



George SHEN 沈鑒治 (1929–2019)

Production Manager, Screenwriter, Director

Born in Shanghai, Shen left for Hong Kong and studied at Diocesan Boys' School as the war with Japan escalated. He returned to Shanghai when Hong Kong was under Japanese occupation, and graduated at the St. John's University in 1949. He started his career in Hong Kong as an English secretary for a hardware trading firm.

Shen was an avid filmgoer during his time in Shanghai and Hong Kong, demonstrating his passion for the cinema. In 1953, he started writing film reviews for *The New Evening Post* under the pseudonym Zhao Zhiming. His mother, Tsar Teh-yun, was a *guqin* grandmaster; she was invited to play in the film score of *A Torn Lily* (1953) and *The Peerless Beauty* (1953). When Shen accompanied his mother to the recording session, he became acquainted with Yuen Yang-an, general manager of Great Wall Pictures Corporation. He was guided by Yuen in screenwriting, and penned the screenplay for *The Song of Harmony* (1957) (co-written with Yuen Yang-an) under the pseudonym of Zhao Zhiming; he also had a hand in composing the film's soundtrack. Soon after, he was involved in the production of *The True Story of Ah Q* (1958), in which he also had a starring role. During this period he also wrote articles for *The Great Wall Pictorial*, and founded the magazine *Modern Films*.

Shen started his stint at Radio Rediffusion in 1956, and was involved in establishing Rediffusion Television (RTV), Hong Kong's first television channel. He joined Sun Sun Film Enterprises Ltd. the following year and became a full-time filmmaker. Shen was production manager for *Teenager Holiday* (1959), *Gone with the Tide* (1960), and *Ten Tender Nights* (1962, also as screenwriter). His first foray as a director was with *Lovingly Yours* (1959) (co-directed with Wu Jingping), and he also co-directed *The Spell of Love* (1962) and *Car Chase* (1962). In early 1962, he made his debut as a solo director with *Pearl, Devil, Fire* (released in Hong Kong in 1964).

After Sun Sun closed down, Shen joined Feng Huang Motion Picture Co. His works as a director included *The Girl From Phnom Penh* (1963) which was filmed at Angkor Wat in Cambodia as well as *The Forest Riders* (1965), *The Genius* (1966), and *Operation Child Hunt* (1967). He directed *Stolen Brides* in 1966 before leaving the film industry.

In the same year, he joined the government in preparation for establishing the Hong Kong Productivity Council. In 1968, Shen was seconded to the Asian headquarters of the Asian Productivity Organisation (APO) in Japan. In the early 1980s, he completed his Master of Business Administration and obtained his PhD degree in International Economics in the US. He returned to Hong Kong in 1986 and started his role as Editor-in-Chief of *Hong Kong Economic Journal*. In 1996, he retired and took up permanent residence in the US. He was a prolific writer in a variety of genres ranging from music, operas to economics. Shen passed away in 2019 in the US.
