



Jackson SUM Kat-sing 沈吉誠 (1906–1992.3.6)

Public Relations Personnel, Distributor

A native of Tongxiang, Zhejiang and with the original name Shen Xueqian, Sum came from a prominent family. His father was a late Qing scholar involved in the rice and oil business. Owing to the influence of his maternal uncle Xu Lingyun (a celebrated Chinese playwright), Sum enjoyed *Kunqu* opera as a child and had performed on stage. During his studies at the Shanghai Jiao Tong University, he began writing articles, film and drama reviews for *Shun Pao* and *Xin Wen Bao*. In the late 1920s, he founded *Xiao Re Pao* with journalist Feng Mengyun, and was the chief editor of the newspaper. Later he founded *Qiong Pao* and became a well-known journalist in the Shanghai media field at the time. He was an acquaintance of Runje Shaw, founder of Unique Film Productions. Sum moved to Hong Kong in 1932 and joined Unique (HK) as public relations manager after Runje Shaw set up the company. At the same time, he was also chief photographer at *Wah Kiu Yat Po* and film department manager at Ko Shing Theatre, which mainly featured Cantonese opera performances. His job at the theatre enabled him to befriend many famous Cantonese opera artists. In 1936, he founded Dapeng Film Company with Chow Sze-luk and Keung Pak-kuk, to produce and distribute films such as *Island of Grievance* (1937), *Happiness Is a Well-Defended Home* (1937) and *The Glowing Pearl* (1937). When Run Run Shaw came to Hong Kong from Singapore for business inspection, he invited the well-connected Sum to be the representative of Shaws Brothers (Singapore) Ltd in Hong Kong, responsible for acquiring high-quality Cantonese films for their cinemas in Southeast Asia, and inviting Cantonese opera artists to perform in Singapore as well as Malaysia.

Film productions in Hong Kong stopped during the Japanese Occupation and Sum went back to run his rice and oil businesses. He had a passion for horse racing and began writing horse racing commentaries for *Hong Kong News* under the pseudonyms Lin Ying and Ji Ji. Lao Min and Lao Ji were pseudonyms he used after the war. Sum reclaimed the films of Unique (HK) and Nanyang Film Company detained by the Japanese on behalf of the Shaw brothers who were not in Hong Kong at the time. He continued to work for Nanyang and Shaws (Singapore) for several years. In 1947, when horse racing resumed at the Hong Kong Jockey Club, Sum became busy writing commentaries and gradually faded out from the cinematic scene. He was the main writer for the horse racing section of *Wah Kiu Yat Po* and published *Mystery Tips* out of his own pocket. In the 40 years that followed, Sum engaged in horse racing commentary work and wrote articles for newspapers from time to time. He stopped writing in the mid-1980s after his left eye lost vision to cataracts. He enjoyed a quiet retired life in later years, and passed away in Hong Kong on 6 March 1992.