



YIP Yut-fong 葉逸芳 (1913.11.12–2002)

Screenwriter, Director, Publicist

With the original name Ye Xinqing and being a native of Ningbo, Yip Yut-fong moved to Shanghai at a young age. He was already passionate about writing during his school years. In 1929, he was involved in editorial work of newspapers and magazines which connected him with people in the film industry. As a film critic, he wrote under the pen name of Yip Yut-fong. He joined Yee Hwa Motion Picture Co. in film publicity when he was 19. During the War of Resistance Against Japan, he left his post and participated in the wartime efforts. He later joined Central Motion Picture Studio through his friend's connections. He moved to Hong Kong in 1938 and returned to China after a brief stay. Yip joined Yee Hwa again and began his career as a screenwriter with his debut work being *Down! The Ching Dynasty* (aka *Assassinating King Qin*, 1940). He continued to pen scripts with works including *Three Charming Smiles* (1940), *Emperor's Lover* (1940), *The Red Butterfly* (1941) and *A Strange Woman* (1942). When all film companies were integrated into the China United Film Holdings Company Ltd. by the Japanese regime, Yip left the film industry in defiance of the puppet regime. After the war, he returned to the film industry and worked as a publicist. He later co-founded New Age Film Company and presented the blockbuster *Birds Sing Everywhere* (1947), *The Net 626* (1948) and *Rainy and Windy at Night* (1949). Yip also established Top Five Chinese Film Company where he wrote and produced films including *A Distressful Love Story* (1948). During the period, he also wrote such films as *A Navy Hero* (1948) and *The Lexicon of Love* (1949). He subsequently built his own film studio, but it only operated briefly due to the turbulent times. Yip was politically criticised during the 1950s.

In 1956, he moved to Hong Kong where he started writing movie scripts under pseudonyms. In 1958, he was invited by Zhu Shilin to join Feng Huang Motion Picture Co. and wrote films including *The Precious Little Moon* (1959) and *Wife on Trial* (1966). He was also the publicity officer at The Great Wall Movie Enterprises Ltd. Using another pen name 'Yi Fang', Yip wrote the screenplay for films including *A Dazzling Trap* (1961), *Two Ideal Couples* (1962), *Love on the Edge* (1962), *A Happy Reunion* (1964), and *Three Charming Smiles* (1964), etc. Yip started to work at Shaw Brothers (Hong Kong) Ltd in 1967, serving as a screenwriter until 1973. His works spanned a wide range of film genres, including martial arts films *The Jade Raksha* (1968) and *The Golden Knight* (1970), the comedy *Guess Who Killed My Twelve Lovers* (1970), the sentimental film *A Place to Call Home* (1970), the romance *The Long Years* (1971), and his most notable *The Price of Love* (1970). His son Yip Wing-cho was also a director at Shaw Brothers; the father-son duo collaborated in *Girl of Ghost Valley* (1971) and *The Black Tavern* (1972) as screenwriter and director respectively. He also served as screenwriter for other film companies such as Golden Harvest (HK) Limited with works including *The Skyhawk* (1974) and *My Darling Slave* (1974). Yip was both writer and director for *A Good Time at a Good Night* (1942) and *All Professions* (1949). Using the pen name 'Ye Fang', he wrote lyrics for 'The Pretender', sung by Bai Guang in *The Net 626*, which became a widely popular song. He also wrote songs for *New Camille* (1942), *Dark Semester* (1969), and *A Place to Call Home*. In his later years, Yip settled in Thailand with his son. He passed away in August 2002.