



Runde SHAW 邵邨人 (1899–1973.9.18)

Producer, Executive Producer

A native of Zhenhai, Ningbo, Zhejiang and with the alias Cunren, Shaw was the second eldest of the eight Shaw siblings. His wife Bao Lianfeng came from a prominent family and they had seven sons and one daughter. When Unique Film Productions was founded, Shaw was in charge of accounting and screenwriting. When Unique moved to Hong Kong, he stayed behind in Shanghai to look after its distribution business. In 1936, he arrived in Hong Kong to take over the operation of Unique (HK) from his elder brother Runje. He straightened out the company's bookkeeping and set up a sound accounting system. Unique was soon running smoothly. He then recruited Hung Chung-ho as the company's director, to speed up film productions. In 1937, Shaw formally changed the name of Unique (HK) to Nanyang Film Company. Its line of melodramatic films were not only released in Hong Kong and Shanghai, but was above all sent to cinema chains and distribution networks in Malaya and Singapore, operated by Runme Shaw and Run Run Shaw. Such vertical integration of supply and marketing proved greatly successful. In 1941, after Hong Kong and Malaya fell under Japanese occupation, Shaw fled to Shanghai with his family. He returned to theatrical business in Shanghai with his eldest brother Runje Shaw. He returned to Hong Kong immediately after the war in 1945 and re-established the Dongnanya Film Company in Kowloon City. In 1950, Shaw changed the company name of Nanyang to Shaw & Sons Ltd and resumed film productions. He hired directors Doe Ching and Wang Yin, actors Yan Jun, Li Lihua, Lucilla You Min, Chao Lei, Huang He, and shot a number of contemporary *wenyi* films, which were distributed in the Southeast Asia.

Meanwhile, he focused on purchasing cinemas and properties in Hong Kong. He first acquired Zhonghua Theatre (later renamed as Rialto Theatre) in Wanchai and operated the Yau Ma Tei Theatre and Hoover theatre. Regarding to the government's blueprint for new urban development in the early 1950s that prohibited the establishment of film studios in urban area, Shaw sold the Kowloon City studio for HK\$2.7 million and bought a plot of land on Nathan Road to build the Shaw Building, with the ground floor as the Gala Theatre. In addition, he bought a plot of land at Clearwater Bay and was in preparation to construct a new studio there. Shaw gradually lost interest in filmmaking and thus sold the site at Clearwater Bay to Run Run Shaw in 1957 and stepped down from the cinematic scene. He passed away in Hong Kong on 18 September 1973.