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| **Zheng Zhengqiu (1889-1935)** |
| 郑正秋, Zheng Fangze, 郑芳泽(1889-1935) |
| Zheng Zhengqiu (Chinese: 郑正秋, born as Zheng Fangze, 郑芳泽) (4 December 1889 to 16 July 1935) was a Chinese filmmaker and screen writer, and one of the founding members of Chinese modern cinema. In 1913, Zheng (co-director, screen writer), with Zhang Shichuan (co-director, producer), produced the first Chinese drama film, *Die for marriage* (or, *The Difficult Couple*) (Chinese: 难夫难妻, or 洞房花烛), which laid the foundation for the forms of early Chinese motion pictures and enabled Chinese cinematic innovations to take its modern shape. For Zheng, *Die for marriage* was supposed to serve two purposes: revisionary intervention (especially anti-feudalism) as well as public education (especially the modern social mentality). Alongside this enterprise, in 1922 Zheng and Zhang co-established the Mingxin Film Studio (Chinese: 明星影片公司). The studio operated from 1922 to 1937, making significant contributions to the development of national film industries in China. As a pioneer of Chinese cinema, Zheng’s endeavours and achievements helped the nationalization of the Chinese cinematic industry and cast the future direction of Chinese films. Thus, Zheng is historically considered as one of the most important figures who procreated cinematic enlightenment in early twentieth-century China. |
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