



Griffin YUE Feng 岳楓 (1910–1999.7.3)

Director, Screenwriter

With the original name Da Zichun, Yue was born into a family from northeastern China. His family later settled in Danyang, Jiangsu. Born and grew up in Shanghai, Yue became a photo studio apprentice in 1929 after graduating from secondary school. He later went to learn film printing and editing at Dadong Co. Earning the recognition of Wang Yuen-lung, he became an assistant director in 1931. In 1933, seeing the success of *Morning Glory* which Yue wrote and helped in directing, Yan Chuntang's Yi Hwa Film Company signed him up as a director. Yue then shot to fame with his directorial debut *Raging Waves of China Sea* (1933), an anti-Japanese title. In 1935, he shot the critically acclaimed *Refugees*, which established his position as a major director. After the decline of Yi Hwa, he made *Sunrise* (1938) and some other films for Hsin Hwa and China United. In 1942, Yue joined China United Film Company Limited (Zhonglian) (later renamed as China United Film Holdings Company Ltd [Huaying]), making films such as *Life and Death Disaster* (1944) that declared patriotism covertly. However, after the war, Yue was accused of treason because he co-directed *Eternal Regret on the Spring River* (1944) with Japanese director Hiroshi Inagaki. It was not until 1947 that his name was cleared and he made a comeback to direct *The Incredible Rose*.

In 1949, with the invitation of Zhang Shankun, Yue came to Hong Kong and joined Great Wall Pictures Corporation, for which he filmed *A Forgotten Woman* (1949) and *Blood Will Tell* (1949). In 1953, he founded Dafang Film Company in Hong Kong and made *A Love Story* (1954). In 1956, upon the referral of Albert Odell, Yue directed the box-office hit, *Merry-Go-Round* for Cathay Motion Picture Co Ltd (the predecessor of Motion Picture and General Investment Co Ltd [MP&GI]). He made eight films after joining MP&GI, including *Golden Lotus* (1957), which won Linda Lin Dai her first Best Actress award at the Asian Film Festival, *The Battle of Love* (1957), *Scarlet Doll* (1958), *For Better, For Worse* (1959), etc.

In 1959, Yue joined Shaw Brothers (Hong Kong) Ltd, where he worked until retirement. His prominent works included *Street Boys* (1960) and *The Deformed* (1960), all *wenyi* titles of social themes; *The Last Woman of Shang* (1964), a historical epic; *huangmei diao* musicals *Madame White Snake* (1962), *Lady General Hua Mulan* (1964), *The West Chamber* (1965), and *The Three Smiles* (1969), which won Best Comedy at the 15th Asian Film Festival; as well as *wuxia* productions *The Swallow Thief* (1961), *Revenge of a Swordswoman* (1963) and *The Dragon Creek* (1967). His last work was *Village of Tigers* (co-directed with Wang Ping, 1974). Yue was also a screenwriter. *The Deformed* and *Bitter Sweet* (1963), which Yue penned under the pseudonym Ge Ruifen, won Best Screenplay respectively at the 8th Asian Film Festival and at the 2nd Golden Horse Awards in Taiwan. Yue received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Hong Kong Film Directors' Guild in 1991 and a special award from the Golden Horse Awards in 1993. He passed away on 3 July 1999 in Hong Kong.
