



LO Duen 盧敦 (1911.3.10–2000.5.23)

Director, Screenwriter, Production Manager, Actor

Born on 10 March 1911 in Guangzhou of Jiangmen ancestry, Lo Duen occasionally directed films under his alias Ko Shan; he and his different co-writers also shared the pseudonyms Lee Lin and Yu Kon-chi. Lo discontinued his studies in 1927 and later entered the Guangdong Film Academy founded by Wei Biyun as a student of the second edition. After the three-month course, in April, 1929, he enrolled in a drama school under the Guangdong Drama Research Institute headed by Ouyang Yuqian, where he studied performance until the school closed down in 1931. He then acted in two silent films: *Shelling in Mountain Five Fingers* (1933), a Hezhong Yingpian Gongsi (Guangzhou) production and *Charming Prison in the Palace* (1933), a Ziwei Film Company production. After that, Lo followed Ouyang to Shanghai, where he worked successively for Hsin Hwa Motion Picture Company and Star Motion Picture Co., Ltd as screenwriter. In 1936, Hu Chunbing, Lo's teacher at the Guangdong Drama Research Centre, invited him to star in *The Modern Seductress* aka *Modern Tui San* (1937), a film directed by Lam Tsong. He went on to act in more Cantonese films in that same year, starring in both *The Rebel* and *The Lady in Earnest*. Ever since, Lo had stayed in Hong Kong and remained active in Cantonese cinema. *The Rebel* was Lo's first attempt to script a Cantonese film. Lo made his directorial debut with *Slaying Dragon by Supernatural Power* (1940), produced by Shidai Film Company he co-founded with Lee Sun-fung. He followed this up with *Fiery Village* (1941) and *Follow Your Dream* (1941).

After the war, he returned to Hong Kong and directed two politically-charged Cantonese movies, namely *Everlasting Regret* (1948) and *Old Memories of Canton* (1951), laying bare the social ills under the corrupt rule of the Nationalist government. In 1952, Lo co-founded the Sun Luen Film Company and since then became one of its pillars. In the 1960s, he started to take charge of Flying Dragon Pictures Corporation. Throughout his career, he directed more than 30 films, including such Sun Luen productions as *A Teacher's Reward* (1955), *Typhoon Signal No 10* (1959) and *Human Cargo* (Part 1 & 2, 1961). Among them, the realist social drama *Human Cargo* is his tour de force, which delves into the untold hardships of overseas Chinese. *The Gorilla* (1969) was his last directing credit. Apart from directing, Lo was also well known for his acting skills, most notably for his roles as villains and old feudal masters, in films such as *Mysterious Murder* (Part 1 & 2, 1951), *Family* (1953), *A Home of Million Gold* (1953), *The Immortality Pagoda* (1955) and *The Rouge Tigress* (1955). He made his exit from film after *The Jugglers* (1970), only making occasional appearances in television dramas and playing cameos in such films as *I am Sorry* (1989) and *Ah Kam* (1996).

Lo was one of the co-founders of South China Film Industry Workers Union (now South China Film Industry Workers' Union). In the 1980s, Lo penned his reminiscence of his filmmaking career for *Wen Wei Po* in the autobiographical column 'The Half-century Life of a Fool'; selected articles were revised and compiled into a book in 1992. He passed away on 23 May 2000 in Hong Kong. His wife Ko Wai-lan was also a film actress.
