



PAK Yin 白燕 (1920–1987.5.6)

Actress

A native of Huizhou, Guangdong, Pak was born in Guangzhou with the original name Chan Yuk-ping. She also had the nickname 'Sister Bin'. With a strong interest in films since adolescence, she joined Guolian Film Company in Guangzhou in 1936 and acted in *Twin Lotus*, which did not materialise due to lack of funds. She came to Hong Kong in 1937 upon the invitation of director Chan Tin and made her screen debut with *The Magnificent Country*. She rose to fame with *Shanghai under Fire* (1938) a year later and had starred in countless films ever since, including *The Magnificent Ones* (1938), *Encounter with the Gods* (1940) and *Madam Butterfly* (1940), thereby becoming a major film actress of pre-war Hong Kong.

When Hong Kong fell to the Japanese, she returned to Guangzhou and later fled to Guangzhouwan, Guilin and Macao. She came back to Hong Kong after the war, starring in Hong Kong's first post-war Cantonese title, *My Love Comes Too Late* (1947). Pak Yin had acted in over 200 Cantonese features in the 1950s and 60s. Her prominent works include *Crime Doesn't Pay* (1949), *The Prodigal Son* (1952), *Spring* (1953), *A Son is Born* (1953), *It was a Cold Winter Night* (1955), *The Orphan* (1960), *The Night of Spirit Returns* (1962) and *A Woman in Hong Kong* (1964). She retired in 1964 after completing *The Mad Woman*. *The Lost Pearl* (1965) was her one and only Mandarin film.

She established The Union Film Enterprise Ltd with some other like-minded filmmakers in 1952, serving initially as vice president and later as president in 1961. Pak also co-founded Shan Luen Motion Picture Co with Cheung Wood-yau and Ng Wui, which produced celebrated works such as *Madam Wan* (1954) and *The Great Devotion* (1960). She released her autobiographies *An Actress's Own Story* in 1955 and *The Magnificent Youth* in 1956. Pak passed away on 6 May 1987 in Hong Kong.