



CHONG Sit Fong 莊雪芳 (b. 1932)

Actress, Producer

Born in Singapore (then part of Malaya), Chong Sit Fong has ancestral roots in Jinjiang, Fujian province of the Mainland. Having learned singing and dancing since she was little, Chong made her professional stage debut at age 14, quickly showing her varied talent as a singer, dancer and actor. By 16, she had already formed her own troupe, White Snow Performing Troupe, thereby rising to fame as the 'Fairy from the Nation of Songs'. At the age of 21, she founded the 30-strong Chong Sit Fong's Travelling Musical Theatre Troupe, touring her team around Southeast Asia. Their 1956 performance in the Philippines took the local Chinese community by storm.

In 1957, Chong came to Hong Kong to act in films, starting with a guest appearance in the Mandarin picture *The Lady of Mystery* (1957) produced by the Shaw & Sons Ltd. It was followed by the title role for Amoy-dialect film *The Wandering Songstress* (1958), which took her to Taiwan where she performed on stage. Her popularity soared with her turn in *Marry into Your Own Class* (1958), a co-production of Hua Xia Film Company and Eng Wah & Company (Singapore). She went on to take part in *Hot Lady* (1958), *Longing for Husband's Return* (aka *Waiting for My Lover's Return*, 1958), *Shrews from Afar* (1958), *Nana* (aka *The Shrew and the Blockhead*, 1959), to name a few, winning immense fame as the 'Queen of Amoy-dialect Films'.

In 1958, her self-financed Chong's Film Company released its inaugural Amoy-dialect film, *Blooming Age*, then followed by *Beauty and the Beasts* (1959), *Breaking the Vinegar Jar* (1959) and *Loving Pairs* (aka *In Love with the Brother-in-Law*, 1959). In 1960, she brought *Loving Pairs* to Taiwan to greet the audience in person; she also took the chance to study Peking opera. In 1962, she starred in *Romance at Lung Shan Temple* financed by the Singaporean-Chinese community. After that she went on a 17-month tour to Southeast Asia, performing songs in Mandarin, English, Thai, Amoy dialect, Cantonese and Malay. While she was in Thailand, Chong also starred in the Thai film *The Moonlight* (1964). She then took a break from the screen until she visited Taiwan again in 1969, for her turn in the Mandarin films, *Swordsman with an Umbrella* (1972) and *Five Beautiful Witches* (1973). Throughout her career, she has appeared in more than 30 Mandarin and Amoy-dialect films.

Chong made her exit from film after marriage and settled down in Singapore. After her retirement, she often performs for charity as part of her efforts to contribute to society.