



## Fanny HA 夏帆 (1933.11.20–2017.5.10)

### Actress, Producer

Born Chen Hwe-lan of Shantou, Guangdong ancestry, Fanny Ha moved to Hong Kong in 1949 and founded Tuojiang Film Company in 1955. She became the founder of Chaozhou-dialect cinema when the company produced *The Story of Wang Jinlong* (aka *Heng Kim Leng*, 1955) and cast her as the lead. In the following year, she produced and starred in *Lady with the Lute*, also produced by Tuojiang. In 1958, Ha starred in three Chaozhou-dialect films produced by Xinsheng Film Production Company—*The Scissors* (1958), *The Ill-Fated Flower* (the first contemporary Chaozhou-dialect film, 1958) and *Twin Jade Fish* (1958)—as well as *Story of the Jade Hairpin* (1959) for Jun Nam Film Co. in 1959.

In 1961, Ha formed Yifan Film Company. Its films included: *At the Wharf* (1961), in which she played a male character under the alias Chen Yanlang, *The Story of Lin Guilan* (1961) and *Di Qing Wrecks Havoc at the Manor of Ten Thousand Flowers* (1961). Founded by Ha in 1964, Ngai Yip Film Co then produced Chaozhou-dialect films *Romantic Autumn* (1964) and *An Expected Fortune* (1965). In 1965, Ha also appeared in *The Pig's Wedding* (1965) for Eng Wah & Company, playing monk Xuanzang. Over her long and distinguished career, Ha has travelled to Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Cambodia and other countries to perform. In addition to her acting and producing work, Ha also took vocal training under renowned composer Wang Fuling and nurtured northern school *gongjia* (feats) under master Fen Ju Hua. A consummate performer with many talents, ha was also trained to play *xiaosheng* (young civil male).

Ha was a legendary producer; in addition to her Chaozhou-dialect films, her Ngai Yip Film Co also began producing Cantonese films in the mid-1960s, including *Dragon and Tigress* (1964) and *Everlasting Love* (1964). In 1966, Ha founded Fung Yong Film Co., whose productions included *The Big Chase* (1966), *The Magic Bow* (1968) and *Bloody Handkerchief* (1969). Founded in 1976, Ha's Lai Wah Film Co. banner produced the Mandarin film *The Invincible Armour* in 1977.

In 1991, Ha formed another film company and co-produced *Dream Broken at the Ancient Town of Loulan* (1991) with China Film Co-Production Corporation. Ha also served as consultant on *Lord of East China Sea* (1993), *Lord of East China Sea II* (1993), *The Sword of Many Lovers* (1993) and *The Great Conqueror's Concubine, Part II* (1994), assisting with their location shoots in the Mainland. She was a philanthropist in her later years. Ha passed away in Hong Kong on 10 May 2017.