



## Run Run SHAW 邵逸夫 (1907–2014.1.7)

### Producer, Executive Producer

With the original name Shao Renleng and the alias Yifu, Shaw was born in Shanghai and was the sixth child to a family from Zhenhai, Ningbo, Zhejiang. His father Shaw Yuh-hsuen was involved in the pigment and dyeing business in Shanghai. When his eldest brother, Runje Shaw, founded Unique Film Productions in 1925, the young Run Run helped his brothers with the filming of *The Pearl Pagoda* (in two parts, 1926) and *Monkey King Conquers the Leopard* (1926) while still in secondary school. He was also in charge of overseas distribution and camera work. After graduating from secondary school, he joined his third eldest brother, Runme Shaw in Singapore. Together they developed an overseas distribution network, buying several amusement parks and theatres there. In 1930, the two brothers set up Shaw Brothers Ltd in Singapore. In 1931, he went to the US to purchase equipment for making sound films and helped Runje Shaw shoot the sound film, *The White Gold Dragon* (1933). In 1937, he married Lily Huang Meizhen, the daughter of a rich merchant in Singapore (Huang died in Los Angeles on 24 October 1987). They had two sons and two daughters. In 1957, he came to Hong Kong and re-organised the family's film production business here. He bought an 800,000 square foot site at Clearwater Bay with HK\$320,000 from Runde Shaw, his second eldest brother, and built the Shaw Studio. In 1958, Shaw Brothers (Hong Kong) Ltd was established for film productions. The Shaw Studio was completed in 1964 and became the largest shooting studio in Asia. Shaws produced more than 1000 films over the years, including the award-winning *The Kingdom and the Beauty* (1959), *The Love Eterne* (1963), *Come Drink with Me* (1966) and *One-Armed Swordsman* (1967). It set the trend of *huangmei diao* films and the new *wuxia* genre. The studio also trained up many well-known directors such as Li Han-hsiang, Chang Cheh, King Hu and Lau Kar-leung, and produced superstars like Linda Lin Dai, Ivy Ling Po, Li Ching, Lily Ho, Cheng Pei-pei and Jimmy Wang Yu. In 1971, Shaw Brothers (Hong Kong) Ltd became a listed company, establishing itself as Asia's most powerful film and television production company.

Shaw was made a knight by Queen Elizabeth II in 1977. He became the largest shareholder and chairman of Television Broadcasts Limited (TVB) in 1980. He gradually faded out from the film scene and devoted all his energies to the television industry. In 1987, he drastically reduced the number of productions of Shaws. On 6 May 1997, Shaw and Mona Fong got married in Las Vegas. In 2000, Shaws sold its film archive with over 700 films to East Asia Film Entertainment, a subsidiary owned by the consortium Usaha Tegas Sdn Bhd (UT) in Malaysia, for over HK\$600 million. In July of the same year, Galaxy Satellite Broadcasting Ltd, a company owned by Shaw, acquired a pay-TV operating license in Hong Kong. Shaws also formed a consortium and purchased a 90,000-square-metre site in Tseung Kwan O to build a new TV city. In 2011, he sold Shaw Brothers (Hong Kong) Ltd. He retired from the position of Chairman of the Board at TVB the following year and was honoured as Chairman Emeritus of the company. He received the Lifetime Achievement Award and the Century Achievement Award at Hong Kong Film Awards respectively in 1983 and 2007. Shaw passed away in Hong Kong on 7 January 2014.

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