



CHAN Cheuk-sang 陳焯生 (1922.9.18–2017.9.15)

Production Manager, Producer, Director

Born in Xinhui, Guangdong Province, Chan Cheuk-sang came to Hong Kong with his family at the age of eight. In 1941 when Hong Kong fell to the Japanese, he went to Vietnam to teach at primary schools. He returned to Hong Kong in 1947. His brother arranged for him to work in for The World Theatre, where he followed his boss Cheung Man-kuen to learn the fundamentals of filmmaking. Chan later opened in Wanchai the eatery United Soda Fountain, which later would become the name of his film company and its major source of funds. In 1950, he founded his first production company Ngai Sing Film Company, and undertook to produce two Cantonese features, *As You Desire* (1952) and *Romance from Heaven* (1952), financed by theatre chains. Later he set up The United Film Co. and started producing Cantonese films, including *Radiant Love* (1952), *Joyous Reunion* (1952), *The Voyage of the Dead* (1954), *The Headless Empress Bears a Son* (Part 1 & 2, 1957), etc.

In 1959, Chan took up the directorial reins; his debut films as director were 'sister films' *How Red Kid Rescued His Mother from the Crystal Palace* and *How Princess Iron Fan Burned Down the Heaven Gate*. Titles produced by United Film were mostly musical films with *luogu* (gong and drum). Chan was known most notably for his series of average Joe comedies written by Szeto On and played by Sun Ma Si-tsang, such as *Wrong Number* (1963), *Master of All* (1964), *Making a Living in a Blind Way* (1967), and *Sun Ma Tsai Scores* (1969). He also co-directed with Yeung Kung-leong on *How Chung Mo-yim Conquered the West* (1962), starring actress Yu So-chow who demonstrated a great deal of Northern style *gongjia* (feats). His wife, Wong May-yee, was production manager and producer on numerous United Film productions. The couple were work partners and managed their film business together.

By 1971 when Cantonese cinema came to a standstill, *Super Boxer*, the last Cantonese film released in the city, was also a United Film production. Apart from shooting and producing movies, he also dabbled in 'second round' film distribution. Throughout his career, Chan had produced and distributed over 200 films. In 1974, Chan immigrated with his family to the US and carved out a second career as an acupuncturist. He passed away on 15 September 2017.
