



## WENG Lingwen 翁靈文 (1919–2002.8.17)

### Film Publicity Executive

Born in Changshu of Jiangsu Changshu descent, Weng grew up and received education in northern China. His ancestor, Weng Tonghe was a renowned scholar and tutor of Emperors Tongzhi and Guangxu. Weng came to Hong Kong before the Second World War and taught Chinese and history at Pui Ying Secondary School. He got acquainted with Cai Chusheng and Situ Huimin, who were also from the North and it led to his career in cinema. During the summer holidays, he went behind the camera for The Grandland Motion Picture Corporation as assistant director and made *Orphan Island Paradise* (1939) and *My Motherland* (1940). He returned to the Mainland at the outbreak of the Pacific War. In 1945, he arrived in Guangzhou where he resumed teaching in a secondary school and gave Mandarin script recital courses at Guangzhou Institute of Arts. With an invitation from Zhu Xuhua, Weng joined the publicity department of Great China Film Company in Hong Kong in 1947. He later joined the newly set up Yung Hwa Motion Picture Industries Ltd and worked with Ding Cong, Zhang Guangyu, etc.

In the mid-1950s, Weng joined China United Film Company, which specialised in distributing Hong Kong films. He worked there until 1964 when its general manager Hu Jinkang died in a plane crash and led to the close down of the company. Weng later joined Toho Co Ltd where he was engaged in distribution and promotion of Japanese films in Hong Kong. During his time there, he made friends with many young adults from the art and literary fields. Weng had worked for Shaws at several points in his career. In the 1950s, he provided editorial work for *The Screen Voice Pictorial* during the Shaw & Sons Ltd era, and quitted after Shaw Brothers (Hong Kong) Ltd was set up. He returned to lend editorial expertise to Shaws' *Hong Kong Movie News* at the invitation of Zhu Xuhua, the chief editor at the time for the publication, before joining *The Reader's Digest*. After Zhu migrated to Canada, Mona Fong invited Weng to return to take charge of the publication. He joined the public relations department of Television Broadcasts Limited (TVB) in early 1981 and became a consultant in 1991 until his retirement in 2002. Weng passed away on 17 August the same year in Hong Kong.