



YIU Kai-hung 姚佳雄

Actor

Originally an opera performer in the Mainland, Yiu was already a senior member of the Xintiancai Chaozhou Opera Troupe in the early 1950s in Hong Kong. He was known for his powerful voice, and being able to play multiple roles of *chousheng* (male clown), *dahualian* (large painted face), and *xusheng* (bearded male). Yiu has assisted troupe leader Cheung Muk-chun to train new members, and instructed Cheung Ying-yin to play *xusheng* roles. He later lived in Vietnam for a decade, where he performed under a local troupe, before coming back to Hong Kong and rejoining Xintiancai for cinema productions. Yiu made his acting debut with *Unworldly Event*, directed by Kao Li in 1962. It was followed by numerous other productions, including *A Common Scholar* (1963), *The Red-Haired Steed* (1963), *The Top Scholar on Patrol* (1963), *Perfect Lady* (1963), *Fairy and Man* (1963), *Governor Qiao Arranges Marriages at Random* (1964), *Romance in a Rainstorm* (1965) and *The Nymph of River Lo* (1966). He was often cast as a villain in films, such as the ruthless elder brother Pi Dun in *Four Appeals* (1964); the snobbish minister in *Mermaid Story* (1965); the avaricious patriarch in *Two-Year-Old Husband* (1965); the bullying princess guard in *The Incorruptible Official Dong Xuan* (1966); and Yue Zhong in *The Scholar Cui Mingfeng* (Part 1 & 2, 1968) who is the right-hand man of the vicious minister. Despite his brilliant performance as evil-doers, Yiu was also capable of playing heroic characters, such as the loyal and righteous regional official in *Mantrap* (1965). Yiu was honoured as the 'all-rounded master', and has acted in over 30 Chaozhou-dialect films in his career. In the face of the dwindling popularity of Chaozhou-dialect cinema starting the mid-1960s, Yiu put his focus back on stage performance, while assisting to manage Xintiancai at the same time. Yiu later joined successively Xintianyi and Shengyi Chaozhou Opera Troupes as lead actor, touring in the Mainland, Taiwan, Singapore and Thailand throughout the years, and their performances have been praised by both local and international audience.