



## Ivy LING Po 凌波

**Actress, Executive Producer, Producer**

Ivy Ling Po was sold to an Amoy family when she was a child. After the Communist regime took over the Mainland, she followed her foster mother Ng Po-sik to Hong Kong where Ng had contacts in Amoy-dialect film circles. Ling soon made her acting debut under the screen name Xiao Ling in the 1954 Amoy-dialect film *Adopted Daughter*, followed by *The Story of Third Madam Li* (1955). As a child actress, she was cast in a number of Amoy-dialect films later under the screen name Xiao Juan. Her screen roles include Xuemei's son Shang Lu in *Xuemei Teaches Her Son* (1955) and housemaid Renxin in *Lian San Pak Chok Yin Tai* (1955). She scored her first lead role in *Nazha Wreaks Havoc in the East Sea* (1956). In 1957, Shi Weixiong, a Chinese expatriate from the Philippines, founded Hua Xia Film Company to produce Amoy-dialect films. Most Hua Xia productions were produced by Ng Po-sik and starred by Xiao Juan, but the young actress also starred in a number of productions outside the company in the same period, including the Jinan Company's *The Burning of the Red Lotus Temple* (Part 1-4, 1956-58), Eng Wah & Company's *Miss Singapore* (1959) as well as the Shaw Brothers (Hong Kong) Ltd's first Amoy-dialect picture, *Wong Koo Liu Koo* (aka *Brother Wang and Brother Liu*, 1959). A talented *nanyin* (Southern tunes) singer, Xiao Juan performed *nanyin* songs in such period films as *True and False Romance* (1957) and *Lü Mengzheng Wins the Bride's Embroidered Ball* (1957). With the brief popularity of modern musicals, Xiao Juan also starred with Chong Sit Fong in the well-received *Hot Lady* (1958) and *Shrews from Afar* (1958). In 1962, Ng Po-sik founded Fuxing Film Company on behalf of her foster daughter, in partnership with Hu Tong and Wong Ching-ho, and subsequently produced *Romance of the Jade Carp* (1962) that starred Xiao Juan. Over the course of the first eight years of her acting career, Xiao Juan amassed over 80 Amoy-dialect film credits. As the Amoy film industry fell into decline, she starred in the *Huangmei diao* film *Liu Hai's Encounter with the Fairies* (1961) and four Cantonese films, including *Little Lucky Star* (1962).

In 1962, with director Yuan Qiufeng's recommendation, Xiao Juan was hired to provide the singing voice for the character of Jia Baoyu in the *Huangmei diao* film *Dream of the Red Chamber* (1962) produced by Shaw Brothers. In the following year, she officially signed with Shaw Brothers and was cast as the male lead, Liang Shanbo in *The Love Eterne* (1963) under the new screen name, Ivy Ling Po. The film propelled her to stardom, and her fame swept across Taiwan and Southeast Asia. Ling Po's outstanding performance in the film even garnered her a Special Acting Award at the 2nd Golden Horse Awards. After starring in *Lady General Hua Mulan* (1964) that garnered her the Actress Award at the 11th Asian Film Festival, Ling Po became a mainstay of Shaw Brothers' *Huangmei diao* films. Her acclaimed works from this period include *The West Chamber* (1965) and *The Three Smiles* (1969). Ling Po left Shaw Brothers in 1975 and founded Jinri Film Company with her husband, actor Chin Han. Together, the couple made *Crossroad* (1976), *Dream of the Red Chamber* (1978) and *The Imperious Princess* (1980). Ling Po and her family immigrated to Canada in the 1980s. Her sons Kenneth Bi and Daniel Bi are film director and music producer respectively.

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