



Grace CHANG 葛蘭 (b. 1934)

Actress

A native of Zhejiang with the original name Zhang Yufang, Chang moved to Hong Kong with her family in 1949, where she continued her secondary school education. She was no stranger to the theatrical stage during her studies. Chang enrolled in the actor training programme of Taishan Film Company in 1952. She came into people's line of sight with her debut work, *The Seven Maidens* (1953). Meanwhile, she worked for other film companies and appeared in *The 72 Martyrs of Canton* (1954) and *Wine, Women and Money* (1957). In 1955, Chang signed a contract with International Films Distributing Agency (the predecessor of Motion Picture and General Investment Co Ltd [MP & GI]) and shot *Surprise* (1956). *Mambo Girl* (1957), a film that MP & GI tailored made for Chang, brought her to stardom. With a healthy and lively image and talents in singing and dancing, she became one of the major stars of MP & GI. Her prominent works include *Air Hostess* (1959), *Our Dream Car* (1959), *Sun, Moon and Star* (1961) and the Mandarin musical classic, *The Wild, Wild Rose* (1960). Chang got married in 1961 with Gao Fuquan, son of a notable family. Chang made *Because of Her* (1963) after a ten-month break. She retired from the screen after shooting *A Story of Three Loves* (1964). Chang took part in over 30 films throughout her career.

She was a versatile actress and received music training at a young age, including piano, formal vocal training and Peking opera. She had performed Peking opera and Kunqu opera in films, and even made a cameo appearance in *Wang Baochuan* featuring renowned Peking opera artist Zhang Eyun. Chang also played a cameo in the American film *Soldier of Fortune* in 1954. Chang released a number of records with Pathé, appeared on *The Dinah Shore Show* in support of her US album, entitled *Hong Kong's Grace Chang: The Nightingale of the Orient*. It caused a great sensation when Pathé rereleased her album in the early 1990s.