



Name in English: John Lone
Name in Chinese: 尊龙 [尊龍]
Name in Pinyin: Wú Guó Liáng
Gender: Male
Birth Year: 1952
Birth Place: Hong Kong
Current location: New York, China, Canada

Profession(s): Actor, Director, Compose, Choreographer

Education: Chin Chiu Academy – Hong Kong; Santa Ana Community College; American Academy of Dramatic Arts – New York

Awards: 1990, 50 Most Beautiful People, People Magazine; 1980-1981, Obie Award-Performance, “F.O.B.” and “The Dance and the Railroad”, Village Voice

Contribution (s): John Lone describes himself as raised in a Hong Kong orphanage with no knowledge of his real family or name. Lone was sent to study Beijing opera at an early age and was given the name of “Johnny” at school. He is supposed to have selected the name of “Lone” either for its similarity to the Chinese word for “dragon” or to reflect his status as an orphan but much of his early life remains a mystery. Because of his academic prowess and dedication to learning he was sponsored for further performing arts education in Los Angeles. His break came in 1980 when he was noticed by Mako, the distinguished Japanese American actor, and recommended to the director, David Henry Hwang, for a role in the new play, “F.O.B.” Lone starred in, composed the musical score, and choreographed for this play and went on to do the same for Hwang’s 1981 play, “The Dance and the Railroad.” These two plays won Lone the prestigious Obie Award for Best Performance for 1980-1981. He continued working with plays with East West Players in Los Angeles among other theater groups. He then appeared as the leading villain in the controversial film, “Year of the Dragon” in 1985 for which he was nominated for the Golden Globe for Best Supporting Actor. His best known role came in 1987, playing the title role of Emperor Pu Yi in “The Last Emperor” for which he was nominated for a Golden Globe Award for Best Actor. Despite the strength of his acting, which won the film the Academy Award for Best Film of 1987 among numerous other awards, Lone wasn’t even nominated for Best Actor. He showed even more of his acting abilities as the androgynous Song Liling in the 1993 film, “M. Butterfly” based upon David Henry Hwang’s 1988 play. He has also appeared as the main villain in films like Rush Hour 2 (2001) and War (2007.) He has divided his time between acting, directing, producing, and singing in New York, Hong Kong, China, and Canada for many years but complains that few leading roles are available in America for Asian American actors.

External Links:

<http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0518821/>

Distinguished Asian Americans: A Biographical Dictionary (1999) by Hyung-chan Kim, Stephen S. Fugita; Contributor Stephen S. Fugita, Dorothy C. L. Cordova, ISBN 0313289026, 9780313289026, p. 204-205