



LEUNG Shan-yan 梁山人 (1920.10.3–1991.7.16)

Librettist, Actor, Screenwriter

A native of Nanhai, Guangdong, Leung was born in Nanhai with the original name Leung Kam-tung. He attended secondary school in Nanhai, and in 1942, was recruited into the Cultural Opera Troupe, led by the then renowned director, Yam Wu-fa. Leung performed at Qujiang Theatre, playing the *wenwusheng* (scholar-warrior) role in titles such as *Hong Kong's Fading Beauty*. Later, he started to write scripts for the troupe producing an early work, *History of the Eastern Jin Dynasty*. The troupe was based in Guangzhou during the war.

In 1949, Leung became a full-time librettist in Hong Kong and became an assistant to the two great librettists of the time, Tong Tik-sang and Lee Siu-wan. He established himself as an independent librettist in the 1950s. He has written some dozens of operas, many of which were performed by such popular stars as Tang Bik-wan, Mak Bing-wing, Ng Kwan-lai and others.

Leung became a librettist for films as early as 1952, and was the main librettist at Lux Film Company. In 1960, he wrote his first screenplay for the film *The Heir*; other notable screenplays include *Two Heroes* (1961), *Operation Woods* (1964), and *Uproar in Jade Hall* (1967). His scripts for modern contemporary films include *Larceny* (1961) and *A Half Bed Space* (1967), etc.

Leung retired in 1966 but assisted others in writing operas, such as Yip Siu-tak's *Zhu Bian's Return to the Government* and *Farewell to the Warrior*. In the 1980s, he wrote a regular column on Cantonese opera for the *Macao Daily News*. He passed away of sickness in 1991.