



**HO Ah Loke 何亞祿** ( 1901–1982.9.16 )

**Distributor, Producer, Management Personnel**

Born in British New Guinea (now Papua New Guinea). Ho Ah Loke had studied in Edinburgh, England and Penang, Malaya, before graduating from The University of Hong Kong with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. He kick-started his film exhibition and distribution business in 1926. In 1948, his cinema chains were incorporated into International Theatre Ltd, a subsidiary of Cathay Organisation in Singapore, which was later expanded to be known as Loke's Theatre Ltd. He was appointed head of Loke's Theatre and in the same year, he came on board with Cathay as department head of the film scheduling unit and board director-manager. He founded Keris Studio In 1951 and teamed up with Loke Wan Tho in 1953 to form Cathay Keris Film Productions, producing a number of Malay films including Singapore and Malaysia's first colour film, *Bamboo of Yearning* (1953), the box-office hit *The Vampire* (1957) and the first widescreen feature *Curse of the Vampire* (1958). An excellent producer, he held the key to Cathay's success in film production, contributing his 30-year knowledge in film exhibition, distribution and production to the company.

In 1959, he left Cathay to establish Independent Film Company and co-produce films with Indonesian film studios. He was also credited as writer-director for *Every Cloud Has a Silver Lining*. He passed away of illness on 16 September 1982.

