



MAK Bing-wing 麥炳榮 (1915.12.19–1984.9.13)

Actor, Production Manager

A native of Panyu County, Guangdong Province with the real name Mak Hon-ming, Mak attended Wah Yan College in Hong Kong but at the age of 13, ran away from home to learn Cantonese Opera. His teacher was the renowned Chi Yau Chung (which means 'Freedom Bell').

It did not take Mak long to become a supporting actor in the Good Harvest Opera Troupe but it was not until he joined the New Life Opera Troupe in 1934 that he became a leading player (in the *xiaosheng* category). He performed in the US during the war years and returned to Hong Kong only in 1947 where he continued his career in Cantonese Opera. Mak's performances during his tenure in the Tai Lung Fung Opera Troupe are reckoned to be his most popular and representative. His best partner on stage was the *huadan* Fung Wong Nui—the lead actress of Tai Lung Fung.

Mak was skilled in melodrama and martial roles. He was also a skilful interpreter of the body-language movements in opera, with a personal and distinctive voice. He made his screen debut in 1940 with *Xu Minggao's Secret Visits to General Ning's Mansion*. From 1940 to 1966, he was featured in around 120 movies. Most of his famous stage works were adapted into films such as *Return From Battle for His Love* (1961), *Ten Years Dream* (1961), *The Princess in Distress* (1962); he also acted in notable Cantonese opera films as the lead, including *Love in a Dangerous City* (1955), *Meeting on the Weedy River* (1961) and *Knight of the Victory Marked Flag* (1962).

Mak founded Wing Fung Motion Picture Co in 1963 with martial arts actress Yu So-chow, who became his second wife. The studio produced such films as *No Return Without Victory* (1963), *An Agnostic and Sagacious Intercession* (1962), which documented the rare set piece of *Prime Minister of Six States*.

Mak joined Rediffusion Television (RTV) in 1978 and once played in its drama production *Con Gang*. He died of a heart attack in the US in 1984.