



**POON Cheuk 潘焯** ( 1921.9.16–2003.12.29 )

**Screenwriter, Librettist**

Originally named Poon Yuen-cheuk, Poon was also known as Chiu Mang. A native of Shunde, Guangdong, he graduated from the secondary school at the Shunde Agricultural School of Guangdong Province. When Poon resettled to Hong Kong in 1949, he came to be acquainted with Lo Kar-wong through his nephew. His first work, *Autumn Sentiments*, was passed to Lo Kar-wong who showed it to Lo Ka-chi, his elder brother. Being a Cantonese opera master, Lo Ka-chi edited the work and broadcast it on radio. As Poon started to gain recognition for his work, he was invited by famous opera singers to write songs for them, including Cheung Yuet-ye and Tsui Lau-sin.

Poon wrote stage plays for numerous Cantonese opera troupes, including *Two Heroic Families* (1966) for Tai Lung Fung, *Lin Chong* (1968) for Kar Bo, *War and Never-ending Love* (1970) for Hing Sun Sing, and *A Pillar of Strength* (1972) for Kam Tim Fa.

Poon teamed up with Lee Yuen-man to write the libretto for *The Romantic Story of the West Chamber* (1956), which was his screen debut. Their joint works include *The Precious Lotus Lamp* (1956), *The Romantic Monk* (1956) and *The Princess's Messenger* (1958).

Poon's first solo script was for the film *A Story About Three Families* (1960). From 1956 to 1968, he wrote the scripts and composed the libretti for over 170 films, including *Drums Along the Battlefield* (1963) and *The Revenge Battle* (1964). His last work for the cinema was *The Story of Heroine Fan Lei-fa* in 1968.

Poon also wrote music for many *wuxia* films including *Ingenius Fluter* (1961), *The Azure Blood and the Golden Pin* series (1963-64), *The Mighty Snow Sword* series (1964), *A Brave Young Girl's Spirit* (1965) and *The Ghost with Six Fingers* series (1965).

In his later years, Poon helped to write *King Wu's Conquest over Yin*, and wrote many gospel Cantonese arias for the Hong Kong Chinese Church of Christ. Poon passed away in 2003.

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