



FONG Hon-chong 方漢粧 (b. 1938.3.29)

Actress

A native of Shantou, Guangdong, Fong apprenticed in the amateur theatre group of a retail association at the age of 16, learning the art of Chaozhou opera. Specialising in *huadan* (young female) roles, she performed in both the city and rural country areas, acting in such classics as *The Jade-bracelet* and *Emperor Taizu of Song*; she also acted in original modern plays like *Jiang Xiuqing* and *Women's Role Model*. In March of 1959, she came to Hong Kong and joined Xintiancai Chaozhou Opera Troupe, initially performing in operas at Yu Lan Festival. As Xintiancai set foot in movie productions, she adopted the artist name Fong Kwai and starred in *The Stepmother* (1960) and *The Selfless Woman General* (1961). She acted in nearly 40 Chaozhou-dialect titles under her original name, including *A Wronged Daughter-in-Law* (produced by Tor Ying, 1960), *Unchanged Hearts* (1961), *The Sit Family* (1962), and *Lady Warrior* (1962). Best remembered for playing anti-heroines, she was the wicked concubine in *Judge Bao's Encounter with the Deposed Empress* (aka *Black Judge*, 1961), the lustful nun in *Phoenix Ornament* (1961), the immoral Queen Lü in *Prince Lau Chiang* (1962), the malicious mother-in-law in *Unworldly Event* (1962), and the cruel stepmother in *Retrial* (1965). Her portrayals of docile female victims were equally convincing in *Justice and Revenge* (1962) and *The Incorruptible Official Dong Xuan* (1966).

Since 1966, Fong joined Xintiancai and Shengyi Chaozhou Opera Troupe to perform in Thailand and Singapore. In the 1990s, she performed in the US with Hong Kong Chor Hwee Teochew Opera Troupe. She has retired for years and now lives in Hong Kong.
