



## LEE Yi-nin 李綺年 (1912–1950)

### Actress

Born Lee Cho-hing, Lee had viewed Ruan Lingyu as her idol since young. At 19, she travelled to Shanghai and went to an acting audition organised by United Photoplay Service Limited (Shanghai), but was rejected. She attended an open audition at the Grandview Film Company in 1934 and was deemed star material. Subsequently, she signed a three-year contract with the company. The following year, she made her debut in *Song of the Past* (1935) that instantly launched her into stardom. She was subsequently cast in *The Broken Song* (1935), *The Modern Bride* (Part 1, 1935), *Shantung's Heroes* (1936), *They'll Have Their Day* (1936), etc. With *Life Lines* (1935), which also stars Ng Cho-fan, she became acclaimed as the 'Queen of Patriotic Actress'.

After Lee's contract with Grandview ended, she began collaborating with other film companies, including Nanyang Film Company and Unique Film Productions, in productions such as *The Light of Women* (1937), *Women of Independent Means* (1937), *The Woman Warrior* (1938), *Shaking Heaven and Earth* (1938), *The Shining Cup* (1939) and *The Smile* (1940), earning her the title of the 'Southern Screen Goddess'.

In 1940, at the invitation of Shanghai Yi Hwa Film Company, Lee travelled to Shanghai to play the lead in such films as *The Empress* (1940), *Liang Hongyu* (1940) and *Modern Youth* (1941), etc; but they all performed under expectation at the box office. Soon afterwards, she announced her retirement along with her marriage plans. After the war was over, she returned to the Hong Kong film industry, performing in such films as *Perfect Matching* (1948), *The Lusty Thief Girl* (1948) and *A Moral Hooker* (1949). In 1950, she formed the touring theatre troupe 'Yi Guang' and toured in Southeast Asia. On 4 November 1950, she committed suicide after performing in Vietnam.