



CHOW Lok 周樂 (1935.9.5–2017)

Actor

Born Chow Fong-fai, Chow Lok was a native of Chaoyang, Guangdong. He graduated from Shantou Overseas Middle School, and was schoolmate of Chong Suet-kuen who later became the renowned Chaozhou opera actress. They frequently performed singing and Chaozhou opera together. He moved to Hong Kong in 1957, and joined Dongshan Chaozhou Music Company on the recommendation of Chong.

In 1961, he adopted his screen name Mo Xie (alias Mu Chi) and debuted in the Chaozhou-dialect film *Sixth Madam Su* (aka *So Luk Neung*, performed by Dongshan), playing the lead role Guo Jichun. Later he switched to the roles of *laodan* (old female), and cross-dressed as Madam Liu in *A Pair of Carved Jade, Part II* (1961); in *Birthday Ceremony* (1961), he played Madam Guo under his another screen name, Chow Lok. Since then he impersonated female roles in most of his screen appearances; his portrayals of matchmaker and wicked woman were impressively brilliant in such works as *The Story of Splashed Water* (1962) and *The Huntsman's Tale* (1962). Self-taught as an operatic artist through mimicry, Chow built a successful career as a comic actor in Chaozhou opera. He was keen on mimicking Poon Yat On and Tam Lan-hing; his acting bore much resemblance to the much respected Cantonese opera artists.

Titles by other film companies include: *A Wronged Woman Who Shakes the Heavens* (1963) by Ling Tung Film Co, and *An Expected Fortune* (1965) by Fanny Ha's film company, Ngai Yip Film Co, etc. With a dozen of Chaozhou-dialect movies, he built a solid film career. In 1964, he toured to the Southeast Asian regions to perform with artists like Fanny Ha and Chan Man-cheong. He was seen active in various Chaozhou opera troupes such as Xintiancai, Xintianyi, Hon Kwong, Shengyi, Tuojiang and Sanzhengshun. He retired in 1982 and passed away in Hong Kong in 2017.
