



SUET Nei 雪妮 (b. 1947)

Actress

A native of Hubei, Suet Nei is originally surnamed Li. Her maternal grandmother took her to Hong Kong when she was about two years old and a few years after, entrusted a couple also from Hubei surnamed Hung to raise her. 'Suet Nei' was the name she used at school. Later, she moved to Taiwan with her adoptive parents. She has been interested in acting since she was studying. In 1961, her adoptive mother signed her up for the actor training class run by Central Motion Picture Corporation (CMPC) and she was admitted, alongside stars like Chiao Chiao, Tang Pao-yun, Wu Chia-chi. She signed a contract after the training course and made her onscreen debut in Zili Film Company's *Good Neighbors* (1962). Also acted in CMPC films such as *Typhoon* (1962). Later, she returned to Hong Kong and was introduced by relatives and friends to join Hong Kong Film Company as its first basic contract actor, with the company strongly supporting her and giving her an important role in their first film, *The Golden Hairpin* (1963). Immediately afterwards, she starred in the modern era comedy *One Queen and Three Kings* (1963), becoming a rising star that caught the attention of many.

In her four or so years acting for Hong Kong Film Company, Suet Nei mainly took part in period martial arts films, with her often shooting the fight scenes herself. Her agility and strength, paired with the tough, cool characters she often played, made her an emerging female fight star. During that period, she acted in *The Mighty Snow Sword (Parts One to Four)* (1964), *Book Without Letters* (1965) and *Paragon of Sword and Knife (Parts One and Two)* (1967-1968), while her performance in *The Green-Eyed Lady* (1967), adeptly skirting between good and evil, made her the talk of the town. In addition to period martial arts films, she also successfully created an image of herself as a modern heroine with *The Black Musketeer 'F'* (1966), *The Woman in Black and the Black Dragon* (1966) and *The Black Musketeer, Part Three* (1967). At the same time, she also acted in comedy films such as *Old Master* (1965) as well as independent literary films like *Hotel Blues* (1968).

Broadened her horizons beyond the film company in the mid-1960s, she made more even films, continuing her successes as a fight star in *Blood Stains the Iron Fist* (1967), *Three Heroines (Parts One and Two)* (1968), *The Magnificent Five* (1968) and *The Dragon Fortress* (1968), which was a colour widescreen film. She also starred modern era comedies *Hire a Husband* (1968) and *The Mysterious Sisters* (1969). Her path crossed with martial arts coordinator Tong Kai during film shooting and the two got married in January 1969. With new family priorities and the decline of Cantonese film production, she bid farewell to the film industry in the late 1960s. Her final works released include *The Single-Armed Holy Nun* (1969) and *Secret Agent No. 1* (1970).

In the late 1980s, Suet Nei immigrated to Canada and left the industry until Tsui Hark invited her to make a guest appearance in *The Blade* (1995). She returned to Hong Kong in 1997 and then acted mainly in TV series, including the popular *Secret of the Heart* (1998), *Rosy Business* (2009), in addition to a few films such as *The White Dragon* (2004) until her retirement in 2020.
