



## CHAN Yik-ching 陳翼青 (1907.3.19–1987.4.5)

### Director, Screenwriter

Born Chan Yuk-shue, Chan Yik-ching was born in Yangzhou, Jiangsu but grew up in Shanghai. In 1933, Chan and Yeung Kung-leong co-directed their debut feature *Blood of Brother*, which was scripted by Chan's elder brother, Chen Chi-ching. In 1935, thanks to a referral from director Yang Xiaozhong, Chan joined the Shanghai Hsin Hwa Motion Picture Company as an assistant director. He left the company briefly in 1937 to make wartime documentary films. Upon his return to Hsin Hwa, he directed many acclaimed films, including *Bloody Tears in the Dancing Hall* (1938), *Three Swordsmen* (1939). Besides director, Chan also took on the duties of unit manager and production manager, making him a great asset to Hsin Hwa founder, Zhang Shankun.

In 1950, Chan left Shanghai for Hong Kong and later directed many Mandarin language films, including *A Girl in Green* (1951), and *The Closer, the Better* (co-directed with Tu Guangqi, 1952), *A Moment of Bliss* (1952), *The Return of Spring* (1954), and *An Unwanted Love* (co-directed with Tu Guangqi, 1956). Chan began directing Amoy-dialect films in the mid-1950s, helming more than 50 pictures. His first Amoy-dialect film debut was *The Sisters-in-Law Tower in Quanzhou* (1956), produced by Qiaoyou Film Company. He was later recruited by Yicheng Film Company as its chief director, directing some ten productions including *The Mysterious Case of Qing Zhu Si* (1956), *The Cruel Grandma* (1957), and *A Great Statesman Feigns Failure* (1957). In the same period, he also directed movies under the banners of Qiaoyou, Qiaolian Film Company, Golden City Film Company and Minsheng Film Company, etc. In 1959, during his most prolific period, Chan directed a total of 19 Amoy films. He also co-directed over 20 Amoy-dialect films with Chen Lie. Among them: *Peach Blossom Village* (1957), *The Changeable Girl* (1957), *A Mother's Heart* (1958), *Songs of the Peach Blossom River, the Sequel* (1960) were co-written by him and Chen.

Chan also directed a number of Chaozhou-dialect films, including *Master Feng Mourns Yuerong* (1958), one of the earliest Chaozhou-dialect productions in the history of Hong Kong cinema. With the growing popularity of Chaozhou opera films, Chan went on to direct *The Innocent* (1960), *Unchanged Hearts* (1961), *Wife on Loan* (1961), *Princess Chang Ping* (1961), *Two Annulled Marriages* (1962), *The Oil Vendor Wins the Top Courtesan's Heart* (1962) and *Story of the White Fan* (1962). Most of them were Bian Sing Motion Picture Co and Tung Shan Film Co. productions. In 1963, Chan only directed one film, *A Troubled Romance* for Chinese Arts M.P. Co. before making a gradual exit from the Chaozhou-dialect cinema. Chan directed over ninety films over the course of his career, in which over 80 were made in Hong Kong. Among them, around ten were Mandarin films, fifty were Amoy-dialect films and twenty were Chaozhou-dialect films. It is no surprise that Chan is considered one of the most prolific directors in the Hong Kong cinema. When Chaozhou-dialect films fell into decline, he joined the Shaw Brothers (Hong Kong) Ltd, working as chief unit manager until his retirement in the mid-1970s. Chan passed away in Hong Kong on 5 April 1987.