



KWONG Shan-siu 鄺山笑 (1909–1976.2.2)

Actor, Producer

Kwong was born Kwong Kim-fei in Guangzhou to a family from Taishan, Guangdong. As he began his acting career in Cantonese opera, he adopted the stage name of Kwong Shan-siu. Under the tutelage of famous *huadan* Chien Li Kui, Kwong later performed in the Feisheng Drama Group. When filmmaker Zhang Huichong set up a film company in Guangzhou and made the silent film *The Chinese Swordsman* (1932), Kwong was cast as the male lead, making his first foray into cinema acting. Kwong founded Ziwei Film Company in the same year with their debut *Invincible Lover*, one of the earliest Cantonese sound films. The film starred Kwong and was directed by Lee Fa (Kwong was credited as director during the film's release). In the following year, Kwong starred in *Charming Prison in the Palace*, a co-production of Ziwei and Xiandai Film Company.

In 1935, Kwong was invited to Hong Kong by Joseph Sunn Jue, founder of the Grandview Film Company Limited, to star in *Shantung's Heroes* (1936). Kwong became the film company's staple actor and his career continued to flourish. During this period, he starred in the hit films including *The Farmer's Son* (1936), *Pei-wah's Wives* (1937), as well as *The Patriot* (1937) and *Young China* (1937). With his dashing appearance, Kwong was sought after by filmmakers and became a principal actor in Cantonese films. The prolific actor was cast in lead roles in approximately 70 films from 1937 to 1939. He was featured in diverse genres including *Shadow of the Night* (1937), *The Three Thousand Girl Stars* (1938) and *The Heartless* (1939), as well as films advocating progressive beliefs including *The Light of Women* (1937) and *The March* (1937); realist film *Miss Flapper* (1938); and war resistance film *800 Heroic Soldiers* (1938). Kwong established Hillmoon Film Co with Moon Kwan Man-ching and starred in its productions, including the war resistance films *For Duty's Sake* (1937) and *Enemy of Humanity* (1938). Kwong also formed other film companies including Xindalu Film Company and Shanchuan Company, and produced films such as *A Stone House on Fire* (1939) and *Lust of a Grand Lady* (1950).

Aside from films, Kwong occasionally performed Cantonese operas in the Ko Shing Opera Troupe in 1936. During the Japanese occupation, he joined various opera troupes. He later returned to Shantou and ventured into business. Kwong returned to Hong Kong film industry after the war and appeared in films including *The Romantic Thief White Chrysanthemum* (1947) and *Kaleidoscope* (1950). Kwong stepped away from cinema after *The Red House by the Sea* (1958).

A keen advocate of social causes, Kwong formed the Southern China Film Industry Association for the Relief with others including Lam Kwun-shan in 1937. The film *The Last Stand* (1938) was made to raise money for the war effort. Kwong set up four free schools in 1940, and was the first director of the Hong Kong branch of the Guangdong Professional Union for Cantonese Opera Performers in 1951. He married singer Siu Yin Fei during the 1930s. They appeared in many films together, including *Pei-wah's Wives*, before their divorce in 1941. In 1976, Kwong died of illness in Hong Kong.
