



CHOW Sze-luk 周詩祿 (1907–1964.9.7)

Director, Producer, Cinematographer

A native of Guangdong, Chow was an apprentice for Runje Shaw's Unique Film Productions in early years. He shot a number of films and worked as the second cinematographer for Unique's first sound production, *Pleasures of the Dance Hall* (1931). His first solo work as a cinematographer was *Between Themselves* (1931). By 1941, he had made a number of films, such as *Yunlan the Girl* (1932) and *Drifting* (1933) for Unique in both Shanghai and Hong Kong (which later changed its name to Nanyang). Around 1947 Chow directed his first film *Joy and Success* (1948). In the following nine years, he directed over 70 films for Hong Kong companies such as Qinghua, Wanfang and Longfeng. Some of his excellent works during this time included Cantonese opera films *Two Opium Addicts Sweep a Long Dyke* (1948), *A Buddhist Recluse for Fourteen Years* (1953), *The Mad Monk by the Sea* (1953) and *Nocturnal Mourning for White Lotus* (1956), as well as comedies *The Great Idler* (1950), *A Star of Mischief Is Born* (1950), *The Con Men* (1951) and *The Ghostly Wife* (1953).

Chow headed the Cantonese film production unit of Shaw & Sons Ltd since 1957 and produced over 50 titles during his term of service, including *When Durians Bloom* (1959), *A Helping Hand* (1960) and *Duel in Black Dragon Street* (1961). Among these films, Chow directed more than 20 of them himself, such as *A Virtuous Girl from a Humble Household* (1958), *Sweet Girl in Terror* (1958), *The Foolish Heart* (Part 1 & 2, 1960) and *The Mother* (1961). He nurtured many talents, including scriptwriters and directors Lung Kong and Ng Dan, actors Cheung Ying-choi, Patricia Lam Fung, Pearl Au Kar-wai, Mak Kay and Lui Kay, etc. He also directed Mandarin films for Shaws, such as *Colorful Tokyo* (1956), *The Dances of Charm* (1957), *The Vengeance of the Vampire* (1959) and *Stepmother* (1963), as well as Amoy-dialect films like *Lian San Pak Chok Yin Tai* (aka *The Butterfly Lovers*, 1955) and Chaozhou-dialect films like *Twin Charms* (1963). Chow passed away of liver cancer on 7 September 1964 after completing the Mandarin film *The Female Prince* (1964). He directed around 120 films throughout his career.