



## CHENG Shun-ying 鄭純英 (b. 1943.11.12)

### Actress

A native of Chaoyang, Guangdong, Cheng Shun-ying began her training in Chaozhou opera in the Mainland when she was around 13 and 14 years old. She participated in amateur troupe performances with her hometown fellows, in musical period classic *A Fisherman Kills a Family*, the modern *Female Spy Jiang Xiu-qing* and in propaganda plays about the land reform policy. She moved to Hong Kong in 1958 and joined Xintiancai Chaozhou Opera Troupe as a *dan* (female role) actress, performing alongside Chan Chor-wai and Fong Hau-yuk. In the beginning, Cheng performed mainly in 'Operas for Deities'. She also worked as a Chaozhou-dialect voice-dubbing singer for dozens of Cantonese and the Amoy-dialect productions. In 1961, Cheng began acting in Chaozhou-dialect films with her debut in *The Selfless Woman General*, a work of Xintiancai, before moving on to work with other collaborators. Her most prolific partnership was with Tung Shan Film Co., where she was featured in such films as *Birthday Ceremony* (1961), *Story of the Jade Lion* (1962) and *A Troubled Romance* (1963). She was also featured in the Zhongyi Film Company production, *Romance of the Iron Bow* (1961), the Eng Wah & Company production, *The Nun's Story* (1962) and the Shaw Brothers (Hong Kong) Ltd production, *The Perfumed Ball* (aka *Twin Charms*, 1963).

Cheng performed in over 20 Chaozhou-dialect films over the span of her film career. Her many supporting roles were often an integral part of the narrative within the films. For example, she played the maid Yinghsin in *The Butterfly Lovers* (aka *Leung San Par Chok Ying Toi*, 1963), the fairy Lingzhi in *The Precious Lotus Lamp* (1963) and Hongniang in *Romance of the West Chamber* (1964). In 1964, after acting in *Romantic Autumn* (1964) and *An Expected Fortune* (1965), two Ngai Yip Film Co productions, Cheng went on an eight-month tour with Fanny Ha, Chan Man-cheong and Chow Lok, performing in over 30 port cities across Thailand, Singapore and Malaysia. When Chaozhou film production fell into decline, Cheng became a businesswoman but still performed in Chaozhou operas from time to time. Prior to her retirement from the stage in the mid-1980s, she went on a tour in Singapore with Xintiancai and performed in Hong Kong with local Chaozhou opera troupes such as Zhongyuenhe and Lesheng. At one time, Cheng was married to the son of Yu Pui-kei, the owner of Thailand's Tor Ying Film Co. Cheng now resides in Hong Kong.