



Albert ODELL 歐德爾 (1924–2003.9.23)

Distributor, Management Personnel

A British of Jewish origin, Odell was born and raised in Hong Kong. During the War of Resistance Against Japan, he worked briefly at Radio-Keith-Orphem Pictures and the British Embassy in Chongqing, and got acquainted with a good deal of people within the film circle. He teamed up with Republic Pictures in Singapore after the war. Odell joined Cathay Organisation in Singapore in 1951 and headed the International Film Distribution Agency, mainly playing the role as both an agent and a distributor.

He was posted to Hong Kong in 1954 to set up International Films Distributing Agency (the predecessor of Motion Picture and General Investment Co Ltd [MP & GI]) and served as its general manager. He also formed the Cantonese film unit for International Films in the same year, producing a number of acclaimed Cantonese titles. Meanwhile, film companies such as Yan Jun's Cathay Motion Picture and Bai Guang's Guoguang were established under the financial support of International Films headed by Odell, thereby producing a great deal of quality Mandarin titles. In 1955, he assisted Loke Wan Tho to take over Yung Hwa Studios and oversaw its construction while managing its operations at the same time. In a brief period of time, Cathay caught up with Shaws, and even surpassed its arch-rival with some exceptionally fine-quality features.

Odell resigned from Cathay in 1957 to join Shaws. He became involved in video distribution and ran a video rental store in Singapore since the 1970s. Odell passed away on 23 September 2003.