



HO Yik-tsang 何亦曾

Actor, Screenwriter

An avid fan of operatic art, Ho was a famous amateur actor in the Han opera scene in Hong Kong. Along with Chen Xunzi and Yao Jingquan and Huang Lisheng, he performed frequently as an amateur with the Han Opera Revival Unit, under the Music Division of Hong Kong Chiu Chow Merchants Mutual Assistance Society. He took part in the Chaozhou-dialect cinema since the mid-1950s and became a screen actor, playing mostly the *chousheng* (male clown) roles. His screen debut was *The Story of Wang Jinlong* (aka *Heng Kim Leng*, 1955), the inaugural title of Tuojiang Film Company, also the first Chaozhou-dialect movie in Hong Kong. It was directed by Chen Huanwen, who became Ho's long-time collaborator afterwards. He appeared in a number of films produced by Tung Shan Film Co., including *Wife on Loan* (1961) and *Two Imperial Sons-in-Law* (aka *Double Imperial Sons-in-Law*, 1961). Starting in 1960, he took part in the productions of about 10 Chaozhou-dialect films: He worked as assistant director for the first time in *Strange Visitor* (1960), and wrote his first screenplay for *The Story of Lin Guilan* (1961). What followed were some five titles performed by Xintiancai Chaozhou Opera Troupe, including *Unworldly Event* (1962) and *Fairy Pearl* (1963). From 1955 to 1965, he appeared in over 30 Chaozhou-dialect films, such as *Sixth Madam Su* (aka *So Luk Neung*, 1961) and *The Pig's Wedding* (1965), playing with a star-studded cast of Fanny Ha, Chan Chor-wai, Chong Suet-ken and Ting Chor-kiu. Among his memorable performances as the greedy official, rich man, chief of beggars and old whore, he was best remembered for portraying a clown-like idiot. His signature works include *The Stepmother* (1960), *Jin Yunu Beats Sense into Her Heartless Husband* (1961), *Throwing Coins at the Fairy Maidens* (1963), and *Wife in Disguise* (1963).

He joined Shengyi Chaozhou Opera Troupe by the end of 1960s, performing in both Hong Kong and the Southeast Asian regions such as Thailand and Singapore.