



WANG Lai 王萊 (1927.2.12–2016.9.28)

Actress

A native of Shandong, Wang was born and raised in Beijing with the original name Wang Delan. She graduated in 1944 from the Subsidiary Girls Middle School affiliated with Beijing Normal University and later married actor He Bin, the head of Film Workers Drama Troupe. They founded Huaguang Troupe in 1949 and Wang began to act in films in 1951. She came to Hong Kong in August 1952 and took part in *Mr Handsome* (1953). Wang had since then appeared in almost 200 films. A versatile actress, she was crowned 'actress with a thousand faces'. She worked for a number of major studios in Hong Kong, including Swank, Yung Hwa, Asia, Hsin Hwa, Shaws, etc. Her efforts paid off in a number of films such as *Spring Is in the Air* (1954), *Tradition* (1955), *The Long Lane* (1956) and *Life with Grandma* (1957), etc. While shooting *Scarlet Doll* (1958) in Japan, Robert Chung invited her to join Motion Picture and General Investment Co Ltd (MP & GI). From 1957 to 1969, she had acted in over 50 films for MP & GI (which later restructured into Cathay Organisation [HK] [1965] Ltd). Some of her prominent works in this period include *Golden Lotus* (1957), *Her Tender Heart* (1959), *The Bedside Story* (1960), *The Wild, Wild Rose* (1960) and *Father Takes a Bride* (1963). Wang further won her first Best Supporting Actress at the 3rd Golden Horse Awards in Taiwan for her performance in *Father and Son* (1963).

She became a freelance actress in the 1970s and worked for different studios henceforth, such as Shaws in Hong Kong and Central Motion Pictures in Taiwan; her acting prowess had led her star in more than 50 films. She starred in 20-plus titles in the 1980s and 90s and bagged the Best Supporting Actress award again with *Unsinkable Miss Calabash* (1981), *Third Bridge* (1988) and *Pushing Hands* (1992) respectively at the 18th, 25th and 28th Golden Horse Awards in Taiwan. Wang passed away on 28 September 2016.