



HAN Yingjie 韓英傑 (1927–1991)

Martial Arts Choreographer

A native of Shandong born in 1927, Han moved to Beijing when he was a child and began a nine-year apprenticeship at the Beijing Fuliancheng Opera Troupe at the age of nine, and became adept in martial arts. In 1946, he was hired 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, 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 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.

When Han returned to Hong Kong, Cantonese martial arts cinema was at its boom in the 1950s and 60s. He took part in notable series such as *Wong Fei-Hong*, *Fong Sai-Yuk*, *Buddha's Palm*, as well as *Lady Bond* and their many sequels, playing minor roles in these films. 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. Han officially assumed the role of 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. He returned to Hong Kong later and worked for both Shaws and Cathay Organisation (HK) (1965) Ltd.

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 is a representative figure of Northern-style martial arts; he and Simon Yuen Siu-tin are the two most senior martial arts choreographers in Hong Kong. Han passed away in Hong Kong in 1991.
