orchid Island* (1965) for Shaws, and directed the action film *Downhill They Ride* (1966) written by King Hu. Pan's works were refreshing in style and of diverse genres. His subsequent productions for Shaws included the detective title *Poison Rose* (1966), romantic feature *Fallen Petals* (1968), *wuxia* film *The Fastest Sword* (1968) and melodrama *Love Without End* (1970). He once faded out from the cinematic scene and focused on writing. In 1975, he returned to Shaws, scripted and directed films such as *Evil Seducers* (1975) and *Cuties Parade* (1975). *The Crooks* (1977) was the last film he made for Shaws. Pan then formed his own production company and wrote scripts for directors such as Lo Wei. He later dedicated himself to the study of antique jades and released his autobiography. Pan passed away on 22 July 2017 in Taiwan.