



SHIMA Koji (SHI Mashan) 島耕二 (史馬山) (1901–1986)

Director

With an original name Kagoshima Takehiko, Shima was born in Nagasaki City, Nagasaki Prefecture. He was one of the first batch of graduates from Nihon Eiga Gakko. He joined the Daishogun Studio of Nikkatsu Corporation as an actor in 1925 and appeared in films directed by Uchida Tomu, Abe Yutaka, Mizoguchi Kenji and Tasaka Tomotaka. Shima became a director only at the age of 38, with the debut work *Skylark* (1939). In 1940, he received acclaimed reviews for his screen adaptations of Ishikawa Tatsuzō's *Collection of Poems*, Ozaki Kazuo's *Rosy Glasses and Other Stories* and Miyazawa Kenji's *Matasaburo On the Wind*. During the Second World War, Shima directed a number of serious war films such as *All-out Attack on Singapore* (1943), as well as the rip-roaring comedy *Electrifying Duet* (1941), starring Sugi Kyojin and Todoroki Yukiko. After filming *12 Hours Before Setting Out on the Campaign* (1943), he was drafted for military service. Shima worked for Daiei, Toyoko Eiga and Shintohe (New Toho) after the war, directing *I Thought It Was You* (1946), *Mr Todo* (1947), *Theft in Moonlight City* (1948), *Goodbye* (1949) and *Ginza Cancan Girl* (1949), for which Hattori Ryōichi composed its music. His down-to-earth style of work had also become more melodramatic. In 1953, he directed the daring *The Japanese Lady Chatterly's Lover*, starring his wife Todoroki Yukiko and the then newcomer Wakao Ayako. His masterpiece *Golden Demon* (1954) won Best Film award at the 1st Southeast Asia Film Festival, while his sci-fi feature *Warning from Space* (1956) was awarded Best Color Cinematography and Best Sound Recording at the 3rd Southeast Asia Film Festival.

Starting from 1969, under the pseudonym Shi Mashan, Shima directed a number of films for Shaw Brothers (Hong Kong) Ltd, including the suspense detective title *Dear Murderer* (1969), the romantic musicals *Tropicana Interlude* (1969) and *The Orchid* (1970). His last directorial work *Song of the South Sea* was never completed, as Peter Chen Ho, the leading role passed away and the shooting stopped. The film was eventually remade into *Love Song over the Sea* (1970) by assistant director, Kuei Chih-hung, with Chin Feng playing the main character.