



Bruce LEE 李小龍 (1940.11.27–1973.7.20)

Actor, Director, Martial Arts Choreographer

With a birth name of Lee Jun-fan, Bruce Lee was born in San Francisco, US. His father was the famous Cantonese opera star Lee Hoi-chuen, and his family originally came from Shunde, Guangdong. As a child actor, he started appearing in films in 1948, rising to fame with his performance in *The Kid* (1950) and *In the Face of Demolition* (1953). His vivid portrayal of an errant teenager in *The Orphan* (1960) further received critical acclaim.

After filming *The Orphan*, Lee went to Seattle, US in 1959 to further his studies. He founded the Jun Fan Gung Fu Institute during his university years in 1962. In 1964, he performed at the Long Beach International Karate Tournament as guest. Two years later, he played the second fiddle, Kato in the US TV drama *The Green Hornet* (1966-1967). In 1967, Lee again demonstrated at the Karate Tournament in Long Beach and termed his own martial arts expression as Jeet Kune Do. From there he rose in fame in the US martial arts scene; numerous celebrities were trained by him. Lee also worked on and off the stage, from time to time, in the US show business.

He signed with Golden Harvest (HK) Limited and starred in *The Big Boss* (1971), after returning to Hong Kong in 1971. With this film, Lee created a new martial art style characterised by his swiftness and fierceness. *The Big Boss* scored over HK\$3 million at the box office, making it one of the highest-grossing films in Hong Kong. Lee broke his own record with his subsequent title, *Fist of Fury* (1972) that earned over HK\$4 million. He later founded Concord Productions Ltd with Raymond Chow and produced *The Way of the Dragon* (1972), for which he directed, wrote and starred in. The film made over HK\$5 million and became a milestone of Hong Kong kung fu cinema. The final duel of Lee and Norris Chuck at the Coliseum in the film had further been a classic for Hong Kong action films. After finishing shooting for Warner Brothers Pictures, Incorporated's *Enter the Dragon* in 1973, Lee passed away unexpectedly on 20 July the same year. *Enter the Dragon* was released posthumously while the unfinished *Game of Death* only wrapped up its shootings in 1978.
