

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF A TOUCH OF ZEN

LI LI-HUA
ANGELA MAO
HELEN MA
HSU FENG
ROY CHIAO

A FILM BY
KING HU

THE FATE OF LEE KHAN

KING HU PRESENTS THE FATE OF LEE KHAN PRODUCTION MANAGER LEE SHENG STARRING TIAN FENG HSU FENG LI LI-HUA ANGELA MAO
CO-STARRING HU CHIN HELEN MA BAI YING ROY CHIAO SHANGGUAN YEN-ERH SCREENPLAY KING HU WANG CHUNG EDITOR LEUNG WING CHAN DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY CHEN CHAO YUNG
MUSIC JOSEPH KOO ACTION DIRECTOR SAMMO HUNG DIRECTOR KING HU

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presents

THE FATE OF LEE KHAN

A FILM BY
KING HU

NEW 2K DIGITAL RESTORATION

Hong Kong & Taiwan / 1973 / Action / Mandarin with English Subtitles
106 minutes / 2.35:1 / 5.1 Surround Sound

U.S. THEATRICAL PREMIERE
Opening April 5th in New York at Metrograph

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SYNOPSIS

In his follow-up to the critically acclaimed *A TOUCH OF ZEN*, trailblazing filmmaker King Hu brings together an all-star female cast, including Hong Kong cinema stalwart Li Li-hua and Angela "Lady Kung Fu" Mao, in this lively martial arts adventure. When Lee Khan, a powerful general of the oppressive Yuan Dynasty, procures the battle map of the Chinese rebel army, resistance fighters, aided by an undercover girl-gang, strive to corner him at an inn. Featuring stunning action sequences choreographed by Jackie Chan's "Kung Fu elder brother" Sammo Hung and a generous mix of intrigue and humor, *THE FATE OF LEE KHAN* is a legendary *wuxia* masterpiece.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

Lee Khan, a powerful general of the oppressive Yuan Dynasty, procures the battle map of the Chinese rebel army. Resistance fighters, aided by an undercover girl-gang, strive to corner him at an inn.

LOGLINE

King Hu's legendary *wuxia* masterpiece, starring Li Li-hua, Angela Mao and Hsu Feng.



SELECT PRESS

"*The Fate of Lee Khan* is to the Chinese martial arts movie what *Once Upon a Time in the West* is to the Italian Western: a brilliant anthology of its genre's theme and styles, yielding an exhilaratingly original vision."

—*Time Out*

"*The Fate of Lee Khan* is a masterclass in getting the maximum from every aspect of production. King Hu takes a cast of actors and actresses who normally take supporting roles and thrusts them into the limelight, directing them all with such confidence that a few of them give career-best performances."

—Andrew Saroch, *Far East Films*

"All of the women here have a strict zero-tolerance policy for nonsense, and are entirely capable of handling themselves. To have one such character would be impressive, but the full half-dozen we have here, indeed pushes this into the stratosphere for its time."

—Jim McLennan, *Girls with Guns*

"*The Fate of Lee Khan* is a fantastic film, hidden in the shadows of other, more well-known King Hu films. ...[T]he economy with which he delivers an intense, compelling story in *The Fate of Lee Khan* is a masterful achievement. It's a real under-the-radar treasure...."

—*Silver Emulsion Film Reviews*

"In fact, *The Fate of Lee Khan* is Hu's only film with so many female fighters. The women alone form a marvelous stock company, giving the film much of its indomitable energy and spirit. Of all the action directors, Hu was the most sympathetic to women. It was he who virtually created the image of female stoicism in the martial arts cinema... In Hu's pictures, one sees women as the epitome of cool, taciturn heroines every inch the equal of male heroic stereotypes from Gary Cooper to Bruce Lee."

—Stephen Teo, *Sense of Cinema*



DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY – KING HU

Born in Beijing in 1932, King Hu moved to Hong Kong at the age of 18 and started work as an illustrator for film advertisements. In 1954 he made his acting debut in the film *HUMILIATION FOR SALE*, and in 1958, through director Li Han-hsiang, he joined Shaw Brothers as an actor, scriptwriter, and assistant director. In 1963 Hu was first assistant director to Li on the film *THE LOVE ETERNE*, and the following year his first directorial effort, *THE STORY OF SUE SAN*. This was followed in 1965 by WWII film *SONS OF THE GOOD EARTH*. 1966 saw Hu release his first *wuxia* film, *COME DRINK WITH ME*, marking the early days of Hu's characteristic style in which characters, settings, and even martial arts choreography all take strong influence from Peking opera. *COME DRINK WITH ME* was a major factor in the contemporary rise of *wuxia* films, and the embryonic forms of elements of Hu's later movies were already visible.

The 1967 *DRAGON INN* proved to be a blockbuster, setting box office records in Taiwan, Korea, and the Philippines, and the film would prove to have a broad and lasting influence. The follow-up to *DRAGON INN* would finally hit screens in 1971, after three years of filming. *A TOUCH OF ZEN* would go on to take the Technical Grand Prize award at the Cannes Film Festival in 1975, propelling Hu onto the world stage, and the bamboo forest duel scene became a classic scene and an indelible contribution to cinema. The 1979 films *RAINING IN THE MOUNTAIN* and *LEGEND OF THE MOUNTAIN* demonstrated Hu's unwillingness to be pigeonholed as simply a *wuxia* director. The former served as the opening movie of the 3rd Hong Kong Film Festival and the latter won the Best Director and Best Art Direction awards at the 16th Golden Horse Awards.

In 1981, Hu's film *THE JUVENIZER* – entirely self funded and self shot – was his first comedy and his only contemporary film, making it something different. After *THE WHEEL OF LIFE* (1983), Hu would step out of the limelight until 1990's *THE SWORDSMAN*, for which Hu made a comeback at the request of Tsui Hark. Hu was involved in costuming, styling, and set design on the film, including setting up a massive set in Xitou, Taiwan. The 1992 film *PAINTED SKIN* would be Hu's last. That same year, he received a lifelong achievement award from the Hong Kong Directors Association.

SELECT FILMOGRAPHY

1964 – *THE STORY OF SUE SAN*
1965 – *SONS OF THE GOOD EARTH*
1966 – *COME DRINK WITH ME*
1967 – *DRAGON INN*
1970 – *A TOUCH OF ZEN*
1970 – *FOUR MOODS (ANGER)*
1975 – *THE VALIANT ONES*

1979 – *RAINING IN THE MOUNTAIN*
1979 – *LEGEND OF THE MOUNTAIN*
1981 – *THE JUVENIZER*
1983 – *ALL THE KING'S MEN*
1983 – *THE WHEEL OF LIFE*
1990 – *THE SWORDSMAN*
1992 – *PAINTED SKIN*

SELECT CAST BIOGRAPHIES

ANGELA MAO

Also known as “Lady Whirlwind” and “Lady Kung Fu,” Angela Mao is one of the most famous martial arts actresses of the 1970s and ‘80s. Mao trained to be a traditional Chinese Opera actress from age six and found fame as an action star when she was cast as the lead in Huang Feng’s martial arts film ANGRY RIVER (1970). Mao went on to work with other titans of the genre including King Hu, Sammo Hung and Carter Wong. She was positioned by Hong Kong studios as the “female Bruce Lee,” and had a memorable role in the iconic actor’s breakthrough film ENTER THE DRAGON (1973). Mao retired from acting in 1992 and currently runs a trio of successful restaurants in Flushing, Queens.

HSU FENG

Hsu Feng’s first film was King Hu’s 1967 DRAGON INN. The following year she began filming for A TOUCH OF ZEN, playing the lead female role with a combination of icy beauty, fierce will, and powerful heroism. A TOUCH OF ZEN would go on to win the Technical Grand Prize at the 1975 Cannes Film Festival, and Hsu’s performance in the film received critical acclaim not only at Cannes, but around the world. During her five years (1966–1971) with Union Film Company, Hsu appeared in five films; between 1971 to 1975, she appeared in over 20 films, including THE FATE OF LEE KHAN (1973) and THE VALIANT ONES (1975). In the former she played a steely Mongolian princess, dignified, imposing, and ruthless; this was possibly her greatest performance in a *wuxia* film, although her lead role in 1976’s ASSASSIN earned her the Best Leading Actress award at the 13th Golden Horse Awards. That same year, her role as Weicheng, the wife of famed Nationalist Chinese military officer Xie Jinyuan, in the film EIGHT HUNDRED HEROES earned her a Special Award for Acting Technique at that year’s Asian Film Festival. 1980’s THE PIONEERS saw her earn another award, this time Best Leading Actress in a Feature Film at the 17th Golden Horse Awards. Hsu’s other films include RAINING IN THE MOUNTAIN, LEGEND OF THE MOUNTAIN, and EVERLASTING GLORY.



CAST

Wan Jen-mi
Hai Mu-tan
Yeh Li-hsiang
Lee Wan-erh
Tsao Yu-kun

Li Li-hua
Angela Mao
Helen Ma
Hsu Feng
Roy Chiao

CREW

Director
Screenplay
Production Manager
Director of Photography
Editor
Action Director
Music

King Hu
King Hu & Wang Chung
Lee Sheng
Chen Chao Yung
Leung Wing-Chan
Sammo Hung
Joseph Koo



ABOUT FILM MOVEMENT

Founded in 2002 as one of the first-ever subscription film services with its DVD-of-the-Month club, Film Movement is now a North American distributor of award-winning independent and foreign films based in New York City. It has released more than 250 feature films and shorts culled from prestigious film festivals worldwide. Film Movement's theatrical releases include American independent films, documentaries, and foreign art house titles. Its catalog includes titles by directors such as Hirokazu Kore-eda, Maren Ade, Jessica Hausner, Andrei Konchalovsky, Andrzej Wajda, Diane Kurys, Ciro Guerra and Melanie Laurent. In 2015, Film Movement launched its reissue label Film Movement Classics, featuring new restorations released theatrically as well as on Blu-ray and DVD, including films by such noted directors as Eric Rohmer, Peter Greenaway, Bille August, Marleen Gorris, Takeshi Kitano, Arturo Ripstein, Sergio Corbucci and Ettore Scola. For more information, please visit www.filmmovement.com.