



Connie CHAN Po-chu 陳寶珠 (b. 1947)

Actress

Born Ho Pui-kan, Connie Chan Po-chu is a native of Xinhui, Guangdong province and was born in Guangzhou. She was adopted by Cantonese opera singers Chan Fei-nung and Kung Fan-hung at age four, and her name was later changed to Chan Po-chu. At a young age, Chan apprenticed under Peking opera master Fen Ju Hua, learning the northern style of operatic and martial arts. In 1953, Chan partnered with Leung Bo-chu, the daughter of Leung Sing-por, to perform Cantonese operas. She also became a student of Yam Kim-fai in 1960, furthering her skills in *wenwusheng* (civil and military male) roles. She made her screen debut with the Cantonese film *Madam Chun Heung-lin* in 1958, and later appeared in the Mandarin films *For Better.....For Worse* (1959) and *The Scout Master* (1959) produced by Motion Picture & General Investment Co. Ltd. (MP & GI). After starring with Yam Kim-fai in *The Unroyal Prince* in 1960, Chan became active in Cantonese films, appearing in male roles in operatic and *wuxia* films. The notable works she acted in include *Red Dragon*, *The Strange Hero* and its sequels (all in 1960) and *The Furious Buddha's Palm* (1965). During that period, Chan was often paired up with Josephine Siao Fong-fong as a young chivalrous couple. Occasionally, Chan returned to female roles in films like *The Mighty Snow Sword (Parts One to Four, 1964)* and *A Brave Young Girl's Spirit (Parts One and Two, 1965)*.

Chan started to star in contemporary films after *You Do Me Wrong* in 1966, followed by a series of well-received youth-romance films such as *Movie Fans* and *Colourful Youth*, both in the same year, earning the nickname 'Movie-fan Princess'. She rose to prominence as a Cantonese film actress and starred in almost a hundred films from 1966 to 1970, including contemporary romance or musical such as *Golden Christmas Eve* (1967), *The Love of the Red Leaf* (1968), *Mary, I Love You* (1969), contemporary comedy *The Pregnant Maiden* (1968) as well as action films including *Lady Bond* (1966) and *The Wild Black Cat* (1966). Chan continued to star in *wuxia* films, appearing as male lead or chivalric heroine, with notable works including *Seven Princesses (Parts One and Two, 1967)* and *Paragon of Sword and Knife (Parts One and Two, 1967-1968)*. Chan also starred in Cantonese opera films including *Eternal Love* (1966) and *Love in the Red Chamber* (1968). At a time when Cantonese films made its transition to colour films, Chan became one of the most iconic stars of colour Cantonese film along with Josephine Siao who also rose to stardom. For the films she starred in including *Lady Bond* and *Colourful Youth*, Chan also sang the theme songs, all of which became smash hits. After appearing in *I Will Remember You Always* in 1970, she studied in the US. When Chan returned to Hong Kong in 1972 during her vacation, she starred in the Mandarin film *The Lizard* for the Shaw Brothers (Hong Kong) Ltd before stepping away from films.

Chan returned to the stage in 1999 and starred in the drama *A Sentimental Journey* written by Raymond To, followed by other stage works including *Red Boat* and *Only You*. Chan held several solo concerts and performed Cantonese operas, often in masterpieces from her teacher Yam Kim-fai's repertoire such as *Dream of the Red Chamber*, and *Butterfly and Red Pear Blossom*.
