



CHEN Huanwen 陳煥文

Director

A native of Chaozhou, Guangdong, Chen entered the Shanghai film industry by the 1930s. Starting out as a unit manager, Chen later served as assistant director for the Mandarin picture, *Qin Xianglian* (1940), helmed by Wen Yimin. He went on to direct such Mandarin films, *Three Charming Smiles Part 2* (1940) and *Robber in Black* (1941), for Yi Hwa Film Company. After the war, Chen moved to Hong Kong and continued to work in the film industry, assisting in music and production, but most often as an actor in such Mandarin productions as *Three Females* (1947), *New Arabian Nights* (1947) and *Harmony Reigns* (1948). In 1948, Chen returned to the director's chair with the Cantonese productions *The Vagabond Master Part 2* and *Part 4*. In the following year, he co-directed the Mandarin feature *The Kung Fu Couple* (1949) with Wang Yuen-lung. Afterwards, Chen focused exclusively on directing with such Cantonese film credits as *The Hero Becomes a Prisoner of Love* (1950), *The Magical Flying Swordsman* (1951) and *The Tiger's Den* (1951), as well as many Mandarin film credits such as *Gambling and Drinking* (1952), *Marriage Escape* (1953) and *Miss Millionaire* (1953).

From the mid-1950s onwards, Chen began directing Amoy and Chaozhou-dialect films. In 1954, Xinguang Film Company renamed itself Yi Zhong Film Company and hired Chen to direct the big-budgeted Amoy production, *The Romance of Lychee and Mirror* (Part 1-3, 1953-54). Chen subsequently directed over 20 Amoy-dialect films, including *The Story of Third Madam Li* (1955), *Romance of Western Chamber* (1956), *Third Madam Teaches Her Son* (1956) and *Tragedy by a Canal* (1956). He was later invited by the Taiwanese Changjiang Film and Theatre Company to direct the Taiwanese-dialect films *Belle of the Treasure Island* (1958) and *Doctor and Nurse* (1960).

During the same period, Chen directed Hong Kong's first Chaozhou-dialect film for Tuojiang Film Company, *The Story of Wang Jinlong* (1955). His next Chaozhou-dialect film was *A Smile for a Smile* (1958), a Longhua Film Company production. By 1960, thanks to the increasing market demand, Chen began to direct more Chaozhou-dialect films, including *The Stepmother* (1960), *A Wronged Daughter-in-Law* (produced by Tor Ying, 1960), *The Selfless Woman General* (1961), *The Story of Lin Guilan* (1961), *Romance of the Iron Bow* (1961) and *A Maid in Mourning* (1961). Chen's contributions spanned a remarkable cross-section of Chinese-language films, including films in Mandarin, Cantonese, Amoy-dialect and Chaozhou-dialect, leaving behind a rich Hong Kong cinematic legacy.
