

Elite Group (2003) Enterprises Inc.
Presents
An Edko Films, Zhang Yimou Studio Production
in collaboration with
Beijing New Picture Film Co., Ltd.

HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS

Directed by

Zhang Yimou

Starring

Takeshi Kaneshiro

Andy Lau

Zhang Ziyi

A Sony Pictures Classics Release

Running time: 119 minutes

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HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS is a timeless, romantic love story in the form of a traditional martial arts film. The film tells of a passionate emotional journey, in which three people suffer for love – it tears them apart, yet they are willing to sacrifice everything for it.

When a woman is torn between two men, we know that it will end in tragedy. The dynamics of the relationships between three very different people with different backgrounds is intriguing. The only thing they all have in common is that nobody is who they claim to be. Everyone is deceiving each other. In Chinese, we say that “Love, Hate, Passion and Vengeance” are the most volatile emotions, and it is these feelings that envelope the three main characters.

As a setting, the bamboo forest is inextricably linked to martial arts films. Ang Lee shot scenes for “Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon” in a bamboo forest – in fact, for the past fifty years, everybody has shot action in a bamboo forest. It is as though you have to fight in the bamboo forest before you can be considered a true warrior. So of course, if I was going to make an action film, I also had to shoot in the bamboo forest, to keep with tradition. But I insisted on making the tradition my own. I made each scene a little different. In my bamboo forest, the battle takes place simultaneously on the ground and high up on the bamboo. The two lovers on the run fight on the ground while the enemy attacks them from above.

The snow [in Ukraine] came very early this year – in October. It began to snow heavily when we were half way through a scene, and this worried me a great deal because if it snowed for much longer, all the leaves on the trees would be gone, and we would face huge problems with continuity. I had to make a decision, and after some thought I decided to shoot the scene in the snow. But because we had already begun shooting that scene, we had to make a lot of adjustments – to the script, the pace and so on. When I look at the way this sequence turned out, I feel enormously lucky. The snow created the perfect tone for the scene. It’s fate – someone up above decided to help me out.

For the Peony Pavilion, we built a very elaborate set to showcase Mei and Leo’s “Echo Game,” but the fighting, the action, the visual effects all take the back seat to the emotional journey – the fate – of the three main characters. Ultimately, movies are about people, regardless of genre or style.

This is a love story wrapped inside an action film. Jin and Mei only spend

three days together, but during this time, they love fiercely, and in the end - tragically. There is no way to explain their love. If you can explain it, then it is not love. Perhaps three seconds is all we need to find true love. Thirty years together may not equal a deeper connection.

Many directors have told similar stories, but my concern is how people fall in love, and what we are willing to sacrifice for the sake of that love. At the end of the day, love is a triumph of the human spirit.

—Zhang Yimou

Credits

CAST

Jin..... Takeshi Kaneshiro
Leo..... Andy Lau
Mei..... Zhang Ziyi
Yee..... Song Dandan

CREW

Directed by..... Zhang Yimou
Produced by..... Bill Kong, Zhang Yimou
Executive Producer..... Zhang Weiping
Story by..... Zhang Yimou, Li Feng, Wang Bin
Screenplay by..... Li Feng, Zhang Yimou, Wang Bin
Director of Photography..... Zhao Xiaoding
Action Director..... Tony Ching Siu-Tung
Production Designed by..... Huo Tingxiao
Sound Designed by..... Tao Jing
Original Music Scored and Produced by..... Shigeru Umebayashi
Theme Song Performed by..... Kathleen Battle
Costume Designed by..... Emi Wada
Edited by..... Cheng Long
Associate Producer..... Zhang Zhenyan

Synopsis

It is 859AD, and the Tang Dynasty, one of the most enlightened empires in Chinese history at its height, is in decline. The Emperor is incompetent and the government is corrupt. Unrest is spreading throughout the land, and many rebel armies are forming in protest. The largest, and most prestigious, is an underground alliance called the “House of Flying Daggers.”

The House of Flying Daggers operates mysteriously, stealing from the rich to give to the poor. Thus, they have earned the support and admiration of the people and expanded quickly. Based in Feng Tian County, close to the Imperial Capital, the House of Flying Daggers has long been a thorn in the side of the local deputies, their hated rivals.

The deputies are enraged because, even after they fought and killed the leader of the House of Flying Daggers, the House continues to thrive. Under the leadership of a mysterious new leader, the House of Flying Daggers grows ever more powerful. Feng Tian County's two local captains, Leo (ANDY LAU TAK WAH) and Jin (TAKESHI KANESHIRO) are ordered to capture the new leader within ten days.

Captain Leo suspects that Mei (ZHANG ZIYI), the beautiful new dancer at the local Peony Pavilion, is actually the daughter of the old leader. He hatches a plan to arrest her and bring her in for questioning. When Mei refuses to divulge any information on the House of Flying Daggers, the two captains set up another plan. This time, Captain Jin will pretend to be a lone warrior called Wind and rescue Mei from prison, earning her trust and escorting her to the secret headquarters of the House of Flying Daggers.

The plan works, and on their long journey to the House, Jin and Mei warm to each other. Before long, Mei has developed feelings for her enigmatic protector, and Jin is surprised to find himself falling for Mei's headstrong charm. Both struggle to contain their feelings, but under the starry night, their irrepressible desire is almost beyond their control. Danger lurks in the forest surrounding them, and the wind is still, as if sensing the tension in the air.

What lies ahead for Jin and Mei, these star-crossed lovers? If this is true love, then why are there plots in their heads...and secrets in their hearts?

About the Production

Best known for his beautiful, sensitive portraits of China, Director Zhang Yimou doesn't see himself as an expert action film director, but rather an enthusiastic student of the genre. After his first foray into "*Wuxia*" (martial arts) films with the Academy Award® nominated "HERO," Zhang found himself hooked on action. "This time around, I am braver and more accustomed to the genre," says China's most celebrated director. "You can say that this film is a tribute to kung fu movies."

HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS may be a thrilling action piece, but it also bears Zhang Yimou's trademark exquisite visual beauty and incisive storytelling. "I don't want to make an ordinary martial arts film," explains Zhang, "I want to talk about passion, interesting characters... my own style of *Wuxia* film. This is a story about passion and love... it may be a *Wuxia* film, but it is also an evocative and romantic love story."

Despite being one of Asia's best known leading men, Takeshi Kaneshiro found himself in awe of the three-time Academy Award® nominated director. "I was worried that I would say the wrong thing or keep making mistakes, but Zhang was always very encouraging," says the Japanese-Taiwanese actor, "He would explain what he wanted, and listening to him was like hearing someone tell a story – I was entranced, and came away knowing exactly what I needed to do."

For Hong Kong megastar Andy Lau, it was the director's story-driven approach that proved a surprise and delight: "When I accepted the part, I thought there would be many fight scenes, but then I realized Yimou wanted an in-depth portrayal of the character and his personality traits... Zhang Yimou will put the camera on you and leave it there. And if you're good, you're good. And if you're not, well..." For Zhang Yimou, there is no question of whether or not Lau is good. "He's a great actor," says Zhang. "He can cry on cue five takes in a row, which isn't easy – and he's improving all the time."

Zhang Ziyi, who has collaborated many times with Zhang Yimou since her debut in Zhang's "The Road Home," is consistently impressed with the director's inquisitive mind and poetic storytelling. In HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS, Zhang Ziyi plays a blind dancer who is not all she seems to be. To prepare for her challenging role, Zhang lived with a blind girl for two months. "When this girl was twelve," explains Zhang, "A brain tumor caused her to lose her sight... at the beginning, I had no idea that a blind person's world is so completely different." Zhang Ziyi's role also allowed her to showcase her

talented dancing, a discipline she has trained in since age eleven.

About the Director

From his directorial debut, *“Red Sorghum”* (1987), which won the Golden Bear Award at the Berlin Film Festival, **ZHANG Yimou (Director, Co-Writer, Producer)** has established his reputation as one of the most talented and influential directors today.

Zhang Yimou was born in China in 1950 and studied cinematography at the Beijing Film Academy. He became a leading member of China’s Fifth Generation Filmmakers, the first group to graduate following the turbulent Cultural Revolution. He is an accomplished actor, starring in *“Red Sorghum”* as well as earning the Best Actor Award at the Tokyo International Film Festival for his performance in *“Old Well”* (1986). Zhang Yimou is also a skilled cinematographer, with credits including *“Yellow Earth”* (1984), *“Old Well”* (1986), and *“The Big Parade”* (1986).

Zhang Yimou has received multiple honors as a director. He is the first Chinese filmmaker to receive Motion Picture Academy recognition, being nominated for Academy Awards® in the Best Foreign Film category for *“Ju Dou”* in 1990, *“Raise the Red Lantern”* in 1991, and *“HERO”* in 2003. He has earned numerous top honors, including the Silver Lion at the 44th Venice International Film Festival for *“Raise the Red Lantern”* (1991), the Golden Lion Award at the 45th Venice International Film Festival for *“The Story of Qiu Ju”* (1992), the Grand Jury Prize at the 47th Cannes International Film Festival for *“To Live”* (1994), the Golden Lion Award at the 52nd Venice International Film Festival for *“Not One Less”* (1999), the Silver Bear at the Berlin International Film Festival for *“The Road Home”* (1999) and the Alfred Bauer Award for *“HERO”* (2003).

“HERO” went on to sweep the board at the 22nd Hong Kong Film Awards, winning awards for Best Action Choreography, Best Art Direction, Best Cinematography, Best Costume Design, Best Music, Best Sound and Best Visual Effects.

Filmography

HERO (2003)

Happy Times (2000)

The Road Home (1999)

Not One Less (1999)

Keep Cool (1997)

Lumiere and Company (1995)

Zhang Yimou's Filmography Continued

Shanghai Triad (1995)

To Live (1994)

The Story of Qiu Ju (1992)

Raise the Red Lantern (1992)

The Puma Action (1989)

Red Sorghum (1987)

About the Cast

One of the most sought-after male leads in Asia, half-Taiwanese, half-Japanese **Takeshi KANESHIRO (Jin)** began his rise to stardom at age 15 when he was talent spotted and recruited to be a Taiwanese pop idol. A string of successful music hits followed, from 1992's "Heart Breaking Night" to 1996's "Painful Love." Fluent in five languages, Takeshi Kaneshiro quickly captured the hearts of fans in throughout Asia.

Mr. Kaneshiro's film debut came in Tony CHING and Johnnie TO's "Executioners" (1993) where his turn as a quasi-religious villain made such a deep impression that it became his only supporting role to date. Takeshi Kaneshiro has since played the male lead in all of his subsequent 27 films, which include the Golden Horse Award and Hong Kong Film Award winning "Chungking Express" (1994) and "Fallen Angels" (1995).

Well known for his quirky character acting, Takeshi Kaneshiro made his mark on world cinema working with Hong Kong directing heavyweights including WONG Kar Wai ("Chungking Express," 1994, and "Fallen Angels," 1995) Sylvia CHANG ("Tempting Heart," 1998) and LEE Chi Ngai ("Lost and Found," 1996, and "Sleepless Town," 1997).

Mr. Kaneshiro's extensive filmography is testament to his versatile acting skills. While he is best known for his high-profile work with Hong Kong directors, he is an even bigger star in his native Taiwan and Japan. He continues to earn accolades there from critics and audiences for his nuanced performances in films including Johnnie To and WAI Ka-Fai's "Turn Left, Turn Right" (2003) and Takashi YAMAZAKI's Japanese science fiction hit "The Returner" (2002).

Filmography

Turn Left Turn Right (2003)

The Returner (2002)

Lavender (2000)

Space Traveler (1999)

Tempting Heart (1998)

Sleepless Town (1997)

Too Tired To Die (1997)

Ana Magdalena (1997)

Downtown Torpedoes (1997)

First Love (1997)

The Odd One Die (1996)

The Jail Of Burning Island (1996)

Misty (1996)

Lost & Found (1996)

Pick up Artist (1996)

Hero (1995)

Military Horn (1995)

Young Policeman In Love (1995)

Dr. Wai in the Scripture
with no Words (1995)

Fallen Angels (1995)

Trouble Maker (1995)

Takeshi Kaneshiro's Filmography Continued

Don't Give A Damn (1994)	Mermaid Got Married (1994)
China Dragon (1994)	Chungking Express (1994)
School Days (1995)	Yes, Sir Series 3 (1993)
	The Wrath of Silence (1994)
	Executioners (1993)

Hong Kong superstar **Andy LAU Tak Wah's (Leo)** accomplishments in singing and acting have made him one of the most bankable stars in Asia.

Born in Hong Kong in 1961, Andy Lau first enrolled in the Television Broadcast Limited (TVB) Artist Training Programme in 1981. On graduation, Lau was immediately recruited by the station and went on to act in fifteen television series, which earned him fame not only in his native Hong Kong, but also in Singapore, Malaysia and Taiwan. Andy Lau gained instant critical recognition in 1982 for his work on Ann HUI's Hong Kong Film Award winning "Boat People."

Since then, Andy Lau has emerged as one of Hong Kong's hardest working actors, completing 115 movies between 1981 and 2004. Mr. Lau won the Best Actor Award at the coveted Golden Dragon Awards in Taiwan for his collective contributions to NG Siyuan's "The Unwritten Law" (1986), David LAI Tai Wai's "Sworn Brothers" (1986), David Lai and Taylor WONG's "Tragic Hero" (1986) and "Rich and Famous" (1986). Andy Lau's sensitive portrayal of a man who has 72 hours to live in Johnnie To's "Running Out of Time" (1999) earned him the Best Actor Award at the 19th Hong Kong Film Awards. A two-time Best Actor winner at the Hong Kong Film Critics Society Awards for "A Fighter's Blues" (2000) and "Running on Karma" (2004), Andy Lau has proved his acting versatility with a combination of sensitive character acting and demanding fight sequences. In 2004, Andy Lau was awarded the Best Actor Award for "Running on Karma" at the 23rd Hong Kong Film Awards for the second time in his career.

Andy Lau's commitment to improve the quality of Hong Kong's film industry has been uncompromising. In 1990, he set up his own company, Teamwork to

produce high-caliber local movies, and give aspiring filmmakers and actors the chance to develop their talents. This earned him the Swissair / Crossair Special Prize at the Locarno International Film festival for Hong Kong director Fruit CHAN's "Made In Hong Kong" (1997).

In addition to his film accomplishments, Andy Lau has made a phenomenal impact on Asia's music scene. Dubbed one of the "Four Heavenly Kings" along with Leon LAI, Jacky CHEUNG and Aaron KWOK, in 2001 Mr. Lau became a Guinness World Record holder as the artist with the most pop awards. Lau has received 292 music awards over the past 12 years including the MTV Movie Award for the "Most Multi-Talented Artiste in Asia" (1998).

Filmography

Magic Kitchen (2004)	Made in Hong Kong (1997)
Infernal Affairs 3 (2003)	"Cause We Are So Young (1997)
Running On Karma (2003)	Armageddon (1997)
Give Them a Chance (2003)	Thanks For Your Love (1996)
Cat and Mouse (2003)	Shanghai Grand (1996)
Golden Chicken (2002)	A Moment of Romance 3 (1996)
Infernal Affairs (2002)	What a Wonderful World (1996)
The Wesley's Mysterious File (2002)	Full Throttle (1995)
Fat Choi Spirit (2002)	The Adventurers (1995)
Dance of a Dream (2001)	Tian Di (1994)
Fulltime Killer (2001)	The Three Swordsmen (1994)
Love on a Diet (2001)	A Taste of Killing and Romance (1994)
A Fighter's Blues (2000)	Drunken Master III (1994)
Needing You (2000)	Drunken Master II (1994)
The Duel (2000)	Perfect Exchange (1993)
Running Out of Time (1999)	Future Cops (1993)
Century of a Dragon (1999)	Days of Tomorrow (1993)
The Conmen in Vegas (1999)	What a Hero! (1992)
Prince Charming (1999)	The Sting (1992)
Fascination Amour (1999)	Saviour of the Soul 2 (1992)
The Longest Summer (1998)	The Prince of Temple Street (1992)
The Conman (1998)	The Moon Warriors (1992)
A True Mob Story (1998)	Handsome Siblings (1992)
Island of Greed (1997)	Guns n' Roses (1992)

Andy Lau Tak Wah's Filmography Continued

Gameboy Kids (1992)	The Romancing Star 3 (1989)
Come Fly the Dragon (1992)	Proud and Confident (1989)
Casino Tycoon 2 (1992)	Perfect Match (1989)
Casino Tycoon (1992)	Long Arm of the Law III (1989)
Zodiac Killers (1991)	Little Cop (1989)
Tricky Brains (1991)	God of Gamblers (1989)
The Tigers (1991)	The First Time is the Last Time (1989)
Saviour of the Soul (1991)	Crocodile Hunter (1989)
Lee Rock 2 (1991)	City Kids 1989 (1989)
Lee Rock (1991)	China White (1989)
The Last Blood (1991)	Casino Raiders (1989)
Hong Kong Godfather (1991)	Bloody Brotherhood (1989)
Don't Fool Me (1991)	Walk On Fire (1988)
Dances with the Dragon (1991)	Three Against the World (1988)
Casino Raiders 2 (1991)	The Romancing Star 2 (1988)
The banquet (1991)	Last Eunuch in China (1988)
Return Engagement (1990)	In the Blood (1988)
No Risk, No Gain (1990)	The Dragon Family (1988)
A Moment of Romance (1990)	Crazy Companies 2 (1988)
Kung Fu vs. Acrobatic (1990)	Crazy Companies (1988)
Kawashima Yoshiko (1990)	As Tears Go By (1988)
Island of Fire (1990)	Tragic Hero (1987)
A Home Too Far (1990)	Sworn Brothers (1987)
God of Gamblers2 (1990)	Rich and Famous (1987)
Gangland Odyssey (1990)	Lucky Stars Go Places (1986)
The Fortune Code (1990)	Twinkle Twinkle Lucky Stars (1986)
Dragon in Jail (1990)	Magic Crystal (1986)
Days of Being Wild (1990)	The Unwritten Law (1985)
The Truth-Final Episode) (1989)	Shanghai 13 (1985)
Stars and Roses (1989)	Everlasting Love (1984)
Runaway Blues (1989)	On the Wrong Track (1983)
	Home in Hong Kong (1983)
	Boat People (1982)

At age 25, **ZHANG Ziyi (Mei)** possesses the easy grace and on-screen intensity of a seasoned professional.

She recently completed shooting legendary Japanese director Seijun Suzuki's last movie, "Raccoon Palace," a period musical set in Japan. In 2004, moviegoers around the world will see her in Wong Kar-Wai's "2046," which was in competition at the 2004 Cannes Film Festival. In 2005, Chinese audiences will see Z in "Jasmine" by first-time director Hou Yong. Z plays three characters in this generational family saga set in Shanghai in the thirties, sixties and eighties.

In 2003, Z appeared in two movies: the Mainland Chinese box-office phenomenon "Hero" directed by Zhang Yimou, which stars Jet Li, Maggie Cheung and Tony Leung. Nominated for Best Foreign Film at the 2003 Golden Globe Awards, the Berlin Film Festival, and the 2003 Academy Awards, "Hero" was a number one box office hit in Japan and France. Miramax will release "Hero" in the U.S. in 2004. Also in 2003, she appeared in "Purple Butterfly," directed by the award-winning Sixth Generation Mainland Chinese director Lou Ye. "Purple Butterfly" was in competition at the 2003 Cannes Film Festival, where Z won the hearts of critics for her depiction of a young woman caught between love and duty during Japanese-occupied Shanghai in the thirties.

In 2001, Z was seen opposite Jackie Chan and Chris Tucker in Brett Rattner's box office hit "Rush Hour 2." Z's role in the movie earned her a MTV Movie Award for "Best Villain."

Z's first appearance on screen was also her first star turn. While still a student in Drama School, she was offered the lead in director Zhang Yimou's 1998 film "The Road Home." Set during the very early years of China's Cultural Revolution, the film is an intimate account of a young girl's first love. "The Road Home" was awarded the Grand Jury Silver Bear at the 2000 Berlin Film Festival.

Following her breakthrough role in "The Road Home," Z delivered a stunning performance in director Ang Lee's "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" (2000),

co-starring with international stars Chow Yun-Fat and Michelle Yeoh. "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" was nominated for an astonishing 125 awards in 2000 and 2001. Z herself received 14 nominations, going on to win the 2001 Independent Spirit Award and 2000 Toronto Film Critics Association Award, among others.

Born and raised in Beijing, Z is one of two children. Her father is a government economist, her mother a retired kindergarten teacher. At age 11, she was sent to the Beijing Dance Academy where she began a 6-year study of folk and traditional Chinese dance. She then spent three years at the prestigious China Central Drama.

Z is now the worldwide spokesperson for Maybelline cosmetics, a division of L'Oreal Paris. She is also the spokesperson for Visa Card International in Asia. In Mainland China, she is spokesperson for Pantene shampoo, a P&G company, and Coca-Cola beverages. In Japan, she represents Kao shampoo.

Filmography

2046 (2004)

Jasmine (2003)

HERO (2003)

Purple Butterfly (2002)

The Warriors (2001)

Rush Hour 2 (2001)

Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon (2000)

The Road Home (1999)

SONG Dandan (Yee) hails from Beijing. After graduating from high school in 1981, Ms. Song followed her love of acting and enrolled in the celebrated People's Artistic Troupe to study theatre.

Soon after, Song Dandan won the Best Actress Award at China's prestigious Plum Blossom Awards for Theatre for her role in 1992's "Reunification." Song Dandan's other theater credits include "A Red and White Celebration" (1984), "Major Barbara" (1991) and "City of Lights" (2003).

Song Dandan made her feature film debut in the sentimental drama “Crescent Moon” (1986), and has starred in films including “The Red Suit” (1997) and “Family Ties” (2000) where her turn as a mother obsessed with IQ tests cemented her reputation as one of China’s leading comediennees.

Critically applauded for her work in theatre and film, it is through Song Dandan’s television work that she captured the hearts of audiences throughout China. Song’s comedic talent in sitcoms such as “I Love My Home” (1992) and “An Empty House” (2003) earned her huge popularity and made her a household name. In 1985, Song Dandan won television’s “Sky High Award” for Best Actress for her role in “Searching for the Lost World” (1985).

Filmography

Crescent Moon (1986)

The Red Suit (1997)

Family Ties (1999)

About the Filmmakers

Born in 1968, **Li Feng (Co-Writer)** graduated from Nanjing University with a Masters Degree in Chinese Classics. One of his generation's leading fiction writers, Li Feng is also a founding member of the new generation of novelists. He was awarded the first ever Internet Quartet Cultural Prize, and lives and works in Beijing.

Li Feng's literary works include the novels "Confucius" and "Shattered Father" (Sui Baba), and short stories "Death of Lu Yin," (Lu Yin Zhi Si), "China Story" (Zhong Guo Gu Shi), "The Tang Dynasty," "No One Can Sleep Tonight" (Jin Ye Mei Ren Jin Shui), and "Another Monkey King."

Li Feng made his screenwriting debut in 2000, in Zhang Yimou's epic drama, "HERO," set at the dawn of China's Qin Dynasty.

Filmography

HERO (2003)

WANG Bin (Co-Writer) hails from Shandong Province. He left home at fifteen to join the army, after which he worked as a traveling book salesman, a literary researcher and a literary editor. In the 1980s, he began writing literature, and became one of China's first freethinking writers.

Wang met Director Zhang Yimou at a discussion group for Zhang's film, "Ju Dou," and a fruitful collaboration was born. Since "To Live," Wang Bin has acted as literary consultant on all of Zhang Yimou's films including last year's martial arts epic, HERO.

Outside his work with Zhang Yimou, Wang's other credits include Lu Yue's "Mr. Jiao," Wang Xiao Shuai's "Dreamland" (Meng Huan Tian Yuan) and Sun Zhou's "Breaking the Silence." He has worked on the TV series "Let Love Run 'Til the End" (Zhang Ai Qing Jin Cheng Dao Dai) and "The Friends" (Peng You).

Filmography

HERO (2003)

Dreamland (Meng Huan Tian Yuan) (2000)

Breaking the Silence (1999)

Mr. Zhao (1998)

Bill KONG (Producer) is head of Edko Films, one of Hong Kong's longest-standing independent film companies. Bill Kong's production credits include Yim Ho's "The Day the Sun Turned Cold" (1994), which won Best Picture and Best Director at the Tokyo International Film Festival, and the Academy Award® winning martial arts epic, "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" (2000).

"Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" was one of the biggest hits of 2000, and the most popular foreign film in US cinematic history. It went on to earn a roaring US\$130 million at the box office and win multiple awards including four Academy Awards® for Best Foreign Language Film, Best Art Direction, Best Original Score and Best Cinematography, as well as two Golden Globe Awards for Best Foreign Language Film and Best Director.

Bill Kong's recent projects include Sun Zhou's acclaimed love story "Zhou Yu's Train" starring Gong Li, Tian Zhuangzhuang's remake of the Chinese classic film "Springtime in a Small Town" which won the San Marco prize at the 2002 Venice Film Festival, and Zhang Yimou's Academy Award® nominated martial arts drama, "HERO."

"HERO" smashed box-office records when it opened in China grossing more than US\$1.45m in a single day from 200 screens. Winner of the Alfred E. Bauer Prize for innovation at the 2003 Berlin Film Festival, "HERO" has been nominated for a host of awards including Best Foreign Language Film in the 75th Annual Academy Awards, Best Foreign Film at the Golden Globe Awards and 14 nominations at the Hong Kong Film Awards including Best Film, Best Director, Best Screenplay and Best Actress for Maggie Cheung.

Filmography

HERO (2003)

Zhou Yu's Train (2003)

Bill Kong's Filmography Continued

Springtime in a Small Town (2002)

Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon (2000)

The Day the Sun Turned Cold (1994)

ZHAO Xiaoding (Director of Photography) graduated from the prestigious Beijing Film Academy in 1987 with a degree in Cinematography. Zhao photographed his first feature film, "Soul of the Thundering Mountain" (1987) straight out of college and has since been extremely prolific, averaging at least one film a year. His other works include the critically acclaimed "A Season of Flowers and Rain" (1999) and "Subway to Spring" (2000).

In 2001, Zhao Xiao Ding began his collaboration with Director Zhang Yimou, working as the Cameraman on Zhang's martial arts epic, "HERO" (2003). The two struck up a great working relationship, and when Zhang Yimou began preparations for the HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS, the helmer quickly asked Zhao to be Director of Photography on his new film.

Zhao Xiao Ding has shot advertising campaigns for some of the leading brands in the world including Coca Cola, Armani Perfume, Toyota and the Bank of China.

More recently, Zhao Xiao Ding was Director of Photography on the successful publicity film for Beijing's Olympic Bid, the Shanghai Expo Bid and the Beijing 2008 Logo Unveiling publicity film.

Filmography

HERO (2003)

Subway to Spring (2001)

Season of Flowers and Rain (1999)

The Prosperous Queen Mother
(1998)

Love Fool (1997)

One Family, Two Systems (1996)

The Substitute Husband (1995)

The Temporary Dad (1994)

The Divorce War (1993)

Police Hero (1992)

A Raging Grudge (1991)

The Wolf and the Angel (1990)

Soul of the Thundering Mountain
(1987)

Acclaimed Hong Kong action director **Tony CHING Siu Tung (Action Director)** has worked with top names of the Hong Kong movie industry including Jackie Chan in “City Hunter” (1992) and “Duel of Dragons” (1992), Chow Yun Fat in “The Nepal Affair” (1985), and “Colour of a Hero” (1987) and Michelle Yeoh in “Wonder Seven” (1994).

A two-time winner of Taiwan’s Golden Horse Awards for his action direction in “New Dragon Inn” (1992) and “My Schoolmate, the Barbarian” (2001), Tony Ching has also been the recipient of the Best Action Choreography award for “The Affair from Nepal” (1987) and “Swordsman” (1990) at the Hong Kong Film Awards. Mr. Ching’s “A Chinese Ghost Story” pioneered the craze for Chinese horror films in the late 1980s and was awarded the Best International Fantasy Film Award, and Best Director for Mr. Ching, at Fantafestival. In 2001, he choreographed the Jet Li - Mel Gibson TV collaboration, “Invincible,” and the multi award winning smash hit “Shaolin Soccer” (2001) starring Hong Kong superstar Stephen Chiao.

For his choreography of the beautiful yet thrilling fight scenes for Zhang Yimou’s “HERO,” Tony Ching was awarded the Best Action Choreography award at the 22nd Hong Kong Film Awards for the third time in his career.

Filmography

Belly of the Beast (2003)

HERO (2003)

Naked Weapon (2002)

Invincible (2001)

Shaolin Soccer (2001)

The Duel (2000)

The Blacksheep Affair (1998)

Adventure King (1996)

Wonder Seven (1994)

Street Fighter (1993)

Flying Dagger (1993)

Moon Warriors (1993)

City Hunter (1992)

The Heroic Trio (1992)

New Dragon Inn (1992)

Son on the Run (1991)

Swordsman II (1991)

A Chinese Ghost Story III (1991)

A Chinese Ghost Story (1987)

The Colour of a Hero II (1987)

Peking Opera Blues (1986)

The Affair from Nepal (1985)

Duel to the Death (1982)

The Master Strikes (1980)

The Spooky Bunch (1980)

HUO Tingxiao (Production Designer) graduated from the Beijing Academy of Film in 1991. In the same year, he was invited to work as Production Designer on Yang Fengliang's "A Woman from North Shaanxi" (1991) as well as esteemed Fifth Generation director, Chen Kaige's "Life on a String" (1991).

Since this auspicious beginning, Mr. Huo has worked with a string of renowned filmmakers including He Ping in "Red Firecracker, Green Firecracker" (1993), for which Mr. Huo was awarded the prestigious Golden Rooster Award for Best Production Design. Huo Tingxiao has collaborated closely with Chen Kaige, acting as Production Designer for Chen's Academy Award® nominated "Farewell My Concubine" (1993) and Chen's "The Emperor and the Assassin" (1998) for which Huo was awarded the Cannes Film Festival Technical Grand Prize for Best Art Direction.

Filmography

HERO (2003)

Song of Tibet (2000)

Steal Happiness (1998)

The Emperor and the Assassin (1998)

Jie Fang Da Shi Bi (1997)

Wing Chun (1994)

Red Firecracker, Green Firecracker (1993)

Farewell My Concubine (1993)

A Woman from North Shaanxi (1991)

Life on a String (1991)

A veteran of the prestigious Beijing Film Academy, **TAO Jing (Sound Supervisor)** was nominated for the Best Sound award at the 8th Golden Rooster Awards for work on his debut project, Chen Kaige's "The King of Children" (1988). This proved to be an auspicious start to a career that includes work on Chen Kaige's Palme d'Or winning "Farewell, My Concubine" (1993) and Zhang Yimou's BAFTA and Cannes Grand Jury Prize winning "To Live" (1994). In 1989, Tao Jing supervised the sound for Mu Deyuan and Liang Ming's "Lonely Soul in a Black Chamber," the first film in China to be mixed in Dolby Stereo.

A long-time collaborator of Director Zhang Yimou's, Tao Jing was awarded the

Golden Reel Award for Zhang's "Shanghai Triad" in 1995, and the Best Sound Award at the 22nd Hong Kong Film Awards for "HERO" (2003). Tao Jing is a two-time winner of the Golden Rooster Award for Best Sound for Chen Kaige's "The Emperor and the Assassin" (1998) and "HERO" (2003). He has published widely on the subject of sound in film and is a Visiting Professor at the Beijing Film Academy.

Filmography

HERO (2003)	Oh Snow of Fragrances (1990)
Beautiful Shanghai (2003)	Lonely Soul in a Black Chamber (1989)
The Emperor and the Assassin (1998)	The King of Children (1987)
Keep Cool (1996)	
Shanghai Triad (1995)	
To Live (1994)	
Farewell My Concubine (1993)	
Morning Beijing (1992)	
Spring on a String of Life (1991)	

Shigeru UMEBAYASHI (Composer) career as a professional musician began when he led the legendary new-wave rock band EX to stardom in Japan. In the early 1980s, EX was selected to be the supporting band for Eric Clapton's Japan Tour.

When EX split up in 1985, Umebayashi began writing film scores. He won immediate recognition in the same year for "Sorekara" and "Tomoyo Shizukani Nemure" which were awarded with several music prizes including the Music Award at the Mainichi Film Contest, the Japanese Academic Music Award as well as Music Awards at the Yokohama Film Festival and the Osaka Film Festival.

Since then, Mr. Umebayashi has scored more than 30 films, which include Morita Yoshimitu's "And Then," Wong Kar Wai's multiple award winning "In the Mood for Love" and Carol LAI Miu Suet's critically acclaimed "Floating Landscape" (2003). Mr. Umebayashi was awarded Best Original Theme Song for Jacob Cheung Chi Leung's "Midnight Fly" at the 2001 Golden Horse Awards.

Filmography

Onmyoji II (2003)	Zero Woman (1995)
Floating Landscape (2003)	Natural Woman (1994)
Zhou Yu's Train (2002)	Izakaya Yurei (1994)
Onmyoji (2001)	Tokapeb (1993)
Hikari no Ame (2001)	Nemuranai Machi Shinjuku Zame (1993)
Midnight Fly (2001)	Byoin he Iko 2 Yamai ha Kikara (1992)
In the Mood for Love (2000)	Arihureta Ai ni Kansuru Chosa (1992)
Shojo (2000)	Goaisatsu (1991)
2000 AD (2000)	Ote (1991)
Belle Epoque (1998)	Yumeji (1991)
Sleepless Town (1998)	Tekken (1990)
G4 Option Zero (1997)	Hong Kong Paradise (1990)
Watashitachi ga suki datta koto (1997)	Getting Blue in Color (1988)
Isana no Umi (1997)	Kyohu no Yacchan (1987)
Ichigo Domei (1997)	Shinshi Domei (1986)
Izakaya Yurei 2 (1996)	Sorobanzuku (1986)
Shin Gokudo Kisha (1996)	Sorekara (1985)
The Christ of Nanjing (1995)	Tomoyo Shizukani Nemure (1985)
Hashirana Akan Yoake Made (1994)	Itsuka Darekaga Korosareru (1983)
Kitanai Yatsu (1994)	
Boxer Joe (1995)	

Kathleen BATTLE's (Soprano, Theme Song) lyric soprano voice has captivated audiences around the world, making her one of the most acclaimed singers of our time.

A native of Portsmouth, Ohio, U.S.A., Kathleen Battle made her professional debut at the Spoleto Festival in Brahms' "Ein deutsches Requiem." Her Metropolitan Opera debut followed only five years later in Wagner's "Tannhäuser." A five-time Grammy Award winner, Kathleen Battle's repertoire spans three centuries from the Baroque era to contemporary works.

Kathleen Battle has enjoyed some of her greatest successes in the opera house. For her Covent Garden debut as Zerbinetta in Strauss' "Ariadne auf

Naxos,” Ms. Battle became the first American to be honored with a Laurence Olivier Award for Best Performance in a New Opera Production. For her interpretation of “Ariadne auf Naxos,” Kathleen Battle was awarded the first of two Grammy Awards for Best Opera Recording. Her performance of the title role in the DG recording of Handel’s “Semele” earned Ms. Battle a second Grammy. In recital, Kathleen Battle has mesmerized audiences around the world with her unique artistry and vocal beauty. Ms. Battle has been honored with three Grammy Awards for Best Classical Vocal Soloist for her Carnegie Hall recital debut, her Salzburg Recital, and for her legendary interpretation of Mozart with conductor Andre Previn.

Kathleen Battle has collaborated with some of the world’s most talented musicians and conductors including conductors Andre Previn, Seiji Ozawa and Sir George Solti; tenors Luciano Pavarotti and Placido Domingo; violinist Itshak Perlman and trumpeter Wynton Marsalis.

Kathleen Battle has made immeasurable contributions as an ambassador for classical music, performing for Presidents and dignitaries. Her performance on the PBS broadcast of the Metropolitan Opera’s 1991 season opening gala won her an Emmy for Outstanding Individual Achievement in a Classical Program on Television. A documentary film on the recording of Sony’s Baroque Duet album with Wynton Marsalis and John Nelson conducting the Orchestra of St. Luke’s was nominated for an Emmy. Kathleen Battle has been awarded six honorary doctorates from American Universities. In honor of her outstanding artistic achievements, Miss Battle was inducted into the “NAACP Image Award Hall of Fame,” and in 2002 into the “Hollywood Bowl Hall of Fame.”

One of the most highly regarded costume designers working for cinema, **Emi WADA (Costume Designer)** has received recognition far beyond her native Japan to become the first Japanese woman ever to win an Academy Award® (Best Costume Design for Akira Kurosawa’s “Ran” 1985).

Born in Kyoto, Japan, Ms. Wada graduated from the Kyoto City College of Arts with a degree in Western Painting. A fruitful collaboration with acclaimed British director, Peter Greenaway, began with “Prospero’s Book” in 1991 and continued with “The Pillow Book” (1995), starring Ewan McGregor, and “8 1/2 Women” (1998). Emi Wada’s work with Hong Kong filmmakers has also been

recognized, and she earned Best Costume Design honors for Ronny Yu's "The Bride with White Hair" (1993), Mabel Cheung's "The Soong Sisters" (1995) and Zhang Yimou's "HERO" (2003) at the Hong Kong Film Awards.

Wada has also worked as costume designer on numerous stage productions including Shakespeare's "Antony and Cleopatra" directed by Peter Stein, and Julie Taylor's opera, "Oedipus Rex" (1992) which for which Wada won Best Costume Design at the 45th Emmy Awards. She has exhibited her costumes and designs both in Japan and abroad, and has published three books on her costume designs.

Filmography

HERO (2003)

Gohatto (1999)

8 1/2 Women (1998)

The Soong Sisters (1995)

The Pillow Book (1995)

The Bride with White Hair (1993)

Prospero's Book (1991)

An Electronic Engineering graduate of the Shanghai University of Science and Technology, **CHENG Long (Editor)** began graduate studies in Computer Science in the U.S.A. before working as a sound engineer in a news van for WPVI-TV6 in Philadelphia.

This ignited Mr. Cheng's love for motion pictures and led him to pursue a Masters degree in Film and Media Arts from Temple University, Philadelphia followed by a course in Feature Filmmaking at the prestigious American Film Institute in 1995.

On graduation, Cheng Long edited a series of U.S.-based projects including "Bontoc Eulogy" (1995) which screened at the 1996 Sundance Film Festival and "US Custom Classified" (1995) which premiered on CKAL-9.

Returning to China in 1997, Cheng Long edited the feature film, "A Time to Remember" (1998) before editing the television shows "A Hero Without a Name" (1997-1998) and "Love Affairs in Two Generations" (2000) for China's

Zhejiang TV Drama Centre and Nanjing Cable TV Station respectively.

Cheng Long is currently a visiting scholar in the Directing Department of the Beijing Film Academy.

Filmography

A Time to Remember (1998)

Bontoc Eulogy (1995)