



## MOK Hong-si 莫康時 (1908.12.25–1969.4.15)

### Director

A Guangxi native, Mok graduated from the Law Faculty of University of Shanghai. At his early age he joined Dachangcheng Film Company which he penned the script for *Dark Shadow* (1935) directed by Lee Ying-yuen, once his primary schoolmate. Mok then worked as a theatre manager in Nanjing, while translating subtitles for foreign films. Mok came to Hong Kong in 1939 and collaborated with Lee again, serving as his screenwriter. The scripts he wrote for Lee include *The Perfect Woman* (1939), *Marriage Made in Heaven* (1939) and *The Spotlight* (1940). He debuted as a director in 1940 with the Cantonese title *Spring Returns to the Good Earth*.

During Hong Kong's fall to the Japanese, Mok fled to the Mainland and participated in staged performances. In 1946, he came to Hong Kong and directed *Flames of Lust* (1946), the first post-war film of Hong Kong. Mok was best known for his comedies. The three Cantonese titles, *Broker Lai* (1950), *Broker Lai and the Smart Fei-tin Nam* (1950) and *The Misarranged Love Trap* (1950), which centered around Broker Lai as the protagonist, were examples of his early celebrated works. Co-directed with Lee Ying-yuen for Yung Hwa Motion Picture Industries Ltd, the Mandarin title *Gold Diggers* (1952) was another fitting example showcasing his comedic genius. He also made Cantonese films including *Inspectress General* (1961) and *False Alarm* (1962) as guest director for Motion Picture and General Investment Co Ltd (MP & GI). Noticeably all were comedies. He also worked closely with producer Wong Cheuk-hon. He had directed Mandarin and Cantonese features for Liberty Film Co. and Lan Kwong Film Company, both founded by Wong. The Mandarin films he directed for the former include *Mother Dearest* (1956) and *Princess of Sun Moon Lake* (1956), while the Cantonese films he directed for the latter include *Three Love Affairs* (1963) and *The Student Prince* (1964).

His other prominent works include *A Sorrowful Millionaire* (1963), *The Girl in the Bus* (1965), *The Witty Bus Girl* (1966), and *Lady Bond* series (in four parts, 1966-67), etc. His last film was *The Pretty Wild Cat* (1969). Mok directed around 160 Cantonese and Mandarin titles during his career. He passed away of illness in Hong Kong on 15 April 1969.