



## BUT Fu 畢虎

### Director, Screenwriter, Producer

As early as 1934, But Fu had starred in *Bible for Girls* (1934), produced by Star Motion Picture Co., Ltd in Shanghai. But came to Hong Kong before the city's fall to the Japanese, where he directed his debut film *One Hundred Thousand Children's Corpses* (1940). He later went on to direct a number of Cantonese *wenyi* films for Nanyang Film Company, such as *The Woman of My Dream* (1941) and *The Phoenix Marries a Crow* (1941), etc.

After China's victory over Japan in WWII, But directed such films as *The Spy Lovers in the Dangerous City* (1947) and *The Inscrutable Heart of Women* (1947). In 1947, overseas Chinese entrepreneurs from the Philippines, Esteban Ngo and Dai Youmin, arrived in Hong Kong to establish Hsin Kuang Film Company. Together they raised the funds needed to produce *A Belated Encounter* (1948), a Hong Kong Amoy-dialect film directed by But and starring Bai Yun and Lou Hung. In the same year, he went on to direct the Cantonese production *Warmth of Home* (1948) and its Amoy-dialect version, *The Air is Cleared* (1948), marking the release of the first Amoy-dialect film in Hong Kong. From 1949 to 1951, But primarily directed Cantonese films, such as *A Royal Scandal* (aka *Tan Kei in the Meat Hill*, 1949), *The Conquest* (aka *Sex to Kill the Devil*, 1949), *The Impenetrable Pipa Spirit on Fire* (1950), and *A White Python Usurps the Dragon's Palace* (1950). From 1952 onwards, with the increase of popularity of Amoy-dialect films among the audience, But started to focus on shooting such films as *The Story of Chen San and Fifth Madam* (1952), *Liang Shanbo and Zhu Yingtai* (aka *Butterfly Lovers*, 1952) and *Luoyang Bridge* (1952), etc. Later he formed his own eponymous company, producing such Amoy-dialect films as *The Beautiful Vegetable Grower* (1954), *Flower Terrace* (1956), *All Mixed Up* (1956), *Fairy and Man* (1957), *An Embroidered Shoe* (1958), and *The Teenager* (1960), all were directed by him. In the meantime, he also directed Amoy-dialect films for other companies. Most of the Amoy-dialect films he directed starred sisters Lou Fen and Lou Hung, as well as Pai Lan in leading roles. Furthermore, But also directed the Amoy-dialect film *Love Deep as the Sea* (1954) produced in Malaya, and the Taiwanese-dialect film from Taiwan, *Waiting For a Better Day* (1957).

From the late 1960s to early 1970s, But directed *Golden Sand* (1969) and *Families Are Impossible* (1971) in Taiwan. He went on to set up another company, But Fu (HK) Motion Picture Co., producing his directorial works including *Black and White Umbrellas* (1971) and *Tigers at Top* (1975). He later immigrated to the US with his family. But directed over 70 films throughout his career, in which more than 20 were Amoy-dialect films. His wife is Amoy film star Lou Fen.