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THE WHEEL OF LIFE

一把劍貫第三世的情。帳。黑。黑

爲了愛,我們不惜轉世投胎,纏綿

爲了愛,我們願重返人間,再度掙扎。

爲了愛,我們祈求隔世再續,再續,再續



三大導演通力合作 胡金銓/李行/白景瑞 彭雪芬/姜厚任/石雋 德爾銜主演



台灣省電影製片廠攝製 TAIWAN FILM STUDIO

本事

明朝,錦衣衛與宦豎當道,把持朝政,阻絕讓路。姜厚任之父,慘遭殺戮,其未婚妻彭雪芬之父,官居邊防鎮守,因同屬「清流派」,恐有株連之虞,乃獻其獨生愛女雪芬為京中巨擘「錦衣衛右都督」為侍妾,以求自保。雪芬亦願身懷祖傳利刃「魚腸劍」進京,寧為玉石俱粉,擬爲國除害。

統領石雋啣命迎接雪芬進京,途中威迫雪芬交出寶劍,並欲加強暴以逞獸慾。

厚任率義士多人攔路截殺,無奈石雋劍法凌厲,厚任終慘死於劍下,雪芬則自刎以存清白,玉潔冰清,双双殉情於怨天恨海…。

時至民國初年,石雋為一浪跡江湖戲班之班主,其師妹彭雪芬為當家之青衣花旦,在投帖拜見當地首富姜厚任之際,姜彭二人竟似曾相識而一見鍾情,石雋百般反對,姜厚任贈以祖傳「魚腸劍」以求石雋高抬貴手,而彭亦堅決辭班下嫁厚任,石雋妬火中燒,忿恨難忍,竟在演出時,以利劍將雪芬殺死在戲台上。倩魂悠悠,不知所終……。

事隔八十餘年,彭雪芬身為一現代舞蹈家,頗為藝術界所重, 某次隨團至一漁村演出,無意間邂逅青年乩童姜厚任,一「舞」一 「乩」,交往投緣,相愛之情油然而生。彭力勸厚任轉向舞蹈界求 發展。

姜厚任之胞兄石雋,乃當地之大法師,手足情深,異於常人, 多年培育厚任,期以承繼法師家業。阻其與雪芬之愛情交往不遺餘力。厚任則頗不以爲然。

法會中,由厚任所擔任之驚險法事「爬刀梯」,厚任藉故缺席,石雋無奈,只好自己擔任,但年老力衰,體弱失練,竟失手跌落,前胸被法器「魚腸劍」貫穿,立刻身亡。厚任在收斂亡兄後,終於束裝就道,奔往雪芬處……。

情天茫茫,纏綿三生,冥冥之中,有似巨輪運轉,眞心相愛,雖百世而終成美眷。

導演:

胡金銓/李 行/白景瑞

領銜主演:

彭雪芬/姜厚任/石 雋

聯合演出:

曹健蔣漢李文泰初本科傳碧輝陳慧樓蔣青峰吳蔣傅明子與汪威江張小蘋謝屛南

Synopsis

It is the Ming Dynasty, and all political power is in the hands of evil ministers and palace guards who keep the emperor completely unaware of what is going on in the country. Chiang Hou-jen plays the son of a virtuous official; when this upstanding statesman is killed by the ruling clique, his friend, another honest official, becomes afraid for his own life, and in order to win the favor of the tyrants sends his daughter (played by Peng Hsueh-fen) to the palace to work as a servant girl for the chief of the palace guards. Peng, who had been engaged to Chiang, takes with her to the capital a family heirloom, an ancient knife with extraordinary powers called the Knife of Yuchang, with which she plans to rid the country of its evil dictator even at the cost of her own life.

While Peng is on her way to the capital, the army general who is escorting her (played by Shih Chun) demands that she turn the knife over to him, and then attempts to rape her.

Leading a band of patriotic volunteers, Chiang attacks the general, but he is no match for the skilled warrior and falls victim to his sword. Peng then slits her own throat to keep her virtue intact, and the young lovers die without ever having been united.

As the next scene opens it is the beginning of the republican era in China. The characters have been reincarnated: Shih Chun plays the manager of an itinerant Peking opera troupe; Peng Hsueh-fen plays the troupe's leading lady; and Chiang Hou-jen plays the scion of a rich family. When members of the struggling troupe seek help from Chiang, both Chiang and Peng feel as though they have met before, and they fall deeply in love. Peng wishes to leave the troupe in order to be with Chiang, but Shih vigorously opposes their romance, so Chiang presents him with a family heirloom, the legendary Knife of Yuchang, in hopes of getting him to change his mind. Consumed with jealousy, Shih uses the knife to kill Peng during their next performance.

At the next turn of the wheel it is modern times, and Peng is an acclaimed dancer in a modern dance company. While performing in a small fishing village she meets Chiang, now a fisherman and a performer in local religious rites, and they immediately fall in love. Peng attempts to persuade Chiang to put his talent to use in the modern dance field.

Chiang's older brother (Shih Chun) is opposed to their friendship. He is head of the local temple: the two brothers have always been very close, and Shih wishes Chiang to follow in his own footsteps.

When Chiang fails to show up for one of the local religious ceremonies, Shih attempts to take his place in a difficult ladder-climbing act. Lacking the strength of the younger man, he falls and is impaled on the temple's sacred knife—the Knife of Yuchang—and dies instantly. Chiang, after seeing to his brother's funeral, packs his bags and travels to the city to be together with Peng.

Thus the lovers are united after three turns of the great wheel of life.

DIRECTED BY:

KING HU, LI HSING & PAI CHING-JUI

STARRING:

PENG HSUE FEN, CHIANG HOU-JEN & SHIH CHUN

CO-STARRING:

TSAO CHIEN HSUEH HAN LEE WEN-TAI CHU PEN-KOU FUH PI-HUEI CHEN HUI-LOU CHIANG CHING-FENG WU YEN FU CHUAN WANG WEI-CHIANG CHANG HSIAO-PING



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