



NG Yat-siu 吳一嘯 (1911–1964.7.9)

Librettist, Screenwriter

A native of Heshan County, Guangdong Province, Ng's career in Cantonese opera started from an early age. As a member of the renowned Feisheng Drama Group in Guangzhou, he played the menial *lache* characters (miscellaneous roles). He graduated to scriptwriting and composing librettos. Ng also wrote many opera songs for performers like Siu Ming Sing, Tsui Lau-sin, Siu Yin Fei and Yam Kim-fai.

Ng started composing music for films in 1938; his debut feature was *The Corrupt Magistrate*. His adapted librettos for the screen include *An Orphan Raised on Love* (1947), *Emperor Kwong Sui's Nocturnal Lament* (1952) and *The Humiliated Rickshaw Puller* (1953).

Ng was also active in radio and in the recording industry. His achievements, however, rested on the reforms he effected in Cantonese opera. He used Cantonese folk melodies, pop songs, and even soundtracks from foreign films in his operas. He was a prolific song writer and musician and some of his most popular songs were adapted into scripts for feature-length films, including *Homeward the Swallow Flies* (1956) and *An Orphan Raised on Love* (1947).

Ng was also an important scriptwriter. He wrote the first episode in the popular Wong Fei-hung series in 1949. His last screenwriting credit was 1961's *Third Master Sha and His Charming Maid*. Some of his other scripts include those for *How Ten Heroes of Guangdong Slew the Dragon* (1950), *Parting unto Sky's End* (1951) and *Punish the Unfaithful* (1955).

Ng passed away in 1964 in Hong Kong.
