



## FUNG Wong Nui 鳳凰女 (1925.8.17–1992.12.1)

### Actress, TV Host

A native of Sanshui County, Guangdong Province with the real name Kwok Sui-ching, Fung attended the Jiefang Girls' Middle School in Guangzhou. Having cultivated a deep interest in Cantonese opera from an early age, she pursued a professional career from the age of 13 and had performed under the banner of Tai Ping Opera Troupe. She studied under the famous actress Tsi Lan Nui and began to play basic parts in plays, proceeding step-by-step to become a *huadan* (female lead). However, after her partnership with Sun Ma Si-tsang in *Lust is the Worst Vice*, She became known for her ability to play villainesses. She was so successful in such roles that she gained the title of 'Queen of Second *huadans*'.

Fung became the principal *huadan*, first for the Phoenix Cantonese Opera Group and later, and more memorably, for the Tai Lung Fung Troupe. In the latter, she began a successful and long-lasting partnership with Mak Bing-wing—the male lead. The partnership lasted until 1984, the year when Mak died and Fung decided to retire from the stage.

Fung's film debut was in *Monk in Love* (1950). She became a star with the success of *A Bachelor's Love Affair* in 1953. She also acted in *The Humiliated Rickshaw Puller* that same year. From 1950 to 1968, she appeared in more than 260 films, many of which were film adaptations of her famous opera plays, including *The Princess in Distress* (1962), *A Scholar in a Buddhist House* (1953), *Sweet Dreams* (1955), *Red Shoes Solves the Mystery Case* (1959), *Return From Battle for His Love* (1961), *Lady General Fa Muk-lan* (1961), and *Sister Yeung* (1963). Her last film appearance was *The Imperial Warrant* (1968).

While Fung maintained her interest in film acting, she was seen in TV series produced by Television Broadcasts Limited (TVB) in the 1970s, including *Bitter and Better Half* (1978) and *Police Woman* (1979). She also appeared as the star of her own show called *Ladies and Gentlemen, Miss Fung Wong Nui* (1975). She passed away in San Francisco in 1992.

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