



## NAM Hung 南紅 (b. 1934)

### Actress, Producer

Born So Suk-mei in Guangzhou, Nam Hung studied at the local Ming Dak Secondary School before moving to Hong Kong in 1949. Her mother Chan Jin-na was a costume drama (in which actors wear modern costumes and sing Cantonese opera) actress and had friends in the circle. This granting her the opportunity to learn Cantonese opera from Hung Sin Nui and was later given the stage name Nam Hung (literally means 'South Red' in Cantonese), short for the cultural treasure the 'southern kingdom red bean'. Working her way up from the bottom, she began to perform on stage in 1950, at the same time following her mentor into the film industry, playing bit parts. Her film debut was in *The Last Blow* (1951), before acting in *Girl in Red* (1952), *A Mother Remembers* (1953), as well as Kong Ngee Motion Picture Production Company's first film, *The Rouge Tigress* (1955). She began an independent career in the film and opera circles in 1955, after Hung Sin Nui returned to the Mainland.

In 1956, Nam joined Kong Ngee and was then given leading roles and worked alongside Patrick Tse in *The Seventh Heaven* (1956), before acting in *She Married an Overseas Chinese* (1957), *The Whispering Palms* (1957), *Tears of the Flower* (1958), *The Natural Son* (1959) and *Sacrifice for Love* (1962), etc. She was involved mostly in melodramatic tragedies and was good at playing the classic virtuous women; but she occasionally acted in comedies, such as *Ah Chiu Is Getting Married* (1958), *My Intimate Partners* (1960), and martial arts films such as *The Story of the Great Heroes (Parts One to Four, 1960-61)*. In 1962, she co-founded Rose Motion Picture Company with Chor Yuen and starred in its films as *Rose in Tears* (1963), *Black Rose* (1965), *Spy with My Face* (1966), while also serving as a producer. She married Chor Yuen in November 1967. During that time, she also appeared in films created by other companies, such as the Cantonese opera films, *With a Song to Grudge* (1962) and *The 12 Hairpins and the 12 Balustrades* (1964).

Nam left Kong Ngee in the mid-1960s. Then, she appeared in different types of films and worked with new film actors, including Connie Chan Po-chu in *Lady Bond* (1966) and the Cantonese opera film *Love in the Red Chamber* (1968). She co-starred with Lui Kay in *Tears of Lovers* (1966), with Josephine Siao Fong-fong in *Purple Night* (1968), and acted in a Mandarin film for the first time, appearing in the Cathay Organisation (HK) (1965) Ltd film, *Dial for Murder* (1970).

Over the years, Nam continued to perform in Cantonese opera pieces, serving as a principal *huadan*, gracing the stage even after the millennium. As early as 1970, she joined Rediffusion Television (RTV) to host *Time with Nam Hung*. In 1977, she switched to Television Broadcasts Limited (TVB) and took part in *A House Is Not a Home* (1977), maintaining a cooperative relationship with the TV station for more than a decade. Later, she appeared in Asia Television (ATV) drama series, and filmed drama series in Malaysia. She has taken part in a small number of films since the 1980s and 1990s, including *Working Class* (1985) and *Whatever Will Be, Will Be* (1995).

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