



HSI Kin 許堅 (1921.10.4–1980.2.10)

Production Manager, Director, Screenwriter

A native of Chao'an, Guangdong, Hsi Kin returned to the Mainland during the War of Resistance against Japan as an overseas Chinese youth and participated in the anti-Japanese propaganda effort. Following the war, he moved to Hong Kong. In the early 1950s, Wong Cheuk-hon formed his own company to distribute Cantonese films. At Wong's invitation, Hsi joined its publicity department. In 1952, Wong established Liberty Film Co. and Hsi headed its publicity department. In the mid- to late-1950s, Wong started to shoot Cantonese films under the banner of Lan Kwong Film Company. Hsi was again recruited under his wing and got involved in publicity and production. He was production manager on films such as *Broken-Zither Bower* (1955).

In 1960, Hsi broke away from Wong's company. He began recruiting Chaozhou opera performers and trained new talents. He formed the Dongshan Chaozhou Music Company for both stage performances and film productions. With Hsi as production manager, Dongshan appeared in *A Pair of Carved Jade* (1960), Hong Kong's first Chaozhou opera film produced by Donghai Film Company. Later, Dongshan received funding to form Tung Shan Film Co., which focused on producing Chaozhou-dialect opera films. Tsang Mo-hei was in charge of business operations while Hsi, who also wrote screenplays under the name Yiu Sheung-sit, was in charge of the production. Films produced by Hsi under Tung Shan include *Strange Visitor* (1960), *Pearl Phoenix* (co-directed by Hsi, 1961), *A Pair of Carved Jade, Part II* (co-directed by Hsi, 1961), *Birthday Ceremony* (co-directed by Hsi, 1961), *A Faithful Wife Avenges Her Husband* (co-directed by Hsi, 1961), *Wang Mang Usurps the Throne* (co-directed by Hsi, 1961), *Jin Yunu Beats Sense into Her Heartless Husband* (1961), *The Princess of Eight Treasures Chases After Her Husband* (aka *Princess Bart-Po*, 1962), *The Story of Splashed Water* (1962) and *The Riverside Pavilion* (1962). In 1962, Hsi left Tung Shan and founded Ling Tung Film Co, where he produced *A Wronged Woman who Shakes the Heavens* (1963) and *A Troubled Romance* (1963). After producing *Romantic Autumn* (1964) for Fanny Ha's Ngai Yip Film Co, Hsi began to distance himself from the Chaozhou-dialect film industry.

In 1964, Hsi returned to Lan Kwong Film Company and became involved in their film production. He was production manager on such films as *Beware of the Husband* (1964), *Landlady and Tenant* (1966), and *Four Sisters* (1966); he was associate producer on *My Dearest Wife* (1965) and *For Sentimental Reason* (1966); he was also responsible for the music and lyrics of *Three Flowers of the Factory* (1967) and *The Brave Tanks* (1968) respectively. In 1968, Wong Cheuk-hon formed First Film Organisation Limited and produced Mandarin films in Taiwan. Hsi joined Wong again and served as the head of the company's publicity team. In 1972, he formed Lucky Entertainment Enterprises Co with production manager Li Shih-Jung, Apart from promotion, he was also involved in distribution and production. Films produced by him include *The Flying Tiger* (1973), *Money, Money, Money* (1974) and *Magnificent 2* (1975). Hsi later returned to Taiwan and headed First Film's publicity team in 1975. He passed away of illness in Taipei on 10 February 1980.
