



YUAN Qiufeng 袁秋楓 (b. 1924.7.15)

Director, Screenwriter

A native of Lujiang, Anhui, Yuan was born in Harbin. After graduating from the Faculty of Economics and Politics of China University in Beijing, he worked as a reporter during the war. Yuan worked for a newspaper after coming to Hong Kong in 1950 and wrote novels in his spare time. He later became the assistant director to Ma-Xu Weibang and scripted his Amoy-dialect works *Lady Hoon Escapes* (1956) and *A Wronged Maiden* (1957). Yuan made his directorial debut with the Amoy-dialect film *Bandidos* (1956) and subsequently shot 20-some Amoy-dialect titles, including *Nonya of Malaya* (1959), *Nana* (1959) and *Miss Singapore* (1959). He also filmed a Chaozhou-dialect feature, *A Merchant Divorces His Wife* (1960).

Yuan joined Shaw Brothers (Hong Kong) Ltd in 1959 and directed Amoy-dialect films such as *Always in My Heart* (1960) and *Agent No. 33* (1961); Cantonese titles such as *Revolutionary Heroine* (1960) and *Duel in Black Dragon Street* (1961). Ma-Xu's last work, *The Serpent and the Lovers* (1961) was also penned by Yuan. He later switched to make Mandarin films and shot *Mid-Nightmare* (Part 1 & 2, 1962-63), written by Ma-Xu before his passing; *Dream of the Red Chamber* (1962), scripted by his wife Yi Fan; *The Black Forest* (1964) and *Songfest* (1965). In 1964, Yuan left Shaws for Motion Picture and General Investment Co Ltd (MP & GI) (later restructured into Cathay Organisation [HK] [1965] Ltd). His first film there was *Lady on the Moon* (1966), followed by seven other titles, including the extravagant epic *A Debt of Blood* (1966). Later he founded Golden Eagle Film Company with Kelly Lai Chen and Betty Loh Ti and directed a number of *wuxia* titles, such as *The Wandering Swordsman* (1968) and *The Lightning Sword* (1969). His last directorial work was the Mandarin title *The Undefeated Sword* (co-directed with Ling Wan, 1970), produced by Golden Eagle. In his career spanning over a decade, he had over 50 films under his belt. Yuan returned to Shaws in 1970 as the production manager of the studio, in replacement of Raymond Chow. He retired from the film industry three years later to embark on a career in publishing.