



## HSIAO Yen-Chiu 小艷秋 (b. 1933)

### Actress

Born in Taoyuan of Taiwan, Hsiao Yen-Chiu was adopted as a newborn by the Jian family and named Jian Xiuchou. Struggling to eke out a living, she joined Riyue Yuan Theatre Troupe at 17 and studied under director Cheng Cheng-Hsiung. Before long she became a leading lady, and was later promoted to principal artist of the theatre troupe. It was around then she took her stage name Hsiao Yen-Chiu. At that time, the troupe often adapted box-office hits into theatre productions, laying the foundation for Hsiao's subsequent acting in film. In 1956, Hsiao Yen-Chiu's fame rose with her turn in the Taiwanese-dialect film *Lady Peach Blossom Crosses the River* (1956). She then followed up with a critically acclaimed performance in *An Insane Woman's 18 Years* (1957), as well as winning Silver in the audience's choice award for top ten film stars at that year's Taiwanese-dialect Film Festival.

Following an investment deal involving her uncle and composer Lee Lin-chiu, Hsiao Yen-Chiu signed a contract with Hong Kong's Minsheng Film Company and travelled to Hong Kong to star alongside actress Jiang Fan in Amoy-dialect films *Two Sisters in a Turbulent World* (1957) and *Shang Lu Slays a Malicious Schemer* (1957). The following year Hsiao was in Hong Kong again, to collaborate with Qiaolian Film Company on three more Amoy-dialect films: *Love and Money* (1958), *Love's Temptation* (1958), and *The Love between a Human and a Ghost* (1958). Upon her return to Taiwan, Hsiao made a number of Taiwanese-dialect films such as *Ah Lan* (1958), *Luo Xiao-Hu and Yu Jia-Long* (1959) and *Autumn Hate* (1960), at the same time she also starred in Mandarin films such as *On Mount Hehuan* (1959), etc. After her marriage in 1959, Hsiao Yen-Chiu retired from the film industry.