



HAN Yingjie 韓英傑 (1927–1990.2.21)

Martial Arts Choreographer

A native of, and born in Shandong, Han moved to Beijing when he was a child. He began a nine-year apprenticeship at the Beijing Fuliancheng Opera Troupe at the age of nine, and became adept in martial arts. In 1946, Han first ventured into film in 1946 as a martial artist in *Lu Siniang* (1948), directed by Xu Xinfu. In the following year, Han came to Hong Kong upon the invitation of Cantonese opera artist Chan Kam-tong, to work as a Northern-style martial arts actor in his troupe Kam Tim Fa, where another martial arts master, Simon Yuen Siu-tin, father of Yuen Woo-ping, had also worked. Meanwhile, he worked as a martial artist in films such as *The Lady Escort and the Knight with the Whip* (1949), *Fury in Their Hearts* (1950) and *The Story of Qin Lianyu* (1953). Han later went to Singapore in the early 1950s and lived there for five years, making his living by performing Peking opera at the Great World Amusement Park, and from 1952 onwards, by performing flying trapeze at the famous Shen Changfu Circus.

Cantonese martial arts cinema was at its boom in the 1950s and 60s. After Han returned to Hong Kong, he took part in notable series such as 'Wong Fei-Hung', 'Fong Sai-Yuk', 'Buddha's Palm', as well as 'Lady Bond'. He also participated in Li Han-hsiang's *The Heroine* (1959) produced by Shaw Brothers (Hong Kong) Ltd. In 1961, he worked as stunt double for Linda Lin Dai in Griffin Yue Feng's *The Swallow Thief* and came up with the idea of using a trampoline to create levitational movements. Consequently, Shaws signed him up as the company's chief martial arts artist (without a binding contract). In the same year, he was, without billing, martial arts choreographer in the Motion Picture & General Investment Co. Ltd. (MP & GI) production, *Venture of the Lady Musketeer*. He went on to play the same role in Cantonese movies such as *Ingenious Swords* (Part 2, 1962; Part 3 & 4, 1963).

Han worked as martial arts choreographer in Griffin Yue Feng's *Lady General Hua Mulan* (1964), and collaborated with King Hu in *Sons of Good Earth* (1965) and *Come Drink with Me* (1966). He later left Shaws and followed Hu to shoot *Dragon Inn* (1967) and *A Touch of Zen* (1971) in Taiwan. Apart from playing the role of martial arts choreographer, he also star in the films. He returned to Hong Kong later and worked for both Shaws and Cathay Organisation (HK) (1965) Ltd as martial arts choreographer on numerous productions. In 1971, he signed with Golden Harvest (HK) Limited, and worked as martial arts choreographer in *The Angry River* (1971), *The Big Boss* (1971) and *Fist of Fury* (1972); and proved himself to be an excellent actor in King Hu's *The Fate of Lee Khan* (1973) and *The Valiant Ones* (1975). Han was a representative figure of Northern-style martial arts. Apart from his predecessor Simon Yuen Siu-tin, Han was one of the most senior martial arts choreographers in Hong Kong.

Han also tried his hand at directing. In 1971, he helmed two Antar Motion Picture Co productions, *Hurricane Sword* and *Devil Spider* (both 1972). He passed away in Hong Kong on 21 February 1990.
