



## Roy CHIAO 喬宏 (1927–1999.4.16)

### Actor

A native of Linfen, Shanxi, Chiao studied in Chongqing and Shanghai. He went to Taiwan during the Korean War and worked as a radio broadcaster and interpreter for the US Army before becoming an actor. He travelled to Japan in 1955 and met the famous actress, Bai Guang who had plans of returning to Hong Kong and investing in her own films. She asked Chiao to come along and cast him in *Fresh Peony* (1956), the inaugural production of Bai's Guoguang Film Company and the debut work of Chiao. Before Bai's retirement in 1957, she recommended Chiao to Motion Picture and General Investment Co Ltd ([MP & GI], later restructured into Cathay Organisation [HK] [1965] Ltd). With an athletic physique, he soon became one of the major actors of the company and starred in many well-received features such as *Spring Song* (1959), *Air Hostess* (1959), *The Iron Fist* (1960), *You Were Meant For Me* (1961), *Ladies First* (1962), *A Debt of Blood* (1966) and *Escort over Tiger Hills* (1969). Chiao was well versed in many languages and dialects, including English, Japanese, Korean, Mandarin, Cantonese, Shanghainese and Amoy dialect, thus was invited to participate in *Ferry to Hong Kong* (1959), a foreign language film produced by The Rank Organisation.

Chiao left Cathay in 1970 and acted in *The Arch* (1970) directed by Tang Shu-shuen and *Follow the Star* (1978) directed by John Woo. He also acted in *A Touch of Zen* (in two parts, 1970), *The Fate of Lee Khan* (1973) and *The Valiant Ones* (1975) directed by King Hu. He became actively involved in television dramas after 1980. A devoted Christian, he enthusiastically took part in missionary work after migrating to Seattle, US in 1994 with his wife and made only occasional appearances in films since then. In 1996, Chiao won Best Actor at the 15th Hong Kong Film Awards and at the 1st Golden Bauhinia Awards with Ann Hui's *Summer Snow* (1995). He died of a heart attack in Seattle on 16 April 1999 at the age of 72. His last work was the gospel film *Sometimes, Miracles Do Happen* (1999) was made to promote Christianity.