



Josephine SIAO Fong-fong 蕭芳芳 (b. 1947)

Actress

A native of Suzhou, Jiangsu, Siao was born in Shanghai with the real name Xiao Liang. She later moved to Hong Kong. At the age of six, she acted in her first film, *Tears of a Young Concubine* (1954). She then starred in various Mandarin films for The Great Wall Movie Enterprise Ltd. Siao co-starred with Bruce Lee in the Cantonese film *An Orphan's Tragedy* (1955) by The Union Film Enterprise Ltd. In 1955, Siao started to use 'Siao Fong-fong' as her stage name and performed in *Year In, Year Out*, followed by Shaws Studio's *The Orphan Girl* (1956), which won her the Best Child Actor Award at the 2nd Southeast Asia Film Festival. In 1957, Siao apprenticed as a *daomadan* (the 'sword-wielding and riding' military female role) under the tutelage of Peking opera master Fen Ju Hua, and in 1958 she performed in *Nobody's Child* (1960), directed by Richard Poh. In 1959, Siao acted in Mandarin *wuxia* films such as *The Daring Gang of Nineteen from Verdun City* (1960) for Hsin Hwa Motion Picture Company in Taiwan. From the 1960s onwards, Siao played many chivalrous heroine roles in Cantonese *wuxia* films such as *The Snow Peak Nymph (Parts One to Three, 1960-1961)* and *The Furious Buddha's Palm* (1965).

In 1966, Siao starred in *Young Lady's Heart* (1966), portraying three distinct characters with diverse personalities that showcased her singing and dancing talents. By 1970, Siao had starred in nearly 80 films of various genres. Prominent works from that period include Chor Yuen's *Winter Love* (1968), as well as Patrick Lung Kong's *The Window* (1968) and *Teddy Girls* (1969). In 1969, Siao joined Television Broadcasts Limited (TVB) as producer. She also hosted the music program *The Rhythm of Fong-Fong* (1969). In the 1970s, Siao departed for studies in the US. Later, she starred in the controversial film, *Hiroshima 28* (1974). Siao also revisited Taiwan, starring in works such as *Girl Friend* (1974).

In 1976, she co-directed the crime drama *Jumping Ash* (1976) with Leong Po-chih, which was the second highest grossing Chinese film at the box office that year. In 1980, Siao founded her own production company, Hi-Pitch Limited; through which she produced and starred in *The Spooky Bunch* (1980) directed by Ann Hui. In 1981, she won the 16th Golden Bell Award for Best Actress with her performance in the Taiwanese television series *Autumn Water & Vast Sky* (1980). In 1988, Siao won the Best Actress award at the 7th Hong Kong Film Awards for her work in *The Wrong Couples* (1987). She collaborated with Stephen Chow and Jet Li in *Fist of Fury 1991 II* (1992) and *Fong Sai Yuk (I & II, 1993)*. In *Summer Snow* (1995), Siao won the Silver Bear for Best Actress at the 45th Berlin International Film Festival; and Best Leading Actress and Best Actress honours at both the 32nd Golden Horse Awards and the 15th Hong Kong Film Awards. In 1996, she starred in *Hu-Du-Men* (1996), for which she won Best Leading Actress again at the 33rd Golden Horse Awards. In 1997, Siao retired from acting after starring in *Mahjong Dragon*. Since then, she has focused on charity work at the End Child Sexual Abuse Foundation, which she founded in 1998. Siao received the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 28th Hong Kong Film Awards in 2009.