



## LEUNG Sing-por 梁醒波 (1908–1981.2.12)

### Actor, Production Manager

Born in Singapore with the real name Liang Guangcai, Leung was a native of Nanhai County, Guangdong Province and also known as Liang Sihai. He was brought up in an actors' family and nurtured a deep interest in acting since childhood but he did not receive proper training of acting until he was 17. At the age of 19, he played the role of the leading xiaowu; he was excelled in performing Ma Si-tsang's repertoire and singing 'Maqiang', Ma's signature vocal style. He was revered as one of 'The Four Kings of Cantonese Opera' in South Asia.

Leung's talents were recognized by Ma Si-tsang. In 1939, he left for Hong Kong to join Ma Si-tsang's Tai Ping Opera Troupe. After the war was over, he continued his career as an opera performer. Owing to his increasing weight, he began to change the role type and play chousheng (male clown). He had performed with various opera troupes and was a mainstay of Sin Fung Ming and Chor Fung Ming Cantonese Opera Troupe.

In 1941, Leung made a guest appearance in *Chaos in the Universe*. In 1950, he ventured into film again and played the lead role for the first time in *The Elderly Gentleman Searches for Romance*. By the end of 1970s, he had appeared in nearly 400 films where he successfully established his own signature comedic on-screen persona. His acting credits include *A Bachelor's Love Affair* (1953) and *My Kingdom for a Husband* (1957). Apart from playing the supporting roles, he was also featured as male leads from time to time; some of his films even spawned sequels, such as *The Dunce* series (1956-57), *Silly Wong Growing Rich* (1960) and *Much Ado About Nothing* (1960). Leung also acted in Mandarin films occasionally. He co-starred with Mandarin and Cantonese actors in the popular *The Greatest* series (1961-64). Many of his famed operas were adapted into films, including *The Legend of Purple Hairpin* (1959).

Apart from acting in front of the camera, Leung formed his own film companies, Lee Ying Film Company and Tat Fung Movie Enterprises Co., producing such works as *Precious Daughter* (1956), *Bo Ding and Pearl* (1958), and *How the Filial Daughter Returned the Pearl* (1959). In the 1970s, Leung was still active in the movie scene. At the invitation of the trailblazing director Tong Shu-shuen, he starred in two of her productions, *Sup Sap Bup Dup* (1975) and *The Hong Kong Tycoon* (1979).

Leung entered the TV industry and hosted the popular variety show *Enjoy Yourself Tonight* since Television Broadcasts Limited (TVB) started its transmission in 1967. He also acted in TV drama series, such as his namesake drama *Bor Suk* (1975). Leung was five-time president of the Chinese Artists Association of Hong Kong and helped to set up The Cantonese Opera Academy of Hong Kong. As a reward to his contribution to the performing arts, he was awarded the M.B.E. in 1977, which was a first for a Hong Kong actor. In 1981, he passed away at the age of 73.

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