



Hu Siao-feng 胡小峰 (1924.10.7–2009.10.3)

Director, Screenwriter, Actor

Hu Siao-fung was born in Shanghai with ancestral roots in Suzhou, Jiangsu Province. Hu only completed primary school before the outbreak of the War of Resistance against Japan, but later enrolled at the National Central University in Nanjing. After returning to Shanghai, Hu joined the Tianfeng Theatre Company as an actor and stagehand. He later joined the Shanghai Art Troupe, founded by Fei Mu. In 1946, he moved to Hong Kong and entered the film industry. His debut acting role was in *An All-Consuming Love* (1947), followed by *Orioles Banished from the Flowers* (1948), *Song of a Songstress* (1948), and Zhu Shilin's *A Dream of Spring* (1947). He also appeared in *Sorrows of the Forbidden City* (1948) and *A Peasant's Tragedy* (1949) for Yung Hwa Motion Picture Industries Ltd.

When 50th Year Motion Pictures Incorporation was founded, Hu served as the production manager for its first film, *The Fiery Phoenix* (1951). After Fei Mu founded Dragon-Horse (Loon-ma) Films, Hu joined as well, working both as an actor and behind the scenes, including starring in *Map of One Hundred Treasures* (1953) and *House Removal Greeting* (1954), and serving as assistant director on *Flora* (1951). At this point, he joined Zhu Shilin's creative team, from which he was able to learn both creative and directing skills.

Originally assistant director for *Ode to Youth* (1953), co-directed with Liu Qiong, Hu eventually took over and completed the film, marking his directorial debut. During this time, he was invited to participate in productions by Great Wall Film Company. He co-directed *Loves of the Youngsters* (1955), *Sunrise* (1956), and the documentary *The Arts of Chinese Folk Arts* (1957) with Su Chengshou. In 1958, his solo directorial work *Those Bewitching Eyes* was released, establishing him as a leading director. Hu directed nearly 30 films for Great Wall, on many of which he also served as the screenwriter. These include *A Seaside Village* (1959), *Seventeen* (1960), *My Darling Princess* (1964), and the widely popular *Gentleman Who Steals* (1963).

Entering the 1970s, despite external constraints on the creative environment, Hu was able to come up with suitable themes for filmmaking. He explored housing issues with the realist film *The Hut on Hilltop* (1970) and captured the lives of the poor in *A Family in Thousands* (1975). He also directed *A Pound of Flesh* (1976), a groundbreaking film presented entirely in the form of a stage play. In the 1980s, he directed *Romance in China* (1980), continuing his innovative approach, and collaborated with Chinese Mainland filmmakers on the musical *A Lady from Shanghai* (1982). His final directorial work was *Shanghai Adventure* (1985).

Hu became an active part of the South China Film Industry Workers Union from the 1960s, serving at times as executive director, board member, and supervisor. He served on the board for several terms from the 1970s to the 1990s, and later became an advisor. He was married to actress Li Tziang. Hu passed away from illness in Hong Kong in 2009.
