



PONG Chow-wah 龐秋華 (1928.6.26–1991.7.20)

Screenwriter, Assistant Director, Librettist

A native of Nanhai County, Guangdong Province, Pong attended the Ba Gui Middle School in Guangzhou. Perhaps due to the influence of his operatic family, he pursued a career in Cantonese opera and, at age 24, was working in opera troupes as a writer and librettist. His first work, *An Immortal Refuses Love* was co-written with Chan Tin-tsung. Two of his later works, *Pan Bizheng's Temple Love Affair* and *The Qin Palace's Legacy of Hatred* were made famous by performers Sun Ma Si-tsang (appearing in the former) and Leung Mo-sheung (in the latter).

Pong made his film debut in 1955 as librettist for *The Story of Lun Man-chui and Lee Chun-fa*; his screenwriting debut was *The Yinyang Fan* (1957). During the period from 1955 to 1975, he wrote over 40 scripts or librettos for opera films, most of which were co-written with Lee Yuen-man. They also wrote song lyrics for these films, including *Little Prime Minister* (1961), *The New Magic Cup* (1962), *Love is Great* (1965) and *Lau Kam Ding - the Female General* (1967). His solo works include *The Dunces Bump into a Ghost* (1957), *Romance of the Precious Fan* (1957) and his last work, *Flag of Pearls* (1968).

Pong also wrote theme songs for movies. The most famous ones include the theme song of *Lady Bond* (1966) sung by Connie Chan Po-chu. Pong was also assistant director on such films as Lee Sun-fung's *The Romance of a Hairpin* (1958) and Lee Tit's *The Legend of Purple Hairpin* (1959).

The end of the 1960s saw Pong's career diversifying into producing records, including 'Joyful Years' sung by Liza Wang and Adam Cheng. He had worked for both EMI and Fung Hang Record Company. Pong later worked in Rediffusion TV (RTV) for seven years. In 1986, he still wrote lyrics for Asia Television Limited's (ATV) drama series *Xi Shih*. He was a member of the Composers and Authors Society of Hong Kong Limited (CASH). In 1991, he passed away of a heart attack at the age of 63.
