



WANG Shun 王純 (Year of birth unknown–2001)

Composer, Production Manager, Screenwriter

A native of Chenghai, Guangdong, Wang Shun's original name was Wang Xiaoshun. He was an adept *erhu* player and keen on the study of Han opera music and Chaozhou music. He moved to Hong Kong after the war and set foot in music for films since the 1950s. He once played accompaniment in the Cantonese movie *The Dream Encounter Between Emperor Wu of Han and Lady Wai* (written and directed by Tong Tik-sang, 1954).

In 1958, Wang became active across the Mandarin, Amoy-dialect and Chaozhou-dialect cinema. In the Mandarin cinema, he composed and designed music for a number of Mandarin *huangmei diao* movies by Shaw Brothers. *Diao Charn* (1958) and *The Kingdom and the Beauty* (1959) won him the Best Music (Golden Harvest) Award and the Best Music (Golden Gong) Award respectively in two consecutive years at the Asian Film Festival. His other Shaw Brothers' titles include: *Yang Kwei-fei (The Magnificent Concubine)* (1962), *Empress Wu Tse-tien* (1963), *The Story of Sue San* (1964) and *Beyond the Great Wall* (1964). His Amoy-dialect debut was *Shrews from Afar* (1958), co-starring Xiao Juan (alias Ivy Ling Po) and Chong Sit Fong. He continued to write music for such Amoy-dialect movies as *True Love* (1959), *Advertisement Beauty* (1959), *The Driver Takes a Wife* (1959), *The Playful Choon Heong* (1960), and *Lotus Pan* (1963).

In the Chaozhou-dialect cinema, he composed music for three Xinsheng Film Production Company's titles in 1958, namely *The Scissors*, *The Ill-Fated Flower*, and *Twin Jade Fish*. Later, he composed for *A Woman from Chaozhou*, a modern drama produced by Ching Shan Film Co. In 1963, he set up United Motion Picture Production Co. and became a production manager himself. He recruited Chan Chor-wai and Fong Hau-yuk to star in *The Red-Haired Steed* (produced by Wang, 1963), *The Top Scholar on Patrol* (1963), *Mantrap* (written by Wang, 1965), *Prince and Wild Cat* (1967) and *The Execution* (1967). He also wrote screenplays for United Motion Picture productions, such as *Fairy and Man* (1963) and *The Murder Case During the Lantern Festival* (1964). When Xintiancai Chaozhou Opera Troupe went on a tour to Singapore in 1969, he served as consultant along with Wong Kwan-shek and Chan Yau-muk.

Since his migration to Hong Kong, Wang had been actively promoting the art of music under the name of Hong Kong Chiu Chow Merchants Mutual Assistance Society. He was Executive Director of the Society from 1961 to 1965. He immigrated to the US in the 1970s, where he passed away of illness in March 2001.
