



EMPEROR MOTION PICTURES
CHINA FILM GROUP
HUAYI BROTHERS MEDIA
BEIJING SILVER MOON PRODUCTIONS
SHAOLIN TEMPLE CULTURE COMMUNICATION COMPANY
Present

A BENNY CHAN Film

Shaolin

新少林寺

Starring: ANDY LAU, NICHOLAS TSE
Special appearance by JACKIE CHAN
with: FAN BINGBING, WU JING, YU SHAOQUN,
YU HAI, YANNENG, XIONG XINXIN, BAI BING

Action Director: CORY YUEN
Director of Photography: ANTHONY PUN (HKSC)
Production Designed by: YEE CHUNG-MAN
Produced and Directed by: BENNY CHAN



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DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

“Like many of my peers who were starting out in the film industry in the early 1980s, I was influenced and inspired by the original *The Shaolin Temple*. I found the martial arts portrayed in this 1982 classic radically different from anything I have seen before. I mean, wow, there was Jet Li executing the most perfect of 360-degree roundhouse kicks in mid-air! It was both stunning and riveting. Don’t forget that *The Shaolin Temple* was made before China opened up to the rest of the world – it was such a rarity.

Because of the enormous success of the original film, many films and television series similarly inspired have been made since. However, I believe our *Shaolin* is the first feature film officially sanctioned by Abbot Shi Yongxin since the 1982 classic. So when Emperor Motion Pictures challenged me to produce and direct it, it is an offer that I could not proverbially refuse.

One of our first tasks was to come up with something new. Fortunately, Shaolin Temple dates back more than 1,500 years and there are so many tales worth telling. Blessed with such a

wealth of materials, we consciously set out not to remake the 1982 Jet Li classic. Instead, we set our *Shaolin* in China during the 1920s – the age of the warlords.

Of course, martial arts is still the core element of our film. However, we have tried not to replicate what Jet Li accomplished almost 30 years ago. He was too unique. We have to adopt an entirely different approach. On the other hand, and in recognition of the true spirit of Shaolin, we have also avoided indulging ourselves with CGI technologies and special effects. There are several ferocious hand-to-hand battle scenes in our film and one of these will lead to the burning of the temple, a spectacle that painstakingly took us more than a month to shoot.

One thing that impressed me most during our research into the myth of Shaolin was its overriding Buddhist principles of benevolence and forgiveness. Contrary to popular belief, Shaolin Temple does not train people with martial arts so that they could go out and fight each other. Even when pushed to defend themselves,



Shaolin disciples still hold on to their somewhat pacifist beliefs. This is ironic but this is also a message that I want to convey in *Shaolin*.

I have been deeply touched by how people rallied around those affected by natural disasters in recent years. Like those Shaolin monks who offer safe havens to war refugees in our film, they are willing to sacrifice themselves unconditionally for the greater good. To these nameless, noble heroes, I salute you!

I hope audience from all walks of life will enjoy *Shaolin* as much as I enjoyed making it, and be inspired by it, as much as I was when I saw the original Jet Li classic back in 1982. Thank you. ”

陳木勝





SYNOPSIS

It is the early years of the republic and China has been plunged into chaos as feuding warlords battle to expand their power and their lands. Young army leader Hou Jie and his sworn brother Cao Man find little resistance in their conquer of the township of Dengfeng, leaving thousands injured and dead in their wake.

The venerated Shaolin Temple throws open its doors to the wounded. Disciples Jing Neng, Jing Kong and Jing Hai venture out in the day to save the villagers and at night, become masked Robin Hoods to help the poor and weak.

When Hou Jie learns that temple disciples are helping his enemies, he challenges the temple's kung fu. The abbot purposely loses the fight to Hou Jie and the latter becomes even more arrogant. But Hou is forced to repent when the shock betrayal of Cao Man wipes out his whole family and he is forced to seek refuge at Shaolin. While recuperating at the temple, Hou has the chance to learn Shaolin's powerful martial arts from the crazy monk Wu Dao and find inner peace.

However, his wife Yan Xi has difficulty coping with the loss of their daughter and decides to seek out Cao Man for revenge. In the meantime, Jing Neng, Jing Kong and Jing Hai also have a confrontation with Hou. The encounters anger Cao Man who brings his army to besiege Shaolin and the peace-loving monks are forced to take up arms to protect the refugees and their beloved temple...





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THE FILMMAKERS



THE FILMMAKERS



DIRECTOR: BENNY CHAN

Benny Chan is one of Hong Kong's most respected action directors who have left an indelible mark in Hong Kong films. Chan started his career as a screenwriter but graduated to direct many of Hong Kong's popular action and martial arts TV serials. His first big-screen debut was the romantic action blockbuster starring Andy Lau titled *A Moment of Romance* (1990), which garnered the fledgling director rave reviews and became an instant classic. Chan has since directed close to 20 films, many of which featured strong action, cementing his reputation as one of Hong Kong's top contemporary action directors.

Chan has collaborated with Jackie Chan three times; the results are the box office hits *Who Am I* (1998), *New Police Story* (2004), and *Rob-b-hood* (2006). In 2004 and 2005, the film-maker was nominated for Best Director by the Hong Kong Film Awards for *Heroic Duo* and *New Police Story* respectively.

With the blockbuster *Shaolin*, the director is able to put his skills in the action genre to good use and also juxtapose that talent with his knack for fleshing out raw emotions and high drama.





THE FILMMAKERS



ACTION DIRECTOR: CORY YUEN



The name **Cory Yuen** has been a staple in Hong Kong martial arts films since the 1970s when the action director took his first steps into the film world. In the past 40 years, Yuen has thrilled audiences with his graceful, elegant, easy, yet lightning fast style of kung fu action. The award-winning choreographer made his Hollywood debut with *Lethal Weapon 4* and went on to choreograph *Transporter*, *X-Men*, and *Blood: The Last Vampire*. His latest works include John Woo's *Red Cliff I* and *II*.





THE FILMMAKERS

PRODUCTION DESIGNER: YEE CHUNG-MAN



Yee Chung-man is one of Asia's most renowned production and costume designers and has produced many outstanding and memorable sets for Asia's top directors. A multiple-award winning art director at Asia's top film awards, Yee made his mark internationally with an Oscar for Best Costume Design in 2007 and the statuette for Excellence in Costume Design for Film – Period at the Costume Designers' Guild Awards for Zhang Yimou's stunning *Curse of the Golden Flower*. Yee's other works include *A Chinese Ghost Story*, *Comrades: Almost a Love Story*, *Perhaps Love*, *True Legend* and *Confucius*.





THE FILMMAKERS

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: ANTHONY PUN



Anthony Pun has nurtured a deep-rooted passion for photography since an early age. He started his film career in 1994 and has since been nominated many times for best cinematography and won the award at the 42nd Golden Horse Awards in Taiwan for his work in *Divergence*. Pun has worked with many of Hong Kong's veteran directors such as Teddy Chen and Patrick Leung, as well as younger helmers such as Wilson Yip. *Shaolin* renews Pun's relationship with director Benny Chan after the successful *Divergence*, *New Police Story*, *Connected* and *Gen-Y Cops*. His other works include *Born Wild*, *Empire of Silver* and *Triple Tap*.

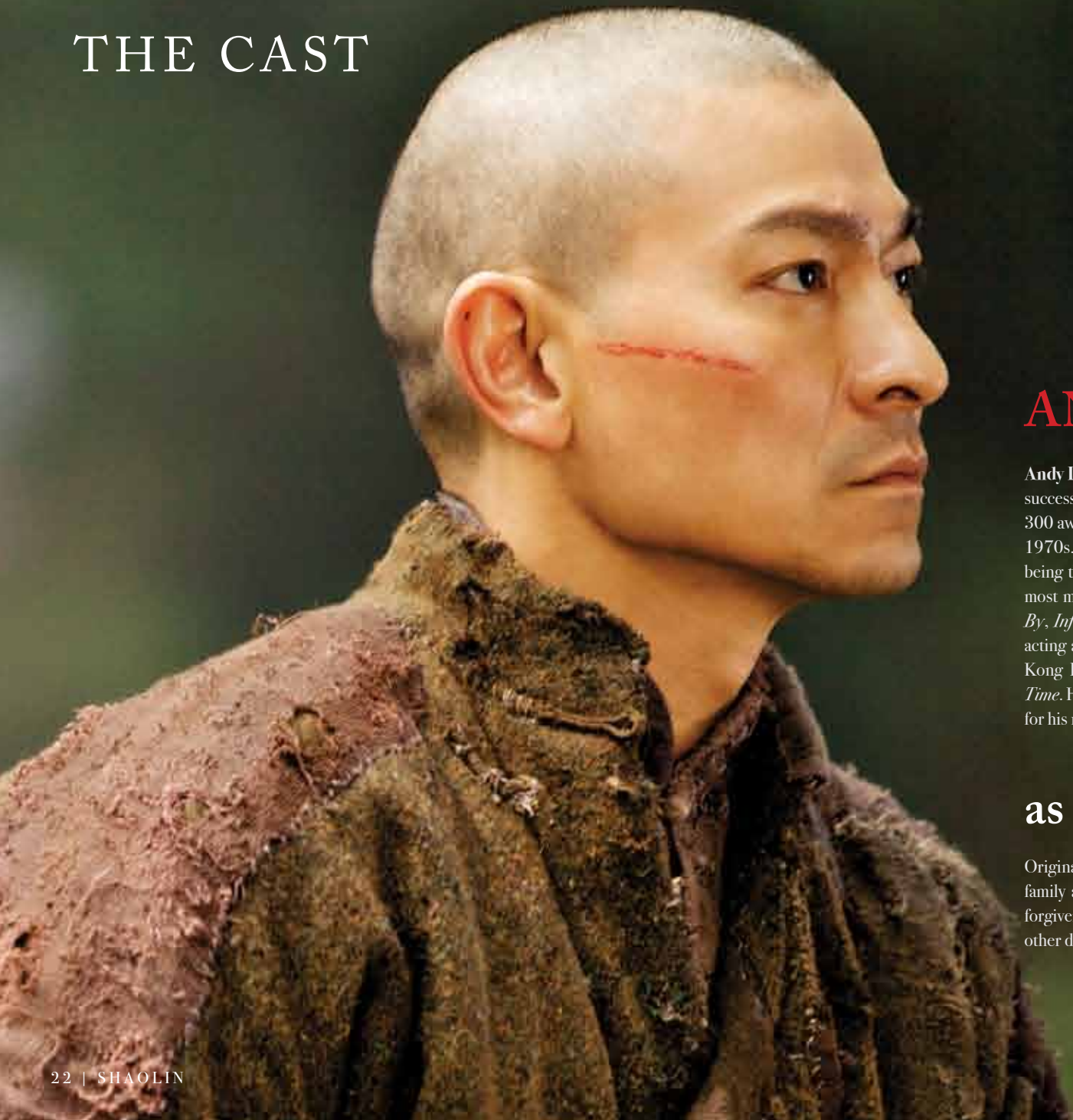




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THE CAST

THE CAST



ANDY LAU

Andy Lau is one of Hong Kong's most famous entertainers, with successful careers as a singer and actor. He has won more than 300 awards and honors worldwide since he started his career in the 1970s. He has been recognized by Guinness World Records for being the singer with the most singing awards in Hong Kong. His most memorable works include *Days of Being Wild*, *As Tears Go By*, *Infernal Affairs*, and *The Warlords*. Nominated for numerous acting awards, Lau took home the best actor statuette at the Hong Kong Film Awards for *Running on Karma* and *Running Out of Time*. He also won the Best Actor award at the Golden Horse Awards for his role in *Infernal Affairs III*.

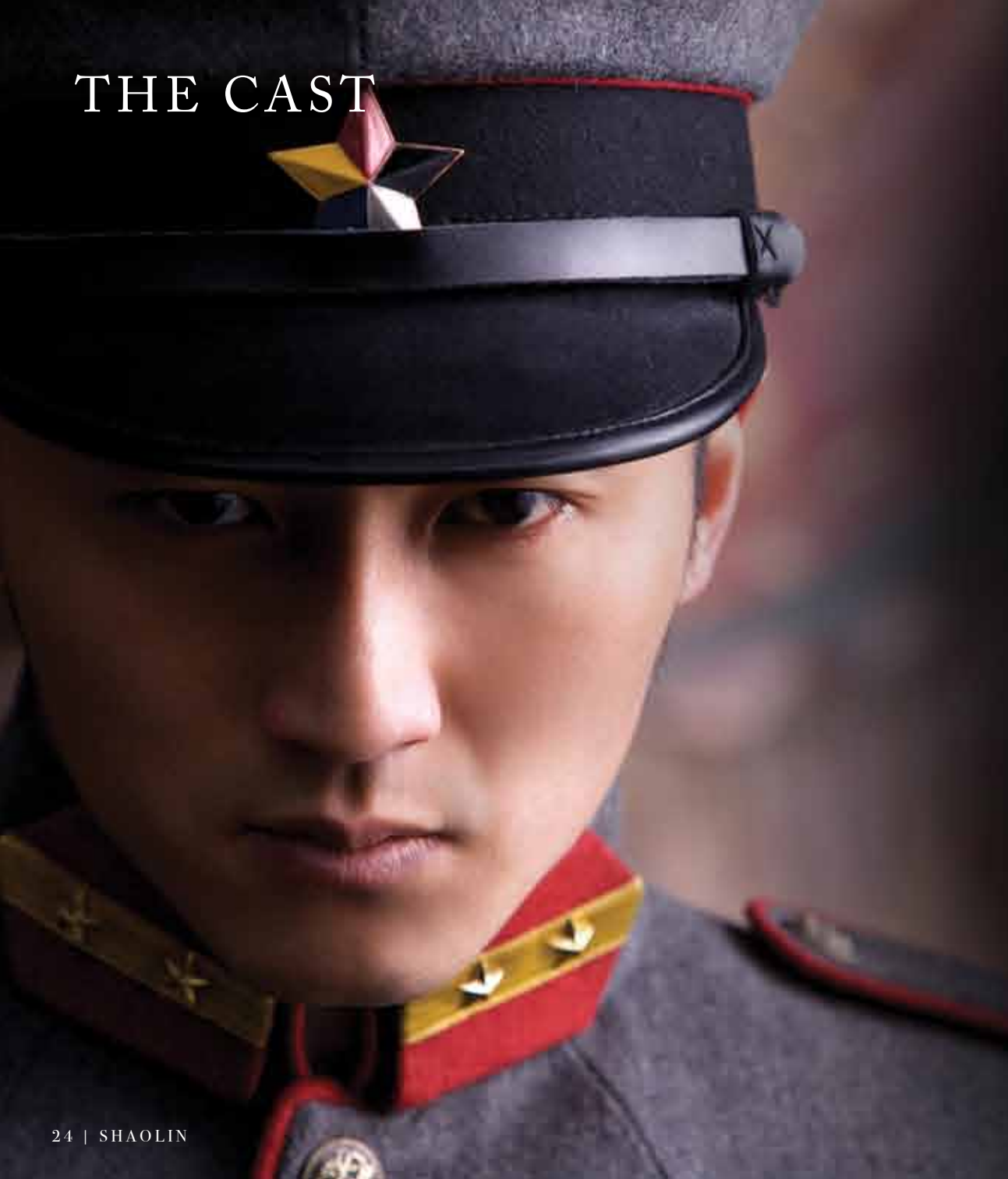
as Hou Jie

Originally an army leader of one of the warlords, he loses his whole family after falling into an enemy trap. He finally finds peace and forgiveness at Shaolin Temple and becomes a monk and leads the other disciples in protecting the refugees.

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THE CAST



NICHOLAS TSE

Nicholas Tse was born into film royalty. Inheriting his parents' stunning good looks, charisma as well as their celluloid talent, Tse has made an impact on both the music and film world. Tse won the Best New Performer for his first movie *Young & Dangerous: The Prequel* and Best Supporting Actor award at the 28th Hundred Flowers Awards For *New Police Story*. He also won the Best Supporting Actor awards at both the Asian Film Awards and the Hong Kong Film Awards for his work in *Bodyguards and Assassins*. His other outstanding works include *A Man Called Hero*, *Gen-X Cops*, *The Promise*, *A Chinese Tall Story*, *The Beast Stalker*, and *Hot Summer Days*.

as Cao Man

Once the sworn brother of Hou Jie, he betrays Hou to become a powerful warlord. To maintain his position, Cao seeks the support of foreigners and helps them oppress the residents. When Shaolin disciples put a spoke in his plans, he decides to destroy the temple.



THE CAST



JACKIE CHAN

Jackie Chan's excellent kung fu skills and unique sense of humor has made him arguably one of the most recognized superstars around the world. From his home in China to Japan and Hollywood, Chan has amassed legions of fans, including some of Hollywood's top names, with his wholesome action-filled films. Jackie now splits his time between Hollywood work and Chinese productions. Blockbuster hits starring or directed by Jackie includes the *Police Story* trilogy, the *Drunken Master* series, *Rumble in the Bronx*, *Gorgeous*, *New Police Story*, *Rob-b-Hood*, *The Forbidden Kingdom*, *Shinjuku Incident*, and Hollywood productions such as the *Rush Hour* trilogy, *Cannonball Run*, *Around the World in 80 Days*, and *Kung Fu Kid*.

as Wu Dao

A long-time resident of the temple's kitchen, the cooking monk has a weird but lovable temperament. Unfettered by trivialities and illiterate, Wu Dao nevertheless has a high understanding of his religion. Under his tutelage, Hou Jie learns to put down his former baggage.

THE CAST



WU JING

Wu Jing received his martial arts training as part of the Beijing Wushu Team from the age of six. He has been a champion in hand combat, pole and sword since he was 12 and was discovered by famous Hong Kong action director Yuen Woo-ping (*Matrix*) who gave young Wu his first acting role. Drawing inspiration from fellow Beijing Wushu team member Jet Li, Wu gained popularity with starring roles in numerous China-produced martial arts films and TV series, including *Tai Chi Fist* in 1996. His masterpieces include *Kill the Broken Wolf*, and *Invisible Target*. He made his directorial debut in *Legendary Assassin*.

as Jing Neng

A disciple of the temple, Jing Neng and his sworn brothers mask their identities to help those in need. He hates Hou Jie very much and blamed Hou for the death of his family. After spending some time with Hou at the temple, he learns how to forgive and join forces with Hou to fight against the enemies.

THE CAST



FAN BINGBING

One of China's most outstanding actresses, **Fan Bingbing** has built a solid reputation around her excellent acting skills and her beauty. Well-recognized by fans of Chinese film fans, Fan is much sought after for commercials as well as by China's top directors. She also has a fledgling singing career and has released her own solo album. She has starred in box offices successes such as *Cell Phone*, *Lost in Beijing*, *Battle of Wits*, *Shinjuku Incident* and *Bodyguards and Assassins*.

as Yan Xi

Hou Jie's wife, her kindly nature takes a vengeful turn after she loses her daughter.

THE CAST

YU SHAOQUN

Yu Shaoqun is a new talent on the rapid road to superstardom, he originally studied Hebei opera and became the follower of Hebei opera master Chen Bohua in 2004. After that, he was spotted by the Shanghai Yueju Theatre and took up yueju. Yu was discovered by director Chen Kaige in 2008 and was cast as the young Mei Lanfang in *Forever Enthralled* directed by Chen. Yu's talent has received much recognition at film awards around China and Asia.

as Jing Hai

A Shaolin disciple, Jing Hai joins his brethren in their nocturnal missions to help the poor and downtrodden. During one mission, he meets the songstress Tian'er and feels the pull of temptation. However, he finally overcomes it and decides to devote himself to battling the enemy.

YU HAI

Yu Hai entered the Shandong Sports Academy in 1958, unfolding a life devoted to martial arts. As team captain and coach of the Academy's martial arts team, Yu led his team-mates to international glory. He himself was crowned champion of many martial arts disciplines, including swordplay, pole, Eight-Diagram Fist, and particularly the Praying Mantis Boxing style. In 1980, Yu started his new career in movies after being discovered by director Zhang Xinyan who cast him in the original *The Shaolin Temple* with Jet Li. Yu has since starred in films such as *Kids from Shaolin*, *Martial Arts of Shaolin* and *Yellow River Fighter*. Until today, Yu's prowess in wushu remains unsurpassed and he is recognized as a veritable living encyclopedia of the art.

as the Abbot

Outwardly solemn and stern but harbors a strong sense of humor. He is the man everyone turns to solve and arbitrate any problems at the temple. A wise and decisive man who understands that you cannot run from trouble.

THE CAST

YANNENG

Yanneng entered the Shaolin Temple monastery at the young age of 12 and became one of the 32nd generation of Shaolin Temple disciples. As part of the temple's martial arts team, Yan had the chance to perform in many of the temple's overseas performances and official visits. In 2003, he caught the eye of actor-director Stephen Chow who signed him up and cast him in his martial arts hit *Kung Fu Hustle*. Yan later worked with Donnie Yen in *Dragon Tiger Gate* and *Ip Man*, and was also cast in *Flash Point* and the multiple award-winning *Bodyguards and Assassins*.

as Jing Kong

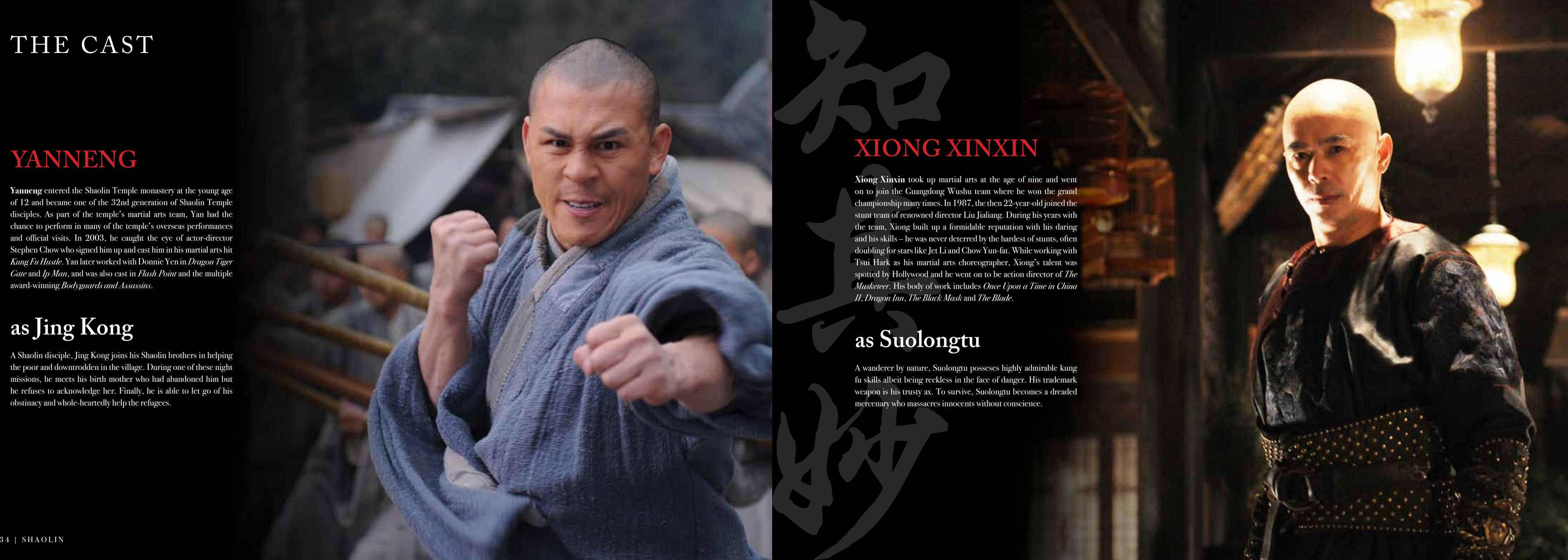
A Shaolin disciple, Jing Kong joins his Shaolin brothers in helping the poor and downtrodden in the village. During one of these night missions, he meets his birth mother who had abandoned him but he refuses to acknowledge her. Finally, he is able to let go of his obstinacy and whole-heartedly help the refugees.

XIONG XINXIN

Xiong Xinxin took up martial arts at the age of nine and went on to join the Guangdong Wushu team where he won the grand championship many times. In 1987, the then 22-year-old joined the stunt team of renowned director Liu Jialiang. During his years with the team, Xiong built up a formidable reputation with his daring and his skills – he was never deterred by the hardest of stunts, often doubling for stars like Jet Li and Chow Yun-fat. While working with Tsui Hark as his martial arts choreographer, Xiong's talent was spotted by Hollywood and he went on to be action director of *The Musketeer*. His body of work includes *Once Upon a Time in China II*, *Dragon Inn*, *The Black Mask* and *The Blade*.

as Suolongtu

A wanderer by nature, Suolongtu possesses highly admirable kung fu skills albeit being reckless in the face of danger. His trademark weapon is his trusty ax. To survive, Suolongtu becomes a dreaded mercenary who massacres innocents without conscience.



THE CAST

BAI BING

Bai Bing stepped in front of the cameras in 2006 in the highly popular *Call for Love* in which she starred with some of mainland China's most famous talent including Fan Bingbing and Ning Jing. She went on to star in popular television serials such as *Dream of the Red Chamber* while also pursuing her career on the big screen with such movies as Jackie Chan's *The Myth* and Jiang Wen's coming *Let the Bullets Fly*.

as 'Tian'er

Tian'er makes her living by singing in public. One night while being treated roughly by foreigners, she is saved by a masked monk. She seeks refuge at the temple where she helps out with kitchen duties to help feed the refugees while seeking out her mysterious monk.



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THE PRODUCTION

THE PRODUCTION



RECREATING SHAOLIN TEMPLE

Shaolin Temple is situated at Dengfeng on Mount Song (Song Shan) in the city of Zhengzhou in Henan Province, People's Republic of China. It is largely recognized as the birthplace of Shaolin martial arts, the ancestral courtyard of Zen. It takes its name from the jungles of Shaoshi mountain: *Shao* plus *lin*, which means jungle in Chinese. Built in the 19th year of the Taihe years of the Northern Wei dynasty, it gained its formidable reputation in martial arts during the Tang dynasty. It was burned down several times during the feudal era in the run-up to the founding of the republic.

The massive undertaking to replicate Shaolin began in September 2009, involving over 150 worksmen including blacksmiths, carpenters, plasterers, bricklayers and painters. The plan was to reconstruct a life-sized replica of the real temple in Song Shan and the first pile went into the 100,000 square foot lot on October 10. This was the first time in Chinese film history that a real-life replica was built to scale for any movie. In fact, the new set was built on a 3:1 scale of the original.

One of the most spectacular recreations is the big Buddha inside the Mahavira Hall, or the main building of the temple. Towering to almost 10 meters high and weighing nearly 10 tons, the Buddha was molded with putty and textile fibre, and finished off with a layer of golden platinum. The art department spent several months shaping the face of the Buddha alone in order to achieve the façade of a gracious, affable and benevolent sculpture. The entire statue was divided into 16 parts which were hoisted into the great Hall piece by piece. More than 50 workers spent two weeks painstakingly piecing the Buddha together.

Two big trees stand at the front of the Mahavira Hall, formed by the bark of the cryptomeria conifer from Tianmu Mountain and each leaf meticulously glued on piece by piece. Since the cryptomeria can only be found on Tianmu Mountain or Taiwan's Alishan mountains, these trees are highly valued and conserved. The walls inside the Hall were also made with stone from Tianmu Mountain while the floor tiles were sourced from demolished Ming Dynasty houses. With Tianmu Mountain being

a conservation site, the set design team had to travel a long way to inspect the trees and other natural material to ensure that every tree trunk, piece of wood, leaf and slab of stone looked as authentic as possible.

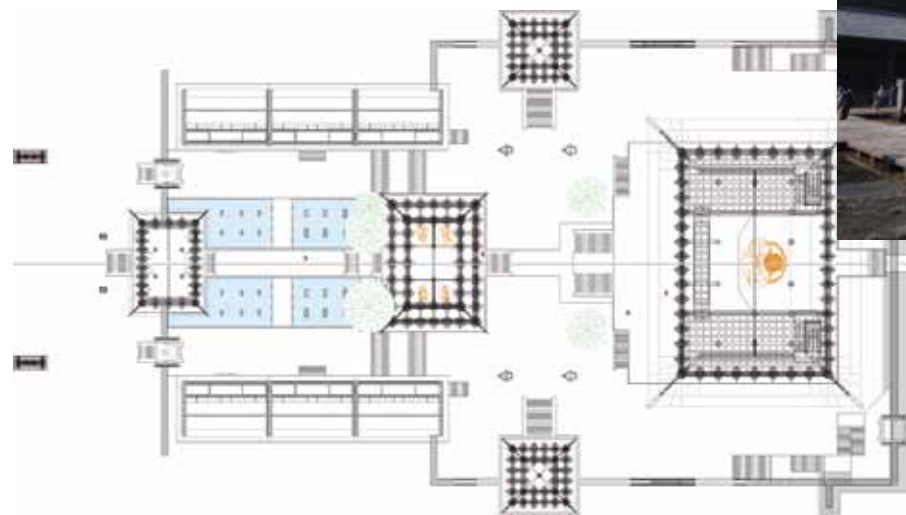
From the temple entrance to the Thousand Buddhas Hall, there are seven courtyards - Shanmen or the Gate of the Monastery; the Hall of the Heavenly Kings; Mahavira Hall; the Bell Tower and Drum Tower; Lixueting; Thousand Buddhas Hall and the Abbot's room - all covering a massive area 30,000 square meters. The temple was burned down by the warlord Shi Yousan during the warlords' bloody warfare in 1928 and many of the main constructions like the Hall of the Heavenly Kings, Mahavira Hall and the Bell Tower and much of the temple's scriptures and literature were ruined by the fire. Now, only courtyards like Shanmen, Lixueting, and Thousand Buddhas Hall exist while the others are being rebuilt.

THE PRODUCTION



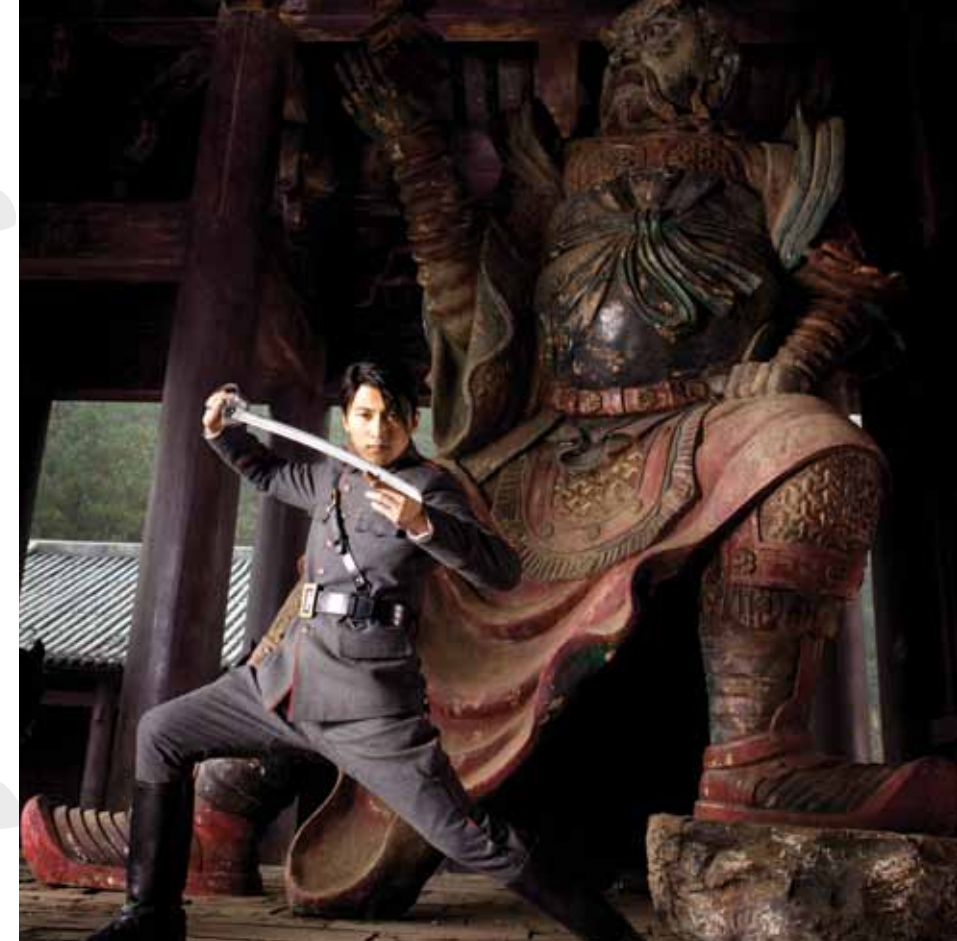
Shanmen, the Gate of the Monastery

The entrance of Shaolin Temple was built in 1735 (Year 13 of Qing Yongzheng Empire) and was refurbished in 1974. Above the Shanmen/Gate of Monastery hangs a black long rectangular board with the golden characters “Shaolin Temple” written by Emperor Kangxi, bearing the seal with the characters “treasure of the Kangzi imperial brush” at the center of the plaque. During the reign of the warlords, the people suffered from the incessant battles and sought refuge in Shaolin. In the movie, the refugee camp is set in the foreground of Shanmen.



The Hall of the Heavenly Kings

The Hall of the Heavenly Kings is located at the end of an area of steles and acquired its name from the consecrated symbols of the four “kings”: Wind, Harmony, Rain and Compliance. It was built with red walls and green tiles with colored drawings in wooden brackets on top of columns supporting the crossbeam. Inside the door, golden Vajra sculptures stand on both sides in front of screens. More than 20 steles of previous dynasties are displayed on both sides of the Hall. In the movie, after Hou Jie massacres Huo Long in the Shaolin Temple, he steps on a board with the inscription: “The Ancestor of Militaries of the World” and signs four words flatly: “Nothing out of the ordinary” in order to scoff at Shaolin kung fu and triggers an outburst of outrage by the monks. This scene happens in the Hall of The Heavenly Kings.



Mahavira Hall

The Hall of the Heavenly Kings, the Sutra Chamber, and the Mahavira Hall form the three big Buddhist temples on the Shaolin grounds. Majestically impressive and imposing, the original Hall was ruined in 1928 and was rebuilt in 1986. In the finale, Cao Man has a decisive battle with Hou Jie inside the Mahavira Hall/Hall of Mahavira and the two are finally enlightened by the truth of righteousness in Buddhism before their battle comes to a fatal climax.

THE PRODUCTION

The Bell Tower

The Bell Tower resides to the east of the Mahavira Hall with the Drum Tower to the west. Both magnificent and lofty towers have four levels and are valued icons in Chinese architectural history. The original towers were burned down by the warlord Shi Yousan in 1928. The two towers were rebuilt by the local government in 1994 and 1996 to their original appearance, allowing the morning bells and the evening drums to sound once again after 70 long years.



The General's Resident

Besides the main temple, Luzhai is another of the more spectacular locations for the movie. In the movie, it serves as the residence of army leader Hou Jie (played by Andy Lau) and is situated in Dengfeng in Zhejiang Province. Its majestic architecture has drawn comparisons to Beijing's Forbidden City and given rise to the popular saying: "There's the Forbidden City in the north, and Luzhai in the south".

With 500 years' history, Luzhai is listed as a national heritage site and is an iconic Jiangnan structure. The location forms the perfect poignant setting for Hou Jie. As he steps out of his warm and luxurious home to attend a banquet with his wife and daughter, it never occurs to him that it would be the last time he ever steps foot in there again.

THE PRODUCTION





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