



LAU Fong 劉芳 (1913–2004.7.15)

Director, Production Manager, Executive Producer

A native of Zhongshan, Guangdong, Lau was born in Macao with the original name Lau Yiu-sing to a family from Guilin, Guangxi. He studied at The Guangzhou Municipal College of Fine Arts and Wuchang Art College, and later graduated from the Law Faculty of Guangdong National University.

Upon the invitation of his classmate Chiu Shu-tai (cousin of Joseph Sunn), Lau worked at the publicity unit of Grandview Film Company Limited after graduation. He later began writing screenplays and was first credited as screenwriter in *Song Girl White Peony* (co-scripted with Yeung Kwun-hap and Chan Kam-yuen, 1939). He soon became the company's studio head to oversee productions and made his directorial debut in 1941 with the critically acclaimed *Song of Exile*.

When Hong Kong fell into Japanese occupation, Lau was once wanted by the Japanese for his involvement in resistance activities. After the war, he distributed films produced by Grandview's US branch and directed films such as *Welcome the God of Wealth* (1948) and *Laughter and Tears* (1950) for its Hong Kong branch. When Grandview ceased production, he formed Yonglian Film Company with Ng Wui, and produced its inaugural title *Fathomless Love, Fathomless Hate* (1951). In 1952, he became one of the shareholders of The Union Film Enterprise Ltd and served as its production manager. In 1956, he set up Hong Kong United Co Ltd with Chan Kam-yuen and Wu Long-man, scripting, directing and producing the company's inaugural work *Laughable Mistakes* (1956). In 1958, Chiu Shu-tai rented the Diamond Hill Studio (formerly known as Grandview Studio) run by Chiu Shu-t to Lau, who renamed it as Hong Kong Film Studio. The studio ceased operation in 1967.

In 1967, Lau joined Sun Luen Film Company and became its production manager. In 1982, Sun Luen merged with Great Wall, Feng Huang and Chung Yuen into Sil-Metropole Organisation Ltd., where he served as distribution manager until retirement in 1985. Lau passed away on 15 July 2004.
