



## LU Shihou ( Year of birth unknown–1959 )

### Film Costume and Production Designer, Artist

A native of Nanjing, Jiangsu, Lu moved to Shanghai at an early age with his father Lu Mingzhi, once the branch manager of Xiamen of the China & South Sea Bank. Inspired by his mother Zhang Shuying who was highly skilled at drawing and embroidery, Lu had shown great talent in painting since childhood. He is the second of five siblings. His other brothers had all gone into banking. After working at the China & South Sea Bank for a year, Lu decided to devote himself to art. His expertise was in drawing people. His works were published in *Shun Pao*, the revised issue of *Sphinx* and *Van Jan* published by Sinmay Zau. In 1933, Lu completed a series of Buddhist illustrations and verses on Ksitigarbha Bodhisattva together with Master Hongyi.

Since 1936, Lu had participated in film production in Shanghai. He served as costume designer for Zhang Shankun's *Ge Nenniang* (1939). When Yung Hwa Motion Picture Industries Ltd. was established in Hong Kong, he was invited as head of the costume design department. His works included *The Soul of China* (1948, as research consultant), *Sorrows of the Forbidden City* (1948, as costume and props designer), and *General Chai and Lady Balsam* (1953, as costume designer). He later joined the Shaw & Sons Ltd and Shaw Brothers (Hong Kong) Ltd, where he contributed to the success of major period productions including *Diao Charn* (1958), *The Kingdom and the Beauty* (1959) and *The Enchanting Shadow* (1960). *An Unforgettable Night* (1958) was one of his few works set in the Republican Era of China. In the Hong Kong-Japan co-production of Shaws and Daiei Co., Ltd., *Princess Yang Kwei Fei* (1955), he was the costume designer originally, but was later credited as research consultant.

Lu dressed in black every day, all year round. He was given different nicknames, including 'Black Widow', 'Auntie' and 'Weird Genius of the Cinema'. He died of liver cancer in 1959.