



YAO Ke 姚克 (1905–1991.12.18)

Screenwriter

A native of Anhui with the original name Yao Chenlong and the alias Shen Nong, Yao graduated from Soochow University and furthered his studies in Drama at Yale University. He entered the cultural industry upon graduation and co-founded Kugan Theatre Troupe with friends. A renowned playwright, Yao had over 20 scripts to his credit, including the well-known historical plays *Sorrows of the Qing Court* and *Xi Shi (Beauty of Beauties)*. He debuted as a screenwriter with the screenplay of *The Qing Ming Season* in 1936 and went on to pen for esteemed films such as *Sorrows of the Forbidden City* (1948), *A Strange Woman* (1950) and *The Insulted and Injured* (1950).

Invited by International Films Distributing Agency (the predecessor of Motion Picture and General Investment Co Ltd [MP & GI]) in 1955, he became one of its screenwriting committee members, together with Sun Jinsan, Eileen Chang and Stephen Soong. Under the leadership of the four intellectuals, MP & GI produced a number of classics and outstanding works. He taught at The Chinese University of Hong Kong in the 1960s and migrated to the US in early 1969, where he continued teaching at the University of Hawaii and the University of California. He came back to Hong Kong for a brief stay in 1976 and worked as a drama advisor for Rediffusion Television and an instructor to its screenwriting class. Yao passed away on 18 December 1991 in the US.