



CHEN Lie 陳列

Actor, Director, Screenwriter, Production Manager

In his early career, Chen Lie was a theatre actor in Xiamen, taking part in plays such as *Sunrise, It's Only Spring, The Opium War, and Overseas Martyrs*. As early as 1953, he appeared in *The Romance of Lychee and Mirror, Part One*, which led to a series of film contracts in the coming decade. In total, he starred in over 90 pictures in the Amoy dialect, establishing him as one of the most important supporting actors in Amoy-dialect cinema. Partly due to his physical attributes, Chen was mostly limited to playing crafty, snobbish villains, such as the rascally Liu Chang in *An Orphan's Tears* (1957) and the petty director Chen Wenhai in *Songs of the Peach Blossom River, the Sequel* (1960).

Apart from his frequent appearances onscreen, Chen was also active behind the scenes. The first film in which he was assistant director was *The Cowboy and the Spinning Girl* (1955), directed by Chow Sze-luk. Then, in 1957, he served once again as assistant director for *The Cruel Grandma*, directed by Chan Yik-ching, marking the beginning of a series of collaborations between the two filmmakers, which would continue for over 20 pictures. Among them, *Peach Blossom Village* (1957), *The Changeable Girl* (1958), *A Mother's Heart* (1958), *Songs of the Peach Blossom River, the Sequel* were co-written by him and Chan Yik-ching. Chen was also Production Manager for *The Driver Takes a Wife* (aka *Phony Phoenixes*, 1959).

In 1959, Shaw Brothers (Hong Kong) Ltd. established a unit focusing on Amoy-dialect films, and Chen Lie was hired as Chief Planning Consultant. During this period, the studio produced and released *Wong Koo Liu Koo* (aka *Brother Wang and Brother Liu*, 1959), *The Fatherless Girl* (1959), *Girl From Amoy* (1959), *Terror in the Dark* (1960), *Always in My Heart* (1960), *Agent No. 33* (1961), *Returning to Hong Kong to Marry* (1961), in which he also starred. After the decline of Amoy-dialect cinema, Chen Lie was production manager on *The Rainbow* (1968) for Shaw Brothers. Subsequently, starting from *The Sinful Adulteress* in 1974, he served as either production manager or executive production manager in over 60 Shaw Brothers productions, most of which were directed by Chor Yuen and Chang Cheh.