



LOU Fen 鷺芬 (b. circa 1924)

Actress

Originally known as Zeng Gufen, Lou Fen is a native of Xiamen in the Fujian province, where she also grew up. Her interest in the performing arts began since her secondary school days, when she participated in performances with a theatre troupe. After graduating from secondary school, she became a primary school teacher. Lou moved to Hong Kong with her family after 1947. Her sister Lou Hung starred as the lead in numerous Amoy-dialect films, such as *A Belated Encounter* (1948) and *The Air is Cleared* (1948). While her sister Hung transitioned into Mandarin films, Lou launched her own career in the Amoy cinema with performances in *The Story of Chen San and Fifth Madam* (aka *Chen San and Fifth Madam*, 1952), *Chen Jinggu* (Part 1 & 2, 1952-53), *Love Deep as the Sea* (1954) and more. By 1955, due to the popularity of her cross-dressing turn as the Emperor Chengzong in *Meng Lijun* (1955), she was subsequently cast as male characters in various films including *Lian San Pak Chok Yin Tai* (aka *The Butterfly Lovers*, 1955) and *Ong Law Ho* (aka *Tiger Wang Snatches His Bride*, 1956). In *All Mixed Up* (1956), Lou even portrayed two different characters at the same time. In her string of cross-dressing roles, Lou actually played opposite her sister Hung in two films: *Dream of the Red Mansion* (1956) and *Dream of the Red Mansion, the Sequel* (aka *Back to Heaven*, 1956). Afterwards, she appeared successively in *Fairy and Man* (1957), *Forbidden Love* (aka *Yang Naiwu and Little Cabbage*, 1959), and *Three Daughters* (1964). Lou starred in close to 30 Amoy-dialect films, most of which were directed by But Fu; whether playing the protagonist or in a supporting role her presence was always undeniable.

Lou has been married twice. Her first husband was a musician, and she later married her second husband, director But Fu. She subsequently immigrated to the US along with But Fu.