



## CHEUNG Wai-kwong 蔣偉光 (1910.7.11–1991.5.2)

### Director

Birth name Chang Tze-kay, Cheung Wai-kwong was born to father Cheung Sau-san, a Chinese expat in Cuba of Xinhui Meige, Guangdong ancestry. Cheung studied at Guangzhou's Lingnan University for a period of time. Prior to joining the film industry, he wrote scripts for Cantonese opera troupes. While stranded in the US during WWII, Cheung met Joseph Sunn (aka Chiu Shu-sun), the founder of the Grandview Film Company Limited. Cheung was later hired to direct several films for the Grandview (U.S. Branch), including *The Perfect Couple* (1947), *Eternal Love* (1947) and *Way to Brightness* (1946), with the latter credited under his birth name.

A prolific director, Cheung directed over 160 films over the course of his career. In 1951, he joined the Tai Seng Film Company that would result in a long-term partnership, and directed such films as *Tears for an Absent Love* (1953), *If Only We'd Met When I Was Single* (1955) and *A Buddhist Recluse for Fourteen Years* (1958). In 1956, Cheung left Tai Seng to start his own studio, the Chung Kwong Motion Picture Co., and directed a series of Cantonese opera films such as *The Fairy in the Picture* (1957) and *A Poor Girl* (1959). He also directed *A Respectable Tutor* (1959) and *The Lion's Roar* (1959) for Tao Yuen Motion Picture Development Company. In 1961, Cheung was recruited by the Cantonese Film Unit of the Shaw Brothers (Hong Kong) Ltd, and directed *Manhunt* (1961) and *The Robe* (1962) among others. His expansive filmography encompassed a wide range of genres besides Cantonese opera films, including family melodrama *Do unto Others as They Do unto You* (1954), social satirical teen drama *Teddy Boys and Teddy Girls* (1965), spy film *The Powerful Spies* (1965), *wenyi* romance *The Rebellion* (1966), youth musical *I Love A-go-go* (1967), etc. However, the director was best-known for his box-office hit comedies like *She Says 'No' to Marriage* (1951) and *Sweet Time Together* (1956). His success at the box office earned him the nickname, 'God of Fortune Director'. A staunch supporter of innovation, Cheung was also keen on fostering new talents. Actors Kong Yat-fan, Woo Fung and Adam Cheng have all been sponsored or endorsed by Cheung.

Cheung had three wives: Wong Po-kam, Mak Pan-hing and Cho Lai-ching. Wong was a Cantonese opera actress playing *huadan* (young female) roles and mother to Cheung's only son, Wan-sang. Mak was also a renowned *huadan*. She used the alias Mak Kar-chen when working as a production manager for *The Tragedy of a Double Marriage* (1954) directed by her husband, before adopting the name 'Mak Hing' when she served as the producer of two Chung Kwong productions, *A Mad Rush into Love* (1968) and *Boys and Girls* (1969). From the late 1960s to the early 1970s, Cantonese cinema experienced a downturn. Cheung retired from the film industry after directing the Mandarin film *Model's Romance* (1971). He immigrated to Canada in the early 1980s. He passed away of illness in Vancouver on 2 May 1991.