



LEE Mei-ying 李美英 (1939.4.7–2021.1.23)

Actress

A native of Shantou, Guangdong, Lee Mei-ying adopted Lee Yi-hung as her artist name. She joined the amateur theatre troupe of a workers' association at the age of 15, acquiring acting skills of *xiaosheng* (young civil male) roles in Chaozhou opera and performed a lead role in *Scholar Lu You*. She came to Hong Kong at the age of 19 and joined the theatre troupe of Hong Kong Swatow Importers & Exporters Association (which later became Hong Kong Chaozhou Opera Troupe and Hon Kwong Chiu Chow Opera Troupe), where she acted as both an actress and a teacher. Her screen debut was *Sixth Madam Su* (1961) by Tai Lang Film Co., where she cross-dressed to play the lead male role of Guo Jichun.

She played opposite Lily Chan in a number of Tai Lang titles, including *The Sword of Emerald Frost* (1962), *A Love which Brought the Great Wall Crumbling Down* (1963), *Now is the Time* (1963), *Meeting in the Nunnery* (1964), etc. Titles by other film companies include: *A Wronged Woman who Shakes the Heavens* (1963) by Ling Tung Film Co, *The Story of Liu Yuniang* (1963) by Eng Wah & Company, *The Inspector General Seeks Advice from a Fortune-Teller* (1963) by Bian Sing Motion Picture Co, and *Reprisal* (1963) by Chiu Ngee Motion Picture Production Company.

In over ten Chaozhou-dialect movies in which she starred, apart from appearing as *laodan* (old female) in *The Mix-Up* (1962), and *dan* (female) in *For Life or For Death* (1962), her characters are all *xiaosheng* roles. She was an active member of several Chaozhou opera troupes, including Hon Kwong, Lesheng and Shengyi, touring frequently with them to Thailand and Singapore. Her signature repertoires include: *Qin Xianglian* (as the title role), *The White Rabbit* (as Li Sanniang) and *Judge Bao's Encounter with the Deposed Empress Li* (as Empress Li). On 23 January 2021, she passed away of illness in Hong Kong.