

## CITATION

### Mr Kwan Chi-sun

Mr Kwan Chi-sun is a native of Jiujiang in Guangdong Province. His father, Mr Kwan Ka-pak, founded the Kai Fung Banking House in Hong Kong together with his uncle in 1921, and the National Theatre in 1939, which became bedrocks of the Chinese film business after the war. Mr Kwan's contributions to Hong Kong film and popular culture were enormous. In addition to building cinemas, he also worked as distributor and producer.

From 1949 to 1952, Mr Kwan studied abroad at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and received his bachelor's degree in chemical engineering practice. Between 1953 and 1965, as executive director of Sun Shing Construction Company, Mr Kwan was the person behind the building of more than a few iconic landmarks, such as the Kam Wah Cinema in Yaumatei, the Olympia Cinema in North Point, and the Kam Kwok Building and National Building in Wanchai.

Apart from the cinema business, Mr Kwan has shown great foresight and acumen in cinematic production and distribution, effectively realising the vertical integration of film production, distribution and screening. From 1953 to 1967, he was a director of both the Tai Shing Film Company (formed in 1951) and the Chi-leun Film Company (formed in 1964); the former mainly produced Cantonese opera films, and the latter initiated the trend of youth musical films in the 1960s. Mr Kwan produced over 16 films, among which the most memorable are *Colourful Youth* (first released on 17 August 1966, directed by Chan Wan and starring Connie Chan and Josephine Siao) and *The Sweetest Moment* (first released on 26 April 1967, directed by Wong Yiu and starring Connie Chan and Lui Kei). Not only were these films immensely successful in terms of box office receipts, they also ignited the popularisation of youth musical films. In the aftermath of the shadows of the Korean War and the American-British embargo, Hong Kong was riding the tide of a rising economy in the 1960s, heading toward a modern, industrial and commercial society. Youth musical films provided entertainment and encouragement for factory workers as well as the general public. Mr Kwan's film productions have written a dazzling page in the history of Cantonese cinema.

Modest, gentle and compassionate by nature, Mr Kwan has always been a "Lingnanian" devoted to his alma mater and its cause of education since graduating from the Affiliated High School of Lingnan University in Guangzhou in 1949. He has been a member of the Executive Committee of the Lingnan Education Organization since 1994, and has helped with the preparation of Lingnan College's upgrading to

university status. He was also a member of the Board of Governors of Lingnan College from 1995 to 1999, and a member of the Court of Lingnan University for the following 11 years. Apart from his solicitude for Lingnan, Mr Kwan is also concerned with primary education, for he believes education is the hope of our city and our nation. He was Supervisor of Lingnan University Alumni Association Primary School from 1995 to 2003, and has been a director of Lingnan University Hong Kong Alumni D S S Primary School from 2005 to this day. In addition, Mr Kwan was Supervisor of Kow Kong Commercial Association School from 1968 to 1969.

Other than education, Mr Kwan is known for actively participating in community and public affairs. He has been a director of Kow Kong Commercial Association since 1989. From 1993 to 1995, he was Chairman of Lingnan University Alumni Association, and has been a member of its Publishing Committee since 1989. He is also a director of Lingnan Club. Additionally, Mr Kwan was Chair of the 5th FINA Diving Grand Prix Organising Committee, and successfully hosted the event (the only international diving competition ever held in Hong Kong) on 3-6 June 1999. He was also Chairman of the Diving Committee of the Hong Kong Amateur Swimming Association from 1995 to 2001.

The films produced by Mr Kwan Chi-sun led to the popularity of youth musical films in the 1960s and turned a page in the history of Cantonese cinema. Mr Kwan has also made many important and significant contributions to Lingnan's endeavours in primary and university education. Mr Chairman, may I now present to you Mr Kwan Chi-sun for the conferment of an honorary fellowship.

*Chinese citation written and delivered by Dr Grace Lau Yin-ping*

### 關志信先生

關志信先生祖籍南海九江。其父關家柏先生與叔父於1921年在香港創立啟豐銀號，並於1939年興建國民戲院，奠立戰後初期華人院商業務的基石。關先生對香港的電影及普及文化貢獻良多，既興建戲院，復擔任影片發行和監製等多項職務。

關先生1949至1952年負笈美國，於美國麻省理工學院就讀，獲授化學工程學士銜。1953至1965年間，關先生任職新成建築有限公司執行董事，建造油麻地金華戲院、北角國都戲院和灣仔金國、國民大廈等具代表性的建築物。

除戲院業務外，關先生在影片製作和發行上亦表現前瞻和卓越的識見，成功實踐了生產、發行、上映的垂直整合經營策略。關先生自1953至1967年，擔任1951年成立的大成影片有限公司和1964年成立的志聯影業有限公司董事。前者主要製作粵語戲曲電影，後者則開創了六十年代青春歌舞片的潮流。關先生監製的電影超過16齣，代表作包括1966年8月17日首映，陳雲執導，陳寶珠、蕭芳芳主演的《彩色青春》和1967年4月26日首映，王堯執導，陳寶珠、呂奇主演的《花月佳期》。這兩部電影不但締造了當時的票房神話，更帶動了青春歌舞片的熱潮。六十年代的香港，經歷朝鮮戰爭與美英禁運的危機，積極向現代化工商業社會邁進，經濟逐漸起飛。青春歌舞片為普羅大眾、尤其是工廠工人，提供娛樂，帶來振奮人心的動力。關先生監製的青春歌舞片，為六十年代的粵語片壇寫下輝煌的一頁。

關先生秉性謙和、敦厚、重情，1949年畢業於廣州市嶺南大學附屬中學，自此便成為回饋母校的「嶺南人」，為嶺南教育作出重要貢獻。關先生於1994年開始擔任嶺南教育機構董事，為籌備大學正名等事務盡心盡力。此外，關先生亦為嶺南學院校董會成員（1995-1999），自1999年起出任嶺南大學諮議會成員至2010年。關先生除關注嶺南學院及大學的事務外，本着「以教育作為城市、國家的希望」這個信念，亦關注初階教育。他於1995至2003年擔任嶺南同學會小學校監。自2005年至今，則擔任嶺南大學香港同學會直資小學校董。此外，關先生曾為九江商會小學校監（1968-1969）。

除教育事務外，關先生積極參與團體及公共事務：1989年至今任九江商會會董；1993至1995年任嶺南大學香港同學會主席，並由1989年至今任出版委員會委員；關先生亦為嶺南會所的理事。此外，關先生曾任第五屆國際泳聯跳水大賽組委會主席，在1999年6月3至6日成功籌辦賽事；該賽

事是僅有的一次在香港舉辦的國際跳水賽盛事。關先生亦曾任香港業餘游泳總會跳水委員會主席（1995-2001）。

關志信先生監製的電影，締造青春歌舞片熱潮，為六十年代的粵語片留下光輝的紀錄。關先生對嶺南的大學及小學教育，貢獻良多。主席先生，本人謹恭請閣下頒授榮譽院士銜予關志信先生。

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