

= Chen Liting =

Chen Liting (Chinese : 陈白尘 ; pinyin : Chén Báichén ; 20 October 1910 ? 27 August 2013) was a Chinese playwright , drama and film director , screenwriter , and film theorist . He was one of the most prominent film directors and screenwriters in pre @-@ Communist China , together with Shi Dongshan , Cai Chusheng , and Zheng Junli . His most famous film was Women Side by Side (1949) .

Chen was abandoned as an infant , and then lost his both foster parents during early childhood . Before becoming a film director , Chen worked mainly in drama . His patriotic play Put Down Your Whip was highly influential and performed countless times during the Japanese invasion of China . During the war he also made a famous staging of the play Qu Yuan , and wrote one of the first Chinese books on film theory .

After the early 1950s , Chen 's attempts at filmmaking were repeatedly thwarted by the PRC government for political reasons . He worked as general manager of Tianma Film Studio before being imprisoned during the Cultural Revolution . After his rehabilitation at the end of the period , he spent three years on the historical film Da Feng Ge , but retired after that film was also cancelled due to politics .

= = Early life = =

Born in Shanghai in 1910 , Chen Liting was abandoned as an infant and adopted by foster parents . However , he lost his adoptive father at the age of four , and three years later his adoptive mother also died . Chen was brought up by his uncle , the brother of his adoptive father . He attended a boarding school in Jiangyin at the age of 12 , and in 1924 entered Chengzhong Middle School in Shanghai .

As a high school student at Chengzhong , Chen was influenced by the post @-@ May Fourth surge of modern drama . In 1928 , he entered Daxia University (a predecessor of East China Normal University) in Shanghai , where he translated , directed , and acted in The Rising of the Moon , a play by the Irish dramatist Lady Gregory . It was the first Chinese production of the play .

= = Put Down Your Whip = =

After university , Chen worked as a primary school teacher in rural Nanhui County outside of Shanghai . In late 1931 , he wrote the patriotic play Put Down Your Whip (also translated as Lay Down Your Whip) , inspired by Meiniang , an earlier play by Tian Han . It became extremely influential and was staged countless times throughout China during the Anti @-@ Japanese War . The play was staged both by amateur performers as well as famous actors . The actress Wang Ying even performed an English version of the play in the White House for President Roosevelt and his wife . The future Madame Mao , then known as Li Yunhe , was also among its many performers . The play has been described in Chinese media as a " spiritual atomic bomb " against the Japanese invaders . It also inspired famous paintings by artists Xu Beihong and Situ Qiao .

= = Sino @-@ Japanese War = =

Chen returned to Shanghai in 1932 , where he wrote film reviews and translated Soviet books on filmmaking into Chinese . After the Japanese invaded China in 1937 , Chen joined the resistance movement , serving as the leader of the fourth brigade of the Shanghai Salvation Drama Troupe , which performed numerous patriotic street plays including Put Down Your Whip . The troupe fled Shanghai before it fell to the Japanese , traveling and performing for the next three years under harsh conditions through central and southwest China .

In 1941 , Chen arrived in Chongqing , China 's wartime capital , where he joined the China Film Studio and the Central Cinematography Studio run by the Nationalist government . However , he mainly worked in theatre , directing plays written by Wu Zuguang , Xia Yan , and Chen Baichen . His

most impressive wartime contribution was the staging of Qu Yuan , a famous 1942 play by Guo Moruo . In 1942 , he also published Rules of Cinema , which is considered the first comprehensive Chinese book on film theory .

= = Between WWII and 1949 = =

After the Japanese surrender in 1945 , Chen returned to Shanghai . He joined the China Film No. 2 Studio that was newly established by the Nationalist government . He wrote and directed the film Far Away Love , whose premiere in Shanghai 's Huanghou Theatre on 18 January 1947 was considered a landmark event in postwar Chinese cinema . The film starred prominent actors and actresses such as Zhao Dan , Qin Yi , and Wu Yin , and the Ministry of Defence put uniformed soldiers under Chen 's command for the filming . It was the first in a series of controversial epics on the social turmoil caused by the war . In late 1947 , he made another film Rhapsody of Happiness , written by Chen Baichen .

After moving to the Kunlun Film Company , a new private studio , Chen directed Women Side by Side (also translated as Three Women or Female Fighters) in early 1949 . Chen and the famous playwright Tian Han cowrote the screenplay . The film is his most famous and it is considered his masterpiece .

= = People 's Republic of China = =

After the founding the People 's Republic of China in 1949 , Chen directed two more films : Inescapable (1950) and Work Is Beautiful (1951) . But he worked mostly in administrative positions , serving as a member of the National People 's Congress , and general manager of Tianma Film Studio from 1957 until 1966 .

In the 1950s Chen was appointed director for the upcoming film Li Shizhen . However , due to his insistence that the director , rather than government administrators , have artistic control , he was dismissed and the film was directed by his friend Shen Fu .

In the early 1960s , Chen spent three years preparing to make a film about the life of Lu Xun , starring Zhao Dan , Yu Lan , and Sun Daolin , but the film was cancelled by the Shanghai 's Communist Party Chief Ke Qingshi for political reasons .

Like many other intellectuals , Chen was imprisoned during the Cultural Revolution (1966 ? 76) . After being rehabilitated at the end of the period , Chen returned to work for the Shanghai Film Studio , where he was responsible for artistic quality . He and Chen Baichen worked together for three years to make the historical film Da Feng Ge , based on the Han Dynasty palace intrigues of Empress Lü Zhi after the death of Emperor Gaozu . However , the film was again cancelled by high @-@ ranking politicians , as it was reminiscent of the political struggles after the death of Chairman Mao Zedong . Chen Baichen had a heart attack on hearing news of the cancellation , while Chen Liting , then almost 70 years old , retired from filmmaking .

In 2008 , Chen Liting 's biography by Xia Yu (??) , titled Far Away Love after his film , was published by China Film Publishing House (ISBN 9787106029890) . He was awarded a prize by Chinese President Hu Jintao for making " exceptional contributions to the art of drama " .

On the morning of 27 August 2013 , Chen Liting died at Huadong Hospital in Shanghai at the age of 102 .

= = Family = =

Chen Liting married Mao Yinfen (???) during the Great Leap Forward . After nearly 40 years of marriage , she died on 18 September 1998 . The couple had one child , a daughter named Chen Maoni (???) , who emigrated to the United States .