



WEN Yimin 文逸民 (1890–1978.12.22)

Director, Actor

Born in Beijing and a Manchu native, Wen joined Shanghai Youlian Film Company in 1925. He directed and acted in *Hero and Heroine* (I-V, 1927-29), which were the earliest *wuxia* genre films in China. Wen became a director of Shanghai's Unique Film Productions in 1934, with works such as *Broken Dream in the Dancing Hall* (1934), *Mother* (1935), *My Female Classmates* (1935) and *Riches* (1937). He also directed a number of Cantonese films for Unique (HK), including *Nocturnal Mourning* (1935), *Monster of the Secret Chamber* (1936), *A Patriotic Woman* (1936), *Love and Morality* (1936), *A Fisherman's Girl* (1936) and *Compassion* (1936). He was considered as one of the major directors of Unique (HK), the predecessor of Shaw & Sons Ltd. In 1939, Wen joined Yi Hwa Film Company and directed *Secret Lady* (1939), *Qin Xianglian* (1940), *Emperor's Lover* (1940), *Desire* (1941), *Life of the Red Rose* (1941) and *A Joyful Night* (1942), etc. He started working for China United Film Company Limited (Zhonglian) and China United Film Holdings Company Ltd (Huaying) in 1942 and directed *A Mother's Heart* (1942), *Grudge over a Fortune* (1943), *Red Beans Grow in the Southern Kingdom* (1943) and *Bright Future* (1943), etc.

Wen arrived in Hong Kong after the war and worked as a director and actor for Great China Film Company. He also acted in Yung Hwa Motion Picture Industries Ltd's *The Soul of China* (1948), and later in many of The Great Wall Movie Enterprises Ltd productions, such as *Home, Sweet Home* (1950), *A Bachelor is Born* (1952), *Night and Every Night* (1953) and *Joyce and Deli* (1954). In 1957, Wen joined Feng Huang Motion Picture Co and directed *The Eternal Beauty* (aka *The Chivalrous Songstress*, 1957), *An Unmarried Mother* (1958), *An Age of Blooming Teens* (co-directed with Ren Yizhi, 1959), etc. He moved to Taiwan in 1965, where he worked as a staple actor for Central Motion Picture Corporation and some private companies until his retirement in 1973. Wen passed away on 22 December 1978.