



Chaplin CHANG 張鵬 (1927.5.25–2020.7.29)

Actor, Production Manager, Assistant Director

Born and raised in Xiamen's Kulangsu with the original name Chang Ching-peng, Chang was in secondary school when the Pacific War broke out. He later joined the navy and was sent to the UK for training. After training, Chang came to Hong Kong with a navy ship in 1949 and settled in the city. In the early 1950s, he joined the Amoy-dialect broadcast service of Voice of America (VOA). Chang worked with people including Lou Fen who was involved in making Amoy-dialect films, and had the opportunity to make Amoy-dialect films as an amateur. Subsequently, his talent was recognised by Ku Wen-chung. In 1958, Chang was cast and sang in *Blooming Age* (1958) directed by Ku, and officially became an actor in Amoy-dialect films. He then starred in films including *Wang Sanfu Sets Fire on the House* (1959) and *Breaking the Vinegar Jar* (1959). Chang was invited to join the Shaw Brothers (Hong Kong) Ltd as the film company started producing Amoy-dialect films. He starred in a number of Amoy-dialect films including *The Fatherless Girl* (1959), *Girl from Amoy* (1959), *Songs of the Peach Blossom River, the Sequel* (1960), *Always in My Heart* (1960), and *Returning to Hong Kong to Marry* (1961).

During the preproduction of the British film *Ferry to Hong Kong* (1958) in Hong Kong, Chang was cast in the film by sheer coincidence. This marked Chang's first involvement in a Western film production. With his fluency in English, Chang was invited to join Salon Films (Hong Kong) Limited and became an assistant director for *Lord Jim* (1965). He was later involved in the making of *Magic Stone*, a documentary about Hong Kong. Chang worked at Civil Air Transport during the mid-1960s. He founded Variety Films International in 1968 and became committed to filmmaking. Chang forged close relationships with the foreign film industry and served in positions including assistant director and production manager for many Chinese and foreign films including *The Man with the Golden Gun* (1974), *Yellow-Faced Tiger* (1974), *Emmanuelle II* (1975), and *Revenge of the Pink Panther* (1978). He was also an actor in some of the films.

During his tenure at VOA, Chang was already acquainted with King Hu who worked for the Mandarin broadcast service. When Hu founded King Hu Film Productions in the early 1970s, Chang helped Hu in filming *The Fate of Lee Khan* (1973) and *The Valiant Ones* (1975). During the period, Chang was invited by Raymond Chow to be the production manager of *The Way of the Dragon* (1972) which was shot in Italy. In the following year, Chang served as the assistant director of *Enter the Dragon* (1973).

While filming *The Way of the Dragon*, Chang travelled to Florence and Pisa with Bruce Lee, the film's leading actor. The photos taken during the trip were compiled into the book *Bruce and I in Italy: A Roll of Forgotten Film* in 1999. He was also the assistant producer of the documentary *Death by Misadventure: the Mysterious Life of Bruce Lee* (1993), and published *The Bruce Lee They Knew* (co-authored with Roger Lo). Chang passed away on 29 July 2020.
