

Ms Helena LO Yin-Ying (alias LAW Lan), MH

Ms Helena LO Yin-Ying (LAW Lan), is one of the most productive and respected actresses in Hong Kong. She rose to stardom in the 1960s, having never previously considered an acting career. In the 1950s, when she was still in secondary school, she accompanied friends to acting auditions, at which she was spotted for her talent, and invited to play bit parts. Her father's passing in the early 1960s shattered her hopes for further studies. She took up acting full time to make ends meet, and has never looked back: she has appeared in over 100 films since then.

Perhaps it was because of her slightly foreign looks that she was first cast in "villain roles". Certainly it was her hard work and perseverance that earned her a name in the "baddies" hall of fame. Whether as a shop girl, spoiled socialite, scheming mistress, or a nightclub hostess, she would strive to live up to the director's expectations of a villain. In those days "villains" came in distinct types, as did "protagonists". But instead of just reading from the scripts, Ms Lo would visit nightclubs, bars, and department stores, in order to understand the actual practices in these venues. Once when she was cast as nightclub hostess, she interviewed real life hostesses to learn about their work, their lifestyle, and most of all, their lives. Rather than feeling compromised because she was "type-cast", Ms Lo has come to see playing villains as a "calling". Through her acting, she has said, "the audience could realise the harsh realities behind these characters, who were often driven into these so-called "stigmatised jobs" because of the economic hardship that was prevalent during the 1950s and 1960s."

Acting has taught Ms Lo a few invaluable life lessons. Being an actress in those days did not necessarily guarantee fame and fortune. Instead, she had to struggle to make ends meet, especially when she had to buy the costumes she wore onscreen herself. She has had to creatively transform her used clothes by "playing little tricks" on them: a ribbon here, some beads there. Another thing she learned is to be thick-skinned, because actors have to put up with the prying eyes of onlookers when they shoot on location.

When the film industry went into decline in early 1970s, she had to explore alternatives another time. Those were trying times, when she would finish working on a film not knowing when and if her next job would come. "But that phone call always came," Ms Lo said. In the meantime, she pursued her studies, attaining certificates for business / secretarial studies and English. Again, fate smiled upon her when she was invited to join the Television Broadcasts (TVB), at a time when television was a burgeoning industry. Performing for TV was another challenge for her, because films can be edited, but live TV shows such as EYT cannot. Again, her looks and versatile acting enabled her to play various roles - from baddies to protagonists, and from Chinese empress dowager / martial arts guru to foreign characters such as "Lady Luran" or "Dina Buffett" - in shows of different genres, from epic dramas to contemporary comedies.

For most of the 1990s and until now, Ms Lo has multitasked, traversing between television and film. In this time Ms Lo's acting career reached a new peak. She starred as a medium in a series of super-natural horror movies in 1993 with such success that she was nominated not once but twice for Best Supporting Actress in the Hong Kong Film Awards. She also created a new series of horror films, with her as the leading role, "Dragon Madam." That role not only earned Ms Lo the nickname "queen of horror," but assured her a place in the many future films in the horror genre.

Her acting excellence was again recognised in 2000 when she won the Best Actress Award at the 19th Hong Kong Film Awards, for her role in the film *Bullets Over Summer*, directed by Wilson Yip. She became the oldest best actress in the history of the Film Awards. And why not? In her own words, "If you are basking in the light of the westering sun, why should you worry about it setting?" Her career in the TV business also earned her a Life Achievement Award in 2002, apart from various other nominations. In 2013, she was honoured again for her contributions to acting, when she was elected by her peers as the "Most Competitive Actor in the Profession."

Ms Lo is as active offscreen as on. She puts her Catholic faith into practice by lending support to charity events. She also makes frequent visits to the elderly care homes and hospitals. When people wonder how she manages the possible conflict between her horror roles and her religion, she simply replies, "That's the essence of professionalism: to be able to act whatever role is given to you." That is also her advice to young actors, as well as to young people in general: watch how others do it, persevere, put your heart and soul into everything you do, keep your eyes on the prize, and work to the best of your ability.

Mr Chairman, for her dedication and distinguished contributions to the acting profession, as well as her generous service to the community at large, may I present to you Ms Helena LO Yin-Ying (LAW Lan) for conferment of an honorary fellowship.

Citation written and delivered by Professor Lisa LEUNG

盧燕英女士(藝名羅蘭女士), MH

盧燕英女士，也是我們熟悉的羅蘭女士，是香港其中一位產量最多和最受尊敬的女演員。早在1960年代她已成為了明星，但在此之前，她並沒有想過會從事演藝事業。當盧女士仍在讀中學時，她陪伴朋友一起參加電影試鏡，結果她的演戲天分被發現。在1950年代初，盧女士有機會在電影演出一些小角色。她的父親於1960年代初不幸離世，令她升學進修的希望粉碎。為了維持生計，她成為了全職演員。盧女士在粵語片年代曾演出過百部電影。

或者由於盧女士的外貌有點像外國人，從影當初都被安排演出一些反派角色。她後來在電影界成為了殿堂級的「壞女人」，形像鮮明，這肯定是她勤奮和堅毅不拔的成果。無論是扮演女售貨員、被寵壞的社交名媛、詭計多端的情婦，以至夜總會舞女，她都會努力把導演期望的壞女人演得淋漓盡致。在那個年代，壞人和好人(主角)都有明顯的典型面貌。盧女士不只閱讀劇本，她還會走訪夜總會、酒吧和百貨公司，瞭解在這些地方工作的女性的實際情況。有一次她被選派演出舞女，她去了訪問真正的舞女，瞭解她們的工作和生活方式，最重要的是，瞭解她們的人生。盧女士沒有因為經常要演出壞女人而感到聲名受損，反而視此為「使命」。她說：「看到我的演出，觀眾會明白這些角色背後殘酷的現實。這些人物往往因為上世紀50和60年代的經濟困境，而被迫從事這些所謂的『被負面標籤的工作』。」

從事演員工作也帶給盧女士一些寶貴的人生經驗。那個年代做女演員，不一定會帶來豐厚的財富和奢華的生活，相反，她要想辦法量入為出，特別是她需要花錢買戲服。為了節省金錢，她會用創意改造舊衣服，耍一點小把戲，例如縫上蝴蝶結，或加一些亮珠。她還學會另一本領，就是厚面皮，因為在外景拍攝時，演員必須忍受旁觀者和愛管閒事之徒的指指點點。

在1970年代初，香港電影業走下坡，盧女士要另尋出路。在那個艱難時期，每當拍完一部電影，便擔心不知何時有另一個演出的機會。她說：「但我還是會接到邀約的電話。」與此同時，她也去進修，報讀一些商業、秘書及英語訓練的課程。然而，命運再次為她做好安排，電視廣播有限公司(無綫電視)邀請她加盟，而當時電視是新興的產業。對她來說，演出電視又是另一挑戰，因為電影可以剪接，但當時的電視是直播的，例如《歡樂今宵》是不能停機再拍的。她多面化的外表和精湛的演技，讓她獲得無數的演出機會；無論是古裝劇或時裝劇，壞人還是主角，中國的皇太后或武林高手，以至外國人如Lady Lauran 及Dina Buffett，盧女士都演得絲絲入扣。

1990年代至今，盧女士一直同時兼顧電視和電影的工作。盧女士的演戲事業也是在這段時期再創高峰。她在1993年起開始在一些驚悚電影演出與靈界相關的角色。她飾演靈媒(能夠與鬼魂溝通)的角色，讓她深入民心，曾兩度獲提名香港電影金像獎最佳女配角。她後來接拍了一系列以「龍婆」角色為主軸的恐怖電影。「龍婆」不單令她得到「鬼后」之名，並且成為港產鬼片的代表人物。

2000年，盧女士的出色演技得到正式的認可。她憑《爆裂刑警》一片，贏取了第19屆香港電影金像獎最佳女主角的殊榮，是迄今為止最年長的金像獎影后。得獎後她曾在公開演講中說道：「但得夕陽無限好，何須惆悵近黃昏。」2002年，她獲無綫電視頒發「萬千光輝演藝大獎」，表揚她在電視界的成就。多年來她曾多次獲不同獎項的提名，2013年，她的演技實力再次備受肯定，獲得無綫電視全台藝員選為「藝員眼中的最具實力演員」。

銀幕下的盧女士也非常活躍。她是天主教徒，能夠把信仰付諸實踐，經常支持慈善活動和義工服務，例如探訪老人院及醫院探訪。當人們好奇地問她如何處理扮演的靈界角色與宗教信仰之間的衝突時，她只是簡單的回答：「能夠演好每一個被委派的角色，就是專業精神的精髓。」這也是她給予演藝界新人及一般年輕人的忠告：「觀察別人如何堅持不懈、全心全意做事情；專注於你的目標，並且盡力而為」。

主席先生，為表揚盧燕英(羅蘭)女士對演藝事業的奉獻和傑出貢獻，以及她為香港社會的慷慨行善，本人謹恭請 閣下頒授榮譽院士銜予盧燕英(羅蘭)女士。

贊辭由梁旭明教授撰寫及宣讀