



LAU Sik-chun 柳惜春 (b. 1944.4.5)

Actress

A native of Chaoyang, Guangdong, Lau Sik-chun was originally named Chiu Suk-yu. She learned and performed Chaozhou opera in a Chaoyang theatre group in her early years, specialising in *huadan* (young female) roles. She pursued college education in Guangzhou after graduating in secondary school at the age of 16. She moved to Hong Kong in 1962. In 1963, the Singaporean film operation Eng Wah & Company recruited new actors, and it was when Lau was introduced by her friend to meet Li Langguan, who later eagerly invited her to join the company. She adopted her screen name Lau Sik-chun and starred in the Chaozhou-dialect *The Precious Lotus Lamp* (1963), directed by Law Chi-hung. In the same year she joined Hon Kwong Chiu Chow Opera Troupe organised by Hong Kong Swatow Importers & Exporters Association. Later she appeared again in the Eng Wah titles *Lantern of Romance* (1964) and *Siang Tse Bridge* (1965), also touring to Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam along the films' overseas screenings.

In Hong Kong, Lau was under the mentorship of Cai Shaolin in Chaozhou operatic arts; she also learned Northern style operatic martial arts from renowned masters Yu Zhanyuan, Xu Junhan and Kwan Ching-leung. She was prolific between 1960s to 90s, performing for Hon Kwong Chiu Chow Opera Troupe in over 100 Chaozhou opera titles. Her signature works include *Su Liuniang*, *Chen San and Wuniang*, *The Female Generals of the Yang Family*, *A Woman Sues Her Own Husband* and *Tiger Wong Seizes the Bride*, *Seduction on the Plains*, amongst others. She was also the recording artist of dozens of Chaozhou opera albums. She remains active on stage in recent years, periodically taking part in cultural exchange performances in the Chaozhou and Shantou regions.