



SIU Lun 蕭璘

Actress

A paternal cousin of Chaozhou opera star, Hsiao Nan-ying, Siu Lun of Chaoyang ancestry was born in Tianjin. Her family moved to Shanghai for a short period but eventually returned to Shantou, Guangdong. After graduating from secondary school, Siu participated in local Chaozhou opera performances and enrolled in a Chaozhou opera school to pursue her passion. Moving to Bangkok in 1955, she joined Su Xinghuan's Zhong Yizhixiang Chaozhou Opera Troupe as a featured performer before eventually moving to Hong Kong to further her career. Fluent in the Chaozhou dialect, Mandarin and Cantonese, Siu was blessed with a small frame and an innocent countenance. As a result, she was cast as the *wawasheng* (junior male) character An'an in her debut film *The Innocent* (produced by Bian Sing, 1960). In conjunction with the film's Thai release, Siu embarked on an over-a-month-long tour across Thailand, performing in such Chaozhou operas as *An-an's Quest to Reunite with His Mother*, *Qingmei's Proposal* and *Sister Taohua*. She later appeared on the silver screen as a woman in two Chaozhou-dialect films, *Strange Visitor* (1960) and *The Bridegroom Is a Girl* (1961).

After her performance as the female lead in *Romance of the Iron Bow* (1961) and *A Maid in Mourning* (1961), Siu went on a two-month performance tour in Singapore and Malaysia in conjunction with the release of the two films. Her successful tours in 1960 and 1961 boosted her popularity among Southeast Asian audiences. After completing *Han Yu Caught in Snowstorm* (1962), Siu subsequently founded Ching Shan Film Co. and produced *A Woman from Chaozhou* (1963), a rare Chaozhou-dialect modern drama, and *Third Madam Teaches Her Son a Lesson* (1963), adapted from a Chaozhou opera classic based on folklore. Siu was the female lead in the former, and took on the role of a *wawasheng* again in the latter.

Siu's early films were primarily produced by the Tung Shan Film Co. and Zhongyi Film Company. Apart from her own production company, she later worked for other films companies such as the Xingxing Film Company in such production as *Throwing Coins at the Fairy Maidens* (1963) and the Eng Wah & Company in such production as *Lantern of Romance* (1964). Over the span of her career, Siu was featured in over ten Chaozhou-dialect films.