



TSO Kea 左几 (1916–1997.1.17)

Director, Screenwriter

A native of Nanhai, Guangdong and with the original name Huang Zuoji, Tso graduated from Guangzhou University with a degree in Sociology. He entered the film industry in 1937 and was first credited as screenwriter in *The Flower Girl* (1938). He later worked in different film jobs such as continuity, film processor and film editor before becoming notable in the field. Tso co-directed *The Young Couple* with Mong Wan in 1947 and subsequently directed *The Dragon is Teased by the Beautiful Phoenix* (1948). From 1947 to 1969, he directed over 80 feature films, most of which are Cantonese films, besides a few Chaozhou-dialect films such as *The Chivalrous Songstress* (1961), *The Mix-up* (1962) and *For Life or for Death* (1962). Apart from *My Wife, My Wife* (1955), the inaugural production of International Films Distributing Agency (the predecessor of Motion Picture and General Investment Co Ltd [MP & GI]), he directed 16 other Cantonese films for MP & GI, such as *Three Stages of Love* (1955), *My Kingdom for a Husband* (1957), *Love Lingers On* (1957), *The Tender Age* (1957), *The Sorrowful Lute* (1957) and *Memories of Love* (1958).

Tso was also well-known for his classic Cantonese operatic titles such as *Princess Cheung Ping* (1959); the screen adaptation of Zhang Henshui's novel, *Many Aspects of Love* (1961); *Night Must Fall* (1962); *The Songstresses* (1963); *Beyond the Horizon* (1966), in which he was also the lyricist. The last film he directed was *Miracle in Chasing* (1969). He was also the screenwriter in most of his directorial works; some of which were penned under the pseudonym Ho Yu.

He joined Rediffusion Television in 1968 and produced drama series such as *Detective Warren's Files*, while heading its screenwriting unit and actors training programme. Tso was promoted to manager of the creative unit in 1981 and worked there until his retirement in the early 1980s. He later migrated to Canada and established the Film & TV Association. Tso passed away of illness in Vancouver on 17 January 1997.
