



BAI Yun 白雲 (1918–1982.8.27)

Actor, Director, Screenwriter

Born in Honolulu with the birth name Yang Weihan, Bai was also professionally known as Law Hon. He later moved to Singapore before travelling on to Hong Kong. He entered the film industry by the recommendation of actress Yiu Ping. In 1939, he made his film debut *Love Burns*, a Zhengyi Film Company production. In the same period, he also appeared in Grandview Film Company Limited's *Stage Romance* and Nanyue Film Company's *Eighth Heaven*, etc. In 1938, his talent was recognised by Zhang Shankun, who arranged him to Shanghai to further his career; but he was headhunted by Guohua Film Company instead and performed with Zhou Manhua in *The New Hell* (1939) and *Merry Prince* (1940), etc. He also co-starred with Zhou Xuan in *The West Chamber* (1940) and *Young Propagandists* (1941). Bai was quite the sensation in 1940s Shanghai, especially with female audiences.

After the War of Resistance against Japan, Bai arrived in Hong Kong, acting in Mandarin, Cantonese and Amoy-dialect films. He had performed in such Mandarin films as *Peach Blossoms Still Titter in the Spring Breeze* (1947), *Harmony Reigns* (1948) (both produced by Lianyi Film Company), *The Kung Fu Couple* (1949) (produced by Shuanglong Film Company), and *Heavenly Souls* (co-produced by Grandview Film Company Limited and Great Wall Pictures Corporation, 1949), Hong Kong's first Mandarin-language film shot in colour. As for Cantonese films, he co-starred with Lee Lan in *Everything Goes My Way* in 1948, a film directed by Chow Sze-luk; he also co-starred with Pak Yin in *A Reborn Romantic* (1948) and *Rouge Manor* (Part 1 & 2, 1948). In 1948, he appeared in Hong Kong's first Amoy-dialect film *A Belated Encounter* (1948). Bai later wrote and directed the Amoy-dialect box office smash *Tang Bohu's Seduction of Qiuxiang* (1952), and consecutively starred in over 20 Amoy-dialect films such as *The Oil Vendor Wins a Pretty Bride* (1951), *Second Woman* (1952), *Sing-song Girl Yu Tang Chun* (1953), *A Girl in love* (1959) and *Lotus Pan* (1963). In addition to his film *Tang Bohu's Seduction of Qiuxiang*, Bai Yun also wrote, directed and performed in other films such as *Night Rains at Xiaoxiang* (1953), *Snaky Beauties* (Part 1 & 2, 1954) and *Southeast the Peacock Flies* (1955), etc. In the 1950s, he starred in over 30 Mandarin and Cantonese films, including *The Flower Drops by the Red Chamber* (co-starring Fong Yim-fun), *Death is Welcome When Life is Dreary* (co-starring Pak Yin), *A Wolf in the Girl's Fold* (co-starring Hung Sin Nui), *A Brave Heroine Called Rouge Tigress* (co-starring Yu So-chow), and *Don't Tell My Husband* (co-starring Ouyang Shafei).

In the 1960s, Bai appeared in *The Amorous Lotus Pan* (1964) by Shaw Brothers (Hong Kong) Ltd. He settled in Taiwan in 1965. In that time, apart from playing in *Woman Guard* (1968), he was assistant director on Pai Ching-Jui's *Lonely Seventeen* (1967). He had starred in over a hundred films in his entire career. He made his exit from the film industry in the 1970s and tried his hand at business, but things did not work out. On 27 August 1982, Bai committed suicide in Taiwan. Actress 'Pearl of the Orient' (alias Dong Fang Ming Zhu) is his younger sister while the famous Peking opera actress, Yan Huizhu, is his second wife.
