



**DING Lan** 丁蘭 (b. 1938)

### Actress

Born Chen Yunlan, Ding Lan was a native of Jinjiang from the Fujian Province of China. She graduated from Hong Kong's Chung Ch'en College, and was fluent in Cantonese, the Amoy-dialect, Mandarin and English. After graduating from secondary school, she worked as an editor at a newspaper, before she began acting in Amoy-dialect films in 1956. Ding debuted professionally as Du Mei in *Ong Law Ho* (aka *Tiger Wang Snatches His Bride*), followed by *The Champion Beauty Falls for the Oil Vendor* and *Madam Zhou Cheng in Search of Her Husband* (all in 1956). After signing on with Yicheng Film Company, Ding was cast as a leading lady for the first time in *The Mysterious Case of Qing Zhu Si* (1956), she then followed with her star-making turn in the breakout hit, *Peach Blossom Village* (1957), after which Ding was nicknamed the 'Fujianese Marilyn Monroe'. Ding went on to establish Global Film Company in 1958, where she both produced and starred in such Amoy-dialect films as *Over Shoes over Boots* (1958), *The Frivolous Professor* (1959) and *Too Late to Realize* (1959). With the decline in Amoy cinema, Ding co-starred in the Cantonese film *Playful Young Folks* (1965) with Lam Fung and Woo Fung, while Cheung Wai-kwong directed the film. In 1966, she joined the ensemble cast of Taiwanese star Wang Mo-Chou and Korean actor Shin Young-kyun to make the Mandarin film *Eternity*. Ding married and retired from filmmaking in that same year.