



## Nancy Sit Kar-yin 薛家燕 (b. 1950)

### Actress, Singer

A native of Fujian, Nancy Sit Kar-yin was born in Hong Kong. At the age of eight, she performed the Cantonese opera *Diaochan Worshipping the Moon* at her grandfather's birthday banquet, catching the eye of film producer Lee Siu-wan who was in attendance. Lee recognised her talents and offered her a part in *The Grand Re-union* (1960), thus kickstarting her acting career in over a hundred films. As a child actress, Sit mainly took part in musical period films. As she entered her teenage years, Sit was invited to join the Hong Kong Film Company, acting in various films of the flourishing *wuxia* genre including *The Mighty Snow Sword (Parts One to Four)*, 1964), *A Brave Young Girl's Spirit (Parts One and Two)*, 1965) and *Book Without Letters* (1965). Her outstanding performance as the male character Ghost Slave in *The Ghost with Six Fingers (Part Two and Concluding Episode)*, 1965) won her widespread recognition.

As teen musicals surged in popularity in the mid-1960s, Sit acted in films of the genre such as *Colourful Youth* (1966), *Girls are Flowers* (1966), *Broadcast Queen* (1967) and *I Love A-Go-Go* (1967). In 1966, she was presented with an award for most popular Cantonese film actress by Sing Tao Newspaper Amalgamated and Rediffusion Television. Sit was cast as the lead actress for the first time in *Bunny Girl* (1967), and went on to star in teen musicals including *My Sister's Love* (1967), *Youthful Romance* (1967) and *The Great Singer* (1968). In 1968, director Patrick Lung Kong invited her to star in *Teddy Girls* (1969), wherein she broke from her established innocent image and gave a refreshing performance as a rebellious young lady. In 1965, she formed a sworn sisterhood known as the 'Seven Princesses' with contemporaries Fung So-bor, Shum Chi-wah, Connie Chan Po-chu, Josephine Siao Fong-fong, Wong Oi-ming and Fung Bo-bo. Together, they went on to film *Seven Princesses (Parts One and Two)*, 1967).

In the early 1970s, Sit briefly sought opportunities in Japan, before embarking on a music tour across Southeast Asia. Returning to Hong Kong in 1976, Sit co-hosted the widely popular show *Nancy and Michael* with Michael Lai on Rediffusion Television (RTV). They co-directed and co-starred in Sit's directorial debut, *Dog Bites Dog Bone* (1978). In the early 1980s, Sit ventured into the VHS (videotape) business, marketing Hong Kong television shows to Southeast Asian audiences. After getting married in 1984, she briefly stepped away from showbiz but returned to the screens in 1990, appearing in the Asia Television Limited (ATV) series *Radio III*. Her 1996 role of Leung Yun-ho (Ho Yee) in Television Broadcasts Limited (TVB)'s *A Kindred Spirit* became a household name. In the same year, she appeared as the memorable character 'Princess of Taste' in *The God of Cookery* (1996), directed by Stephen Chow and Lee Lik-chee. In 1997, she returned as the female lead in *Black Rose II* (1997).

Entering the 2000s, Sit remained active in music, film, television, and radio. Her motherly image as 'Kar-yin Mama' in children's television shows and iconic character of 'Chi Ku' in *Virtue of Harmony* (2001) are among her many roles that have captivated the hearts of her audiences.

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