

A star returns

星光再現

by MATHEW SCOTT

Actress Nancy Kwan looks back on her Hong Kong past

演員關南施與我們分享她對香港的回憶

ACTRESS Nancy Kwan was born in Hong Kong and became famous with the release of the 1960 film *The World of Suzie Wong*, which was set in Wan Chai. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the movie. Kwan recalls her recent visit and memories of her home town.

“Coming back to Hong Kong this year has been very special to me. I can’t actually believe it has been 50 years since we made *The World of Suzie Wong* and still to this day I get emails from people who love the film and say it was the reason they first came to Hong Kong.

It’s not just that fact that it was my first film that makes it so special to me. I had been studying at the Royal Ballet School in London when I got the role, but I was born in Hong Kong and it has always been my home.

I grew up in Kowloon Tong and every time I come back now I seem to be forever lost – the city just changes so rapidly. That is part of its nature, of course. There are always more new buildings and there’s definitely more smog.

My father – Kwan Wing-hong – was an architect and I am proud to say that some of his work remains, like China Light and Power’s Art Deco building in Kowloon Tong. I think more of the colonial buildings should have been saved, for the young ones coming up, as part of their education.

But some things about Hong Kong will

never change. The smell is the same – I could arrive blindfolded and the smell will tell me where I am. And there are pieces of my past here and of my family’s past.

Every week we would go for family dinners at Jimmy’s Kitchen, either in Central or Tsim Sha Tsui. It had – and still has – that mix of the East and the West. A bit like me, I suppose.

My father was Chinese and my mother from the UK and so I guess that makes me very “Hong Kong” as even today you can see the influences of both cultures here, that mix. It helps make the city what it is.

During my trip back this year I walked the streets of Wan Chai and it does

remind me still a little bit of the old days, of the times that were depicted in the film. There are still little shops there, and of course there are still some bars. I guess what people overseas liked about *The World of Suzie Wong* was that the city looked so exotic. And it still does.

I have this time been back to my old school too, Maryknoll Convent School in Kowloon Tong. It has been preserved and there are so many memories for me there. I was able to catch up with some old friends and talk to the students about life.

Repulse Bay itself is still lovely and I still like to go there. Sha Tin was another place we would spend time – but it was a village



No place like home: Hong Kong has a special place in Nancy Kwan's heart (left)

故鄉情濃：香港在關南施(左)心中永遠是一個特別的地方

Love story: Kwan and William Holden in *The World of Suzie Wong* (right)

愛情故事：關南施及William Holden在電影《蘇絲黃的世界》中的一幕(右)



華裔女星關南施出生於香港，在1960年主演以灣仔為背景的电影《蘇絲黃的世界》，因而一炮而紅。今年欣逢該片首映50周年，關南施談起近期返港的種種以及對故鄉的回憶。

「對我來說，今年重返香港的意義特別重大。時光匆匆，我不敢相信拍《蘇絲黃的世界》已經是50年前的事。至今我仍收到喜愛這部電影的影迷寫給我的電郵，說這部電影吸引他們造訪香港。

我對這部電影有特別的感情，不只因為這是我初登大銀幕的作品。當年接下這個角色時，我正在倫敦的Royal Ballet School唸書，但我出生於香港，因此一直視之為自己的故鄉。

我在九龍塘長大，但每次回去總會迷路，因為這個城市的變化實在太快，但這就是香港。新的高樓四處林立，而白茫茫的煙霞明顯地愈來愈厚。

我父親關永康是一位建築師，由他設計的多棟作品至今依然屹立，令我引以為傲。位於九龍塘、具裝飾藝術風格的中華電力公司總部大樓便是他的作品之一。我認為應有更多殖民地時代建築被保留下來，以教育年輕一代。

話雖如此，香港依然有恆久不變的事物，這裡的氣味仍然依舊。就算蒙上眼睛，單憑嗅覺我亦會知道自己身在何處。故鄉有著我點點滴滴的回憶，以及我家人的過去。

我們全家每星期都會去中環或尖沙咀的Jimmy's Kitchen吃幾頓晚餐。一直以來，這餐廳都保持著糅合東西文化的特色，與我自己有幾分相似。

我的父親是中國人，母親是英國人，所以我覺得自己很「香港」。即使至今，你依然看得出香港深受中英文文化的影響，而文化的融合亦造就出今日的香港。

今年回港期間我去過灣仔，依稀憶起電影中刻畫的那段時光。灣仔還有些小店舖，當然還有一些酒吧。我猜外國人之所以喜歡

I get emails from people who love the film and say it was the reason they first came to Hong Kong

至今我仍收到喜愛這部電影的影迷寫給我的電郵，說這部電影吸引他們造訪香港

《蘇絲黃的世界》，是因為片中所描述在香港，充滿異國情調，這至今未變。

我也順道探訪了母校，即位於九龍塘的瑪利諾修院學校。學校的面貌依然，勾起我許多回憶。我有幸能與一些老朋友敘舊，還與學生聊及生活。

淺水灣仍美麗如昔，我依然很喜歡去那裡。我們也常愛去沙田，當年那裡還是個鄉村，現在已變成城市。我們有親戚住在石澳，小時候常到那裡的沙灘玩。

我現在定居洛杉磯，不過香港仍是我生活中的一部分，她滿載著我的童年及回憶。每次搭飛機回港，看到壯觀的機場、新的大橋和各式各樣的發展，都令我興奮莫名。

當然，每人都會懷念一些舊事物，這是必然的。雖然蘇絲黃時代的香港已過去，但是香港精神卻永遠長存。

每次回到香港，我都能感受到這個城市的活力。這就是香港人，我們都很樂於與來到香港的人分享這種精神。」



WATCH *The World of Suzie Wong* onboard long-haul and selected regional flights
長程及指定亞洲航線的乘客可於機上欣賞《蘇絲黃的世界》

then, now it's a city. We had relatives in Shek O and would go play on the beach.

I live in Los Angeles but Hong Kong is still such a part of me, of my childhood and my memories. I still get excited when I fly in and see the airport, which is incredible, and the new bridges and the progress.

For sure you miss some of the old things, it is impossible not to. The Hong Kong of *Suzie Wong* is certainly gone, that's for sure. But Hong Kong's spirit remains.

Every time I come home the city just makes you feel alive. It is part of who we are as Hong Kongers and part of the spirit that we like to share with people who come to our city."