



LAW Yim-hing 羅艷卿 (b. 1929)

Actress

Born Law Tai-hung, Law was a native of Huanglin, Shunde in Guangdong Province. She resided in Hong Kong at the age of seven. She apprenticed under her uncle, Xiao Ying Ying, to perform Cantonese opera at the early age of ten. Beginning with guest appearances on stage when she was 12, she gradually built up her career as a prominent opera actress and performed in a number of opera groups, including Kok Sin Sing, Kam Tim Fa and Tai Lung Fung Opera Troupe. She had also led Yim Tong Wong and Chin Hung Opera Troupe. She was featured in such signature plays as *Taming of the Princess*, *The Sassy Princess and Her Blunt Husband*, *Feed the Scholar*, *Liu Jinding Crashes Four Gates*, and *The Story of Heroine Fan Lei-fa*. The eminent opera actors Luo Pinchao and Sit Kok-sin were both her teachers. She and seven other renowned opera actresses including Tang Bik-wan, Yu Lai-zhen and Fung Wong Nui became known as the 'Eight Peonies'.

Law's film career started with *The Haunt of the Eastern Capital* (Part 1 & 2, 1948). The following year, she drew the public's attention with *Thirteen Heroes with Seven Swords* (Part 1, 2 & 3, 1949). She has starred in various martial arts films including *Sword of Blood and Valour* (Part 1, 1958), *Seven Swordsmen from Tianshan* (1959). She was touted as one of the most outstanding *nüxia* in Hong Kong cinema. Her other well-received *nüxia* films include *Heroine with a Red Mantle* (1951), *White Lotus*, *The Heroine* (1952), and *The Heroine Yu Kam-fung* (1956). She mostly played *nüxia* in Cantonese *wuxia* films although she also frequently starred in contemporary and early Republican kung fu dramas. Her success in martial arts roles was mainly due to her long years' training in both the Southern and Northern Schools of martial arts in Cantonese opera performing.

Law also starred in many well-known Cantonese opera films, including *Playboy Emperor* (1953), *Rescue at the West River* (1960), *The Great Red Robe* (1965), and *Tragic Love of Ping-kei* (1963). Among the modern-dress films she has appeared in include *A Comet of Laughter Lands On Earth* (1952), *My Kingdom for a Husband* (1957), *Typhoon Signal No. 10* (1959), *The Broken Hearts* (1959), *The Two Cafe Girls* (1963), *Elder Sister's Story* (1964), etc. Touted as the 'Ambassador of Alluring Beauty', she appeared in around 330 features from 1948 to 1969. Her last film was *The Devilish Swords* (1969).

Law retired in 1966 and moved to San Francisco in the US. In 1978, she returned to Hong Kong and appeared on the television screen in the Rediffusion Television (RTV) drama *In Cold Blood*. Law had a cameo role in *Love Me and Dad* in 1988. In 1989, she appeared in a benefit programme by Spring and Autumn Opera Troupe, performing along with Law Ka-ying, Yuen Siu-fai and Yam Bing-ye. She formed the Bo Yim Hung Opera Troupe with Law Ka-bo in 1994 and performed opera titles including *Forty Years of Cherished Love*, *The Romantic Emperor*, and *Princess and the Poor Scholar*.
