



TSANG Shan-fung 曾珊鳳

Actress

A Chaozhou opera *huadan* (young female) actress from Thailand's Lao Baoshunxiang Troupe, Tsang Shan-fung was a native of Chenghai, Guangdong. When Xintiancai Chaozhou Opera Troupe made its first foray into film in 1960, Tsang was invited to perform in *A Wronged Daughter-in-Law* (1960), a Tor Ying Film Co production. She originally played opposite Chan Chor-wai, but due to the fact that Tsang's appearance was older and more mature than Chan's, she was later paired with Cheung Ying-yin instead. The film also marked the beginning of the long-term partnership between Tsang and the Xintiancai troupe. Although Tsang later played Chan's mother in *Judge Bao's Encounter with the Deposed Empress* (aka *Black Judge*, 1961), after *Phoenix Ornament* (1961), Tsang and Chan became an established golden screen couple, playing the *huadan* (young female) and *xiaosheng* (young civil male) roles in over 30 Chaozhou-dialect films that include *Reincarnation* (1961), *Justice and Revenge* (1962), *Madam Lan Ching* (1962), *The Misplaced Love-Token* (1962), *Prince Lau Chiang* (1962), *Unworldly Event* (1962), *Fairy Pearl* (1963), *Four Appeals* (1964), *Mermaid Story* (1965), and *The Heroic Pair* (Part 1 & 2, 1967). Tsang might have won the hearts of melodrama fans with her tragic heroine roles but she was equally adept in comedies such as *Fairy Pearl*, *Four Appeals* and *Mermaid Story*, garnering praise for her vivid performances. Her convincing performance in *The Heroic Pair*, a film filled with martial art sequences, was a testimony to her work ethic and determination to expand her range.

When the production of Chaozhou-dialect films gradually fell into decline in 1966, the Xintiancai troupe went on a tour across Thailand, with Tsang and Chan serving as the female and male leads, performing in the operas *The Misplaced Love-Token* and *The Princess Falls in Love*.