

1983

# ORIENTAL CINEMA NO. 5

BY DAMON FOSTER



GODZILLA, KING OF MONSTERS!

BRUCE LEE, KING OF GUNG-FU!

# TENTO MUSHI NO UTA

(song of the ladybug)

writer: Kawasaki Noboru  
music: Shunsuke Kikuchi  
manager: Sasagawa Hiroshi  
a Tatsunoko Production

This childish (usually) cartoon involves a family of orphans called the Isshus. The members are: Kaji (hero), Mizuo (scientist), Karabe (a talking dog), Kintaro (a little kid), Kintaro (another little kid), Kokusuke (a girl), and Hiyo (a little girl).

Personally, I found this series to be ridiculous, but funny at times. One of its worst flaws is the character of Kaji. They say he's a 5th grader. Yet he's given the voice of a full-grown man.

## opening song:

Bokura wa nanatsu no  
Hoshi nano sa  
Yozora ni Kagayaku  
Hoshi ja naku  
Tento mushi no  
Nakayoku narabu  
Hoshi nano sa  
So sa taiyo no  
Bokura wa kyodai kiboo  
Ni moeru tento musha

## ending song:

Getsuko genki yoku  
Kayo kakkoyoku ikoo  
Suiyo suisui to  
Mokuyo mori mori Asojae  
Kinyo kibunyoku  
Doyo donto ike  
Iro iro aru sa issukan  
Beso kaitatte  
shiroare tatte  
Michiyo nikkori to  
Mune hatte ikoo  
Bokura wa shichinin  
Che-ka-sui-moku-kin-  
do-nichi

# INAKAPPE TAISHO

(country boss)

writer: Kawasaki Noboru  
music: Nakamura Masahiko  
manager: Sasagawa Hiroshi  
a Tatsunoko Production  
English subtitles by JN Productions, Inc. Honolulu, Hawaii

Kase Daizaemon is a student at the Shinobara Judo school. His instructor is Yagoro. Two supporting female roles are Ohana and Kiku. Nyanko is a pet cat.

This is a funny cartoon. It's fun to watch. At times, it seems similar to Ikkyu-San (but much better, of course). Both TV shows are about a young man who is funny, witty, and has a way of manipulating those around him.

## opening song:

Hitotsu hito yori  
Chikara mochi  
Futatsu furusato  
Ato ni shite  
Hana no Tokyo de  
Ude dame shi  
Mitsu mirai no  
Oo mono dai  
Daichan Atchore  
Ninki mono  
Ten-ten tenka no  
Inakappe

## ending song:

Yukuto kimetara  
Ippo mo hikuna  
Iji ga otoko no  
Tsue na no sa  
Tsuyoshi arashi o  
Matomo ni ukete  
Ude to kokoro o  
Migaku no sa  
Te na koto itte mo  
Rikin demo  
Zukko marudashi  
Oya kiga hikera





## EDITORIAL PART ONE

ORIENTAL CINEMA #5 is here!

As I remember, the last issue of OC was in 1978! Now it's 1983.

Most of you are probably reading this magazine for the first time. This is the first issue which features articles on Chinese gung fu films. So many of you are members of the gung fu audience. Previously, OC was strictly focusing on Japanese science fiction films. But my other fanzine, "Japanese Movie Sci-Fi," is entirely geared to Japanese science fiction, so I would like OC to cover a wider variety of movies.

At the time of this writing, OC doesn't have a staff. I'm the sole magazine-maker. All contributions are welcome. I request any art, photos, or written material. The articles submitted should be similar (in length, and information) to the ones presented in this issue.

Also welcome is any questions or comments concerning this non-professional, amateur, publication. Please make all criticism constructive. None of this, "You suck," or "Your magazine stinks" nonsense. If there's something wrong, explain how it can be improved.

Damon Foster, editor

*Damon Foster*



**THERE IS  
NO ESCAPE!**



They endure  
every savage  
torture known  
to mankind.

**DEATH  
CHAMBER**

AW RLD NORTHAL FILM

TABLE OF CON-  
TENTS IS AT  
END OF MAG-  
AZINE.



Executive producer: Tomoyuki Tanaka, Director: Inoshiro Honda, Special effects by: Eiji Tsuburaya, Art directors: Takeo Kita, Satoshi Chuko Music by: Akira Ifukube

## KING OF THE MONSTERS

A series of mysterious ship disasters occur. Nobody knows what has caused these ships to explode, for apparently no reason.

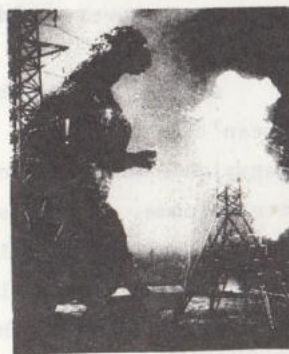
A curious reporter known as Steve Martin (not to be confused with that "wild and crazy guy" of the same name) goes to Oda Island, which is near the area where the ships were destroyed. The islanders claim they know what's been destroying the ships. It's an evil demon they refer to as, "Godzilla."

While on the island, Mr. Martin gets a look at this Godzilla. Pictures of the beast are taken, and sent to Japan. There, an intelligent scientist (Takashi Shimura) comes to the conclusion that Godzilla is actually a prehistoric dinosaur, revived from hibernation by an atomic bomb. He had been hibernating underground ever since the jurassic age. The bomb didn't just revive him, but gave him the ability to spit radio-active fire from his mouth. Godzilla uses this ability to his advantage, as he sets Tokyo on fire. Man-made weapons are powerless against him.

Serizawa (Akihiko Hirata) is a young scientist who has invented a deadly weapon called an oxygen destroyer. This is the only weapon that is powerful enough to destroy Godzilla. But Serizawa is reluctant to use this weapon, even if it means saving Japan.

The oxygen destroyer is set, placed in Tokyo Bay (where Godzilla is sleeping). But Serizawa kills himself, to make sure that the oxygen destroyer is never used again. He was the only one who knew how to activate it.

Godzilla also appears to have been destroyed, but he returned in future movies.





This film is considered a classic.  
This is the original film that inspired  
many later Japanese sci-fi films.

The movie is crude. The special  
effects, though plentiful, aren't very  
exciting. Godzilla's mouth flame was  
terrible, and the film was in B&W.  
This movie doesn't have the colorful  
sensationalism of Godzilla's later  
movies. I found the film to be rather  
boring.

But this IS a Godzilla film, so it's  
great. But I think it's one of Godzilla's  
worst films. But it's Godzilla's first,



and we can't expect the first to be best. Godzilla's films have improved considerably since 1954, when this one was produced.

Unfortunately, this film has scenes of Raymond Burr, added to the American version. This was to keep audiences from knowing that this is a Japanese movie.

Originally, Godzilla was to be animated but animation proved to be too difficult. So instead, special effects wizard Eiji Tsuburaya created a sensational costume, to be worn by actor Haru Nakajima. Personally, I prefer costumes over animation. A costume is big, and gives the illusion of being an enormous monster. But an animated model, on the other hand, will always look like a little toy (to me).

"GODZILLA, KING OF THE MONSTERS" is a masterpiece, one of the most influential movies ever created.



CAST:

AKIHIKO HIRATA  
AKIRA TAKARADA  
TAKASHI SHIMURA  
MOMOKO KOCHI

END





# THE FILMS OF BRUCE LEE

BY DAMON FOSTER

Bruce Lee was born on November 27, 1940. His father (Li Ho<sup>i</sup> Chen) was a popular entertainer in the Chinese opera. Because his father was into show-business, Bruce became a movie star at the age of four. He starred in many successful films as a child actor.

But Bruce Lee was fond of fighting, so at the age of 13, he began studying Wing Chun Gung Fu.

He later combined his love of acting with his love of gung fu. The results are the five films we'll examine.



THE BIG BOSS ("Fist of Fury" in America)

Produced by Ramond Chow  
Directed by Low Wei  
Starring Bruce Lee and Maria Yi

Cheng is a country-boy who has moved into Bangkok to live with his relatives who work in an ice-factory. The manager is actually a dope-dealer who orders his employees to kill anyone who finds out about the drugs. Cheng's relatives begin disappearing, one by one. So then a fight



breaks out between Cheng and the henchmen. Impressed by Cheng's fighting skill, the manager promotes Cheng to foreman. But Cheng is still suspicious about the disappearance of his relatives. So he looks around, and discovers that they've been killed, and their bodies have been placed in ice. Angered, Cheng sets out to avenge their deaths.



COMMENTS: I think this is Lee's best film. A fairly good amount of action, good acting and voice-dubbing, and excellent music.

FISTS OF FURY ("Chinese Connection")

Directed by Low Wei  
Music by Joseph Koo  
Starring Bruce Lee, Bob Baker and Wei Ping Ao

In 1908, Ho Yuan Chin (a gung fu teacher) has died. The top student of Ho Yuan Chin's school is Chen. Chen discovers that a Japanese karate school (owned by Mr. Suzuki) is responsible for the teacher's death. So Chen sets out to get revenge. After beating up everyone in the Japanese school, Mr. Suzuki orders the police to arrest Chen. But before the police catch up with Chen, he makes another attack on the Japanese school and kills Suzuki.



But the police threaten to close Chen's gung fu school unless he turns himself in. And so he does turn himself in, and he's shot to death.

COMMENTS: This film is negative and way too serious. It has lost the humor and pleasantness of "The Big Boss." Action is scarce and the film is dull.

However, the film is well-made and very dramatic. As with all of Lee's films, the fight choreography is beautiful, well-staged, and realistic.

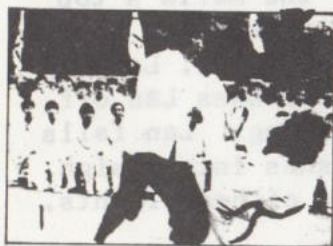


#### WAY OF THE DRAGON ("Return of the Dragon")

Produced, directed, and written by Bruce Lee

Tang Lung has arrived in Italy to assist a girl from China. She runs a Chinese restaurant which is being hassled by a gang of mobsters. They want to buy her land, which isn't for sale. So the mobsters send thugs to scare off all the customers at the restaurant.

But Tang Lung uses his gung fu skills to defend the restaurant from the mob. Thugs, snipers, and imported karatekas from foreign countries are sent to attack Tang Lung. But they're no match for Tang Lung's fighting abilities.



COMMENTS: This film is outstanding. It's a total Lee production. It has got to be one of the greatest Gung Fu Movies ever created.

## ENTER THE DRAGON

cast:

LEE.....BRUCE LEE  
ROPER.....JOHN SAXON  
WILLIAMS.....JIM KELLY  
HAN.....SHIH KIEN  
O'HARA.....BOB WALL  
BOLO.....YANG SZE  
TONYA.....AHNA CAPRI  
SU LIN.....MAO YING

Music by Lalo Schifrin

A criminal called Han lives on an island that he owns, and lives like a king. His only contact with the outside world is a martial arts tournament that he holds every four years. During one of these tournaments, a martial artist named Lee (a martial arts philosopher turned secret agent) begins to explore the island. He discovers that Han runs illegal business underground. Han's guards discover Lee, who must defeat all the guards to escape.

Although filmed in China, this is an American movie. The music is good, and the movie has got action, but lacks the charm of the Chinese movies. I'm not into American films.

The budget for ENTER THE DRAGON is high, but a gung fu film doesn't require a big budget. I think this is Lee's 2nd worst film, GAME OF DEATH is worst.

## GAME OF DEATH

STARRING: GIG YOUNG, DEAN JAGER, COLLEEN CAMP, KAREEM ABDUL JABBAR, MEL NOVACK and DAN INOSANTO

Music by John Barry

Associate producer: Andre Morgan

Gung fu movie star Billy Lo is being hassled by a crime syndicate. They want Lo to join their group, so that they'll get some of his profits.

Unwilling to join them, Billy fakes his own death. So then the whole world (including the mob) thinks he's dead.

Billy then disguises himself, wearing sun-glasses and a beard.

Billy eventually attacks the mafia's base, located at the Red Pepper restaurant. After killing off all the mafia's top fighters, he meets their evil leader, Dr. Lan. Billy Lo chases Lan off the building. Lan falls and crashes into a sign, composed of neon lights.

Like I said, this is Lee's worst film. But don't get me wrong. I like all of Lee's films, including this one, my least favorite.

Lee is only featured in 20 minutes of the film's footage because he died



before the film was completed. As a filler, a substitute actor (who looks like Lee) takes Lee's place, and older shots of the real Lee (taken from older movies) are spliced in.

This article is too short to go in-depth on any of Lee's films. I hope to review each film individually in the future. To give longer, more informative articles.

**END**



## JIDAI-GEKI

JIDAI GEKI is a term used to designate films set in the period prior to the year 1868. In that year, the government bannished the samurai and made the long sword illegal. So naturally, all samurai-movies take place before 1868. They're called, "Jidai Geki."



### RASHOMON

#### cast:

Tojimar.....TOSHIRO MIFUNE,  
woman.....MACHIKO KYO  
man.....MASAYUKE MORI  
wood-chopper.....TAKASHI SHIMURA  
priest.....MINORU CHIAKI  
Directed by Akira Kurosawa  
Scenario by Shinobu Hoshimoto  
Photography by Kazuo Miagawa  
Based on "In a Bush," by Rinosuke Akutawa  
A Daisai Movie Production, 1951

Now here's an intriguing enquiry into the nature of truth. The story is simple, yet unpredictable. It involves a bandit who killed a man. The film takes place during a court, as a jury decides who's responsible for the man's death. Each witness has his or her chance to describe what happened. Even the murdered man speaks, as his ghost is revived.

The movie consists mainly of flashbacks, as the witnesses are called to trial.

### KING OF THE MONGOLS

HASHIZO OKAWA as Takemara with:

JUN TAZAKI

YUMI ICHIZO

YAYOI FURUSATO

SENTARO FUSHIMI

story by Shozo Chiba

Screenplay by Yasushi Kato and Susumu Sugi

Director of photography:

Teiji Yoshida

Art director: Takaharu Tsukamoto

Editor: Shintaro Miyamoto

Sound engineer: Bruno Moreal

Fencing master: Reiji Adachi

Make-up: Masanobu Hayashi

Costumes: Marasu Kobayashi

A young samurai answers the emperor's call to aid a besieged fortress.

This is a movie that was made in 1964. This film isn't as boring as Zato Ichi, it's not as action-packed (or bloody) as "Hunter in the Dark," and not as classical as "Rasomon."

"King of the Mongols" is nothing special. The only reason I've seen it is because it's been dubbed into English, and shown on syndicated TV stations (I wouldn't see this flick in a theatre, it's not worth the admission price).

This movie is interesting, but that's about it. The film has no special qualities that stand out.

The only intriguing scene in this melodrama is a part where our hero is nearly blinded after witnessing the death of his mother. A female villain is putting a red hot bar to his eyes. At his tears (crying from seeing his mother die) protected his eyes, so he's not blind. But this is the flick's only creative moment.



**HAWK OF JUSTICE**  
Produced by Toei, CO.  
38 one-hour episodes

During the corrupt 1770's, the Shogun employed his "hawk task force," five excellent samurai-swordfighters. Three of them have pet hawks, trained to attack their enemies.

The leader of the team is Uchiyama Kanbei (played by Toshiro Mifune). Kejebei (Jiro Sakagami) is a part-time member, added to the show for comic relief. He's a comedian, who's got a pet rooster (since his character is just a joke, he only has a rooster, not a hawk) named Fuji.

The other three members do most of the sword-fighting. Their names are: Shinosuke Wakatsuki (youngest member, and has a hawk called "Blizzard"), Kazami Teppei (has a hawk named "Hayate"), and Ichibanagi Katuroku (who's hawk is called "Miyru").

This is an exciting, action-oriented adventure series with good music.

This fabulous show is one of my favorite samurai TV shows. My other two favorites are "Toyama No Kinsan," and the immensely popular "Mito Komon."

#### SAIYUKI II

Produced by Toei, and TV Asahi

I never saw the original series ("Saiyuki"), but I've seen its sequel (or remake), Saiyuki II.

This series takes place in China, and involves the popular oriental tale of a magical monkey who misuses his magical powers. As punishment, a gang of supreme beings force him to go on a dangerous journey with Princess Oshu. The monkey's name is Goku, and his fellow soldiers are Hakai and Gojo.

This show is a hilarious comedy. But it's also a fantasy-adventure, involving magical powers and special effects.

The theme song ("Monkey Magic") is performed by a half American, half Japanese band, called "Godaigo." STARRING:

Sakai Masaaki	Kishibe Shiro
Natsume Masako	Hidari Tompei
	Fujimura Shunji



# CHOP-SOCKY FILMS OF HONG KONG

BY DAMON FOSTER

SHAW BROTHERS MOVIE CO. IS CHINA'S BIGGEST, MOST POPULAR FILM COMPANY. ORIGINALLY, MANY OF SHAW'S MOST SUCCESSFUL FILMS WERE MUSICALS. BUT IN 1964, THE POPULARITY OF MUSICALS DECLINED. HONG KONG MOVIEGOERS WANTED ACTION, AND THEY WERE FLOCKING TO SEE SAMURAI ADVENTURE FILMS, IMPORTED FROM JAPAN. SO THEN SHAW PRODUCED "TIGER BOY," A VIOLENT, BLOODY ADVENTURE WHERE A LONE HERO HACKED HIS WAY THROUGH DOZENS OF FOES. IT WAS A SUCCESS, AND PAVED THE WAY FOR DOZENS OF VIOLENT COSTUME-DRAMA SWORD MOVIES. BUT IN 1968, A CHINESE JOURNALIST CALLED CHOU EN LAI CRITICIZED THE CHINESE SWORD FLICKS FOR BEING RIP-OFFS FROM JAPAN'S SAMURAI ADVENTURES. SO THE POPULARITY OF SWORD MOVIES DECLINED AND IT WAS TIME FOR A NEW KIND OF GUNG FU MOVIE. IT WAS TO TAKE PLACE DURING THE EARLY HALF OF THE 20TH CENTURY. IT'S TITLE WAS "FIVE FINGERS OF DEATH," A CLASSIC. IT WAS THE



FIRST FIST-FILM, AND WAS A BIG HIT. SHORTLY AFTER THIS FILM CAME A GUNG FU ACTOR BY THE NAME OF BRUCE LEE. LEE IS GONE, BUT HIS INFLUENCE IS ALIVE AND WELL IN TODAY'S GUNG FU MOVIES.....

## DUEL OF THE IRON FIST

PRODUCER: RUNME SHAW

CINEMATOGRAPHY: KUNG MU TO

SCREENPLAY: CHU KAN, CHEN

FILM-EDITING: KUO TING HUNG

MUSIC: CHEN YUNG YU

ART DIRECTOR: JOHNSON TAO

## STARRING:

TI LUNG, DAVID CHIANG,

YU HUI, CHUEN YUAN,

YANG CHIH CHING, CHENG

KANG YEH, KU FENG,

This very confusing melodrama is about two groups (it's never explained just what they are. Gung fu schools? Mobs? Gangs?) who have a violent rivalry. But the film also has the usual sub-plots involving revenge and romance.



Ti Lung plays Jen Chen, a young fighter who is a member of one of the opposing groups. David Chiang plays a tough guy who is also involved with the feud.

Both of these fellows are supposed to be heroes, but the characters are so cruel that the audience can give them little or no respect as heroes. They're both apparently on the 'bad' team, and they're the ones who start the first fight. They begin killing and stabbing (lots of knives in this movie).

The fight-scenes are realistic, but not graceful. The artistic choreography commonly found here is not present.

#### KING BOXER

CAMERAMAN: LIN WHA CHAO

MUSIC: WANG FU LIN

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER: YANG HUO

PRODUCED BY TU TUNG SUN

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY

KUNG MIN

Although not listed in the film's credits, Yasuaki Kurata is in this bloody film. Kurata had left Japan after failing to star on Japanese TV, in spite of his karate-skills. Japan's TV shows (anything from Children's super-heroes to adult crime-dramas) are full of martial arts action.

So Yasuaki Kurata went to China, to play villains in Chinese films. "King Boxer" is one of these films.

The plot involves a Chinese gung fu expert called Chow Pi Ching.



While on vacation in Thailand, Chow Pi Ching meets a Thai boxer and they become friends. The two of them go to Taiwan. But while in Taiwan, they discover that a Japanese judo school is terrorizing the town. Heed I say more?

The movie is okay, but it's far too serious. The soundtrack is awful, as is the photography.

#### GOLDEN DRAGON/SILVER SNAKE

##### STARRING:

DRAGON LEE  
JOHNNIE CHAN  
MERRILYN LEE  
CHIANG TAO  
TONY WONG  
ALEX SUH

##### EFFECTS:

ROMAN TSANG

##### MUSIC:

RICKY CHAN

##### PRODUCERS:

THOMAS TANG & JOSEPH LAI

##### EXECUTIVE PRODUCER:

GEORGE LAI

##### CO-DIRECTOR: SHIN WEE KYUN

##### PHOTOGRAPHY:

JIMMY YU

At the beginning, I said to myself that this is the worst gung fu film I've seen. Childish photography, bad voice-dubbing, and a typical revenge plot. But by the film's end, I said it was great! The fights are outstanding. And they're funny, cartoon-like at times. The movie features two heroes. Dragon Lee (?) plays Han Lung, who's kiai sounds like Bruce Lee. Han Lung is out to avenge the death of his brother, Hang Shek. Hang Shek was murdered by some gangsters. Another character is a farm-worker called Sham Yu. His farm is owned by

Shu Li Yen. She is at war with the same gangsters that killed Hang Shek.

The movie is part comedy, and part serious. "Golden Dragon/Silver Snake" is tacky, yet fun.

#### AVENGING EAGLE

PRODUCED BY RUN-RUN SHAW

AND MONA FONG

##### STARRING:

TI LUNG, FU SHENG, KU FENG, WANG LUNG WEI, TU LUNG, LIN HUI HWANG, WONG PEI CHI, KAO HSING, LU CHEN WING, YANG CHIH, AND HSIAO SZU

SCREENPLAY: LAN NAI TSAI

CINEMATOGRAPHY: YI KUANG

LIGHTING: CHEN FENG

ART DIRECTOR: CHEN CHING SHENG

COSTUMES: LIU CHI YU

PROPS: LI WO

DIRECTED BY: SUN CHUNG

I saw this masterpiece twice. First, in its original, un-cut Chinese version, and then on American TV. The credits indicate that it was edited for TV (by Larry Bensky) but very little seems to be missing from this action-packed, creative movie.

Ta Chu is being pursued by a gang of thieves. Ta Chu was once a member of the gang, but left when Yu Si Hung (leader of





the gang) tried to force Ta Chu to kill one of his friends. Enter Fu Sheng (who plays Cho Yi Fan)! Cho Yi Fan's wife had been killed by Ta Chu, during one of the gang's raids. But Cho Yi Fan is reluctant to avenge her death, because he and Ta Chu have become friends. The two of them attack Yu Si Hung. After a very long fight, Cho Yi Fan is the only survivor.

#### A STORY OF CHINESE GODS

PRODUCER: CHANG YING  
ASSOCIATE PRODUCER:  
FENG YU LI  
SCRIPTWRITER: SHEN KANG  
DIRECTOR: CHANG CHIH HUI

As a gung fu movie, this fantasy is very unique. This is a Chinese animated cartoon. This is the only Chinese cartoon I've seen.

The artwork is sensational, nice detail, and very colorful. The animation is okay, but nothing special.

The story involves monsters, wizards, and super powers. The flick takes place during the Shang dynasty, and is quite similar to the film, "Alakazam the great."

But this movie is violent and bloody. Because it's a cartoon, it will undoubtedly attract a young audience.

The film's highlight is a Bruce Lee-like character. He looks, sounds, and fights just like Bruce Lee. But this character has three eyes, and can fire a laser beam out of the middle one.

#### Plot:

Evil spirits disguise themselves as attractive human females so that they can conquer China's emperor. Then some heroic gods fight to destroy the evil spirits.

#### "BRUCE LEE, THE INVINCIBLE"

#### CAST:

TEACHER.....LO LEI  
YU FONG.....LI HSIAO LUNG  
SHU SANG.....CHEN SING



CHANG LI KUNG....HO JHONG DO

PRODUCED BY CHUNG PING  
DIRECTED BY LAW KAI SHUK  
PLANNING & SCREENPLAY BY CY YANG

Chang Li Kung is a professional killer who is a student at a Shaolin gung fu school. Until one day his instructor beats him up for using his gung fu for evil purposes. Chang Li Kung apologizes, and says he'll move to Malaysia to start a new life.

Three years later, the other Shaolin students have heard rumors that Chang Li Kung has organized his own gang in Malaysia.

A young Shaolin student named Su Shang has moved from China, into Malaysia. He is unfamiliar with Chang Li Kung. Shu Sang has moved to Malaysia so he can work in his uncle's store. But Chang Li Kung has fallen in love with Wai Shing (Su Shang's attractive, female cousin), and he kidnaps her.



Fortunately, the Shaolin teacher and Yu Fong (two skillful Shaolin fighters) have also arrived in Malaysia. And so the three of them attack Chang Li Kun and his mob. After a long battle, Wai Sing is rescued. The evil mafia has been defeated.

This is a fun film.

Not overly serious (but not a comedy), which can often ruin a gung fu movie. The film's fights are nice. There's very little blood. Instead of just doing straight-on kicking and punching, the fighters do a series of arm-blocks (combining the Snake Fist, Dragon Fist, and Tiger Fist Styles), where neither fighter gets hit very much. This strange style of fighting is unrealistic, strictly for the movies. In real life, nobody fights this way. A splendid example of action without violence.

This movie stars Li Hsiao Lung. Because of his striking resemblance to Bruce Lee, he's been given a nick-name, Bruce Li. He's been type-cast into Lee-ish roles, being in rip offs and satires of the late actor. But Li Hsiao Lung (Bruce Li) is quite an excellent actor/martial artist himself.

In spite of this film's title, this is NOT a Bruce Lee movie. Don't be fooled by the title; the film has absolutely nothing to do with Lee.

Also worth mentioning is one ridiculous fight-scene in the film. While traveling through a forest, our heroes are attacked by some dangerous gorillas. I never knew that primitive apes were so good at gung fu!

40 MOVIE—Thriller  
"Golden Dragon/Silver Snake." (1979)  
Dragon Lee investigates his brother's mysterious death. (2 hrs.)

40 MOVIE—Biography  
"Bruce Lee: The Man/The Myth."  
(Chinese; 1976) Bruce Li (Li Shaolung) portrays the late actor and martial-arts expert in this slick assessment of his career. (2 hrs.)

### INFRAMAN

RELEASED TO AMERICA BY:

JOSEPH BRENNER

A SHAW BROS. PRODUCTION

DIRECTED BY HUA SHAN

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER: PENG CHENG

CAST:

RAYMAR.....LI HSIU HSIEN

DR. CHANG.....WANG HSIEH

DRAGON.....TERRY LIU

TU MING.....LIN WEN-WEIL

This film is sensational. And why shouldn't it be? It's an imitation of the super-heroes of Japan. The only difference is that Inframan is Chinese. Inframan lacks the creativity of Japan's heroes ("Sun Vulcan," "Denziman," etc.). But Inframan makes up for lack of seriousness, by being action-packed. Inframan (the film) is more of a science fiction movie than a gung fu movie. Its special effects are bright, colorful, and utterly beautiful. Expensive sets and fancy monster costumes make this film a classic.

Much of the film's fans are people who like to laugh at the film, for its unintentional humor (hilarious voice dubbing and simple plot-line). I enjoyed the film the way it's meant to be enjoyed. Both as a gung fu fan, and a fantasy fan.

We must not forget that this film borrows more than just influence from Japan's



films. The film has stock-footage from "Tidal Wave," and stock-music from "Ultra 7."

The story involves an army of subterranean monsters who are sent to the surface of the world through a volcano. Once they arrive, they decide to conquer the world. But we have Inframan (a cyborg super-hero) on our side!



#### THE KILLING MACHINE

STARRING: SONNY CHIBA  
MAKOTO SATO  
NAOYASEI  
ETSUKO SHIOMI

PHOTOGRAPHY BY: YOSHIO NAKAJIMA  
SCREENPLAY BY ISAO MATSUMOTO

MUSIC BY SHUNSUKE KIKUCHI  
DIRECTED BY  
NORIBUMI SUZUKI

This is a Japanese gung fu flick from 1975. It stars the great Shin-ichi ("Sonny") Chiba. He plays a Japanese soldier who studied gung fu while

in China. When returning to Japan, he decides to open a Shaolin school in Osaka. But the school is at war with some local thugs who run a black market.

This movie seems to be pro-Japanese, saying that those who aren't Japanese are evil. I suppose this is tolerable, considering the terrible way orientals have been type-cast on American movies ("Please pass the fried lice.") and TV shows.

Produced by Toei Movie Co., this film is good. The music, photography, and acting are great, unlike most of Hong Kong's cheapies.

But the fights (the one thing that counts in a gung fu film) are short, few, and far-between. The choreography isn't as fancy, or precise as the ones in China.

Chinese films are entirely different from Japanese ones. Shinnichi Chiba is a fantastic martial artist, although it's not overly apparent in this far too serious (no humor) movie.

#### 18 BRONZE MEN

CINECRAN PRODUCTION INTERNATIONAL  
PRESENTS: CARTER WANG, POLLY SHANG  
KUAN, TIEN PENG  
"LE RETOUR DES 18 HOMMES DE BRONZE"  
(A LA MEMOIRE DE BRUCE LEE)

UN FILM DE JOSEPH KUO

In spite of this film's French credits, this is a Chinese movie.

The film's plot, depending on how you look at it, can either be considered difficult



to follow or easy. It has something to do with an emperor called Ai Sing Chu. He falls in love with a girl, but he becomes jealous when he discovers that she has a boyfriend called Kwan Saw Pan. Angered, Ai Sing Chu tries to beat up Kwan Saw Pan, who happens to be a Shaloin graduate. The Shaolin style of gung fu proves to be too powerful for Ai Sing Chu. Desperate for revenge, Ai Sing Chu goes to Shaolin to master their gung fu style. He must fight his way through armies of bronze statues (that magically come to life) to prove himself worthy.

This film appears to have a slightly higher budget than most other Chinese gung fu films. The movie starts out as a typical Chinese costume action-drama. But the film's second half has a touch of fantasy,

as our hero must defeat 18 statues in order to pass the Shaolin test. The costumes for these bronze warriors are well-designed.

### TEN BROTHERS OF SHAOLIN

GREAT CHINA FILM (H.K.) CO.

PRODUCER: TING SUI YUNG

SUPERVISOR: WANG FONG

PLANNING: CHEN WEN SUN

CO-PRODUCER: TING JUI LIN

WRITTEN BY: SI TOU MING

DIRECTED BY: TING CHUNG

STARRING: CHIA LING, WANG TAO, CHANG YI, WANG FI LONG, LIU LI JUI, KAOW FI, LIANG CHIA RUN, TONG WEI

The Ming dynasty has been overpowered by the Ching dynasty. The one remaining member of the Mings is King Chu. He's on the run, the Ching's are out to get him. But Chu has refuge in a Shaloin temple. Chi Yung is a member of a ten-men task-force of Shaolin. This force is protecting Chu from the Chings.

This is a nice little film which combines both swordfighting and fist fighting. The film is a bit uneven, there aren't enough fights at the beginning. But it gets action-packed toward the end. The film is good for its scenery and fancy costumes.





BRUCE LEE- THE MAN, THE MYTH  
STARRING LI HSIAO LUNG/BRUCE LI  
RELEASED TO AMERICA BY CINEMA  
SHARES

This film can serve two purposes:

1. A fairly accurate biography of Lee.
2. It's an exciting adventure, action-packed.

These two elements seem to contradict each other.

Bruce's kiais are overdone (in real life, he only made those yells in movies), but the fights are marvelous.

The voice-dubbing is okay, but not perfect. The simple dialogue looks as though a 10 year old had written it.

CRACK SHADOW BOXERS  
PRODUCER: CHANG CHIH  
STARRING: KU FENG,  
HAN KUO TSAI  
CHUO LI KUN  
MARTIAL ARTS DIRECTOR:  
LEE HAN  
DIRECTED BY:  
WEN YAO HUA

Once there were these two traveling salesmen. One day, these two salesmen sold something called an "iron pill" to a group called the Tiger Gang. The Tiger Gang isn't satisfied by the pills, and want revenge. It just so happens that these two salesmen are gung fu experts.

This is a comedy gung fu film, but not necessarily funny. It tries to be humorous, but I seldom laughed. I just sort of smiled.

But this film is charming. There are mildly bloody deaths, but it's not a serious movie. The fight-scenes are acrobatic, realistic, lengthy and downright fun. The whole movie has an overall pleasant atmosphere. Even the villains seem like nice people.

RETURN OF THE TIGER  
STARRING:  
LI HSIAO LUNG  
ANGELA MAO-YING  
PAUL SMITH

You haven't died until you've met...



## The Four Assassins

A SHAW  
BROTHERS  
PRESENTATION

A W RLD NORTHAL FILM

R

DIRECTED BY JIMMY SHAW

Two martial artists are trying to close down a local mafia. After one of the martial artists (Chang Hung) beats up a gang of karatekas, the karatekas discover that a photographer filmed the fight. Angered, they decide to kill the photographer.

As it turns out, the photographer is actually from a rival mob! And so then a fierce war breaks out.

This movie is for the most part, terrible. The fights are few and far between. I won't bother to discuss the movie's musical score, lighting or photography. These are qualities that I tend to overlook when reviewing a gung fu film. That's because these qualities are never any good in Chinese movies.

Li Hsiao Lung (Bruce Li) and Mao Ying (Angela Mao) aren't shown enough, considering that they're the film's heroes.

This is another pro-Chinese movie, saying that anyone who isn't Chinese must be a homicidal maniac. The main villain is an indestructable caucasian (that is, until Li Hsiao Lung tackles him).

## EDITORIAL PART TWO

So that's it, OC#5 has finally been completed. The next issue (#6) won't be out until 1985 or later. I shall now go back to work on my other fanzine, "Japanese Movie Sci-Fi," #5. It's very hard to publish two magazines at once. But that's the way I want it. My two favorite subjects are Japanese science fiction and Chinese gung fu. I don't wish to combine the two subjects, so that's why I'm making not one, but two fanzines. JMSF will continue to focus on Japanese science fiction, while OC will probably be geared towards martial arts films. However, this issue does feature an article on Godzilla, but there won't be many more.



Tokugawa Yoshimune  
(Matsudaira Ken)

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All comments, contributions and suggestions are welcome and encouraged. Since OC is amateur, any reader can submit material and if it's good (informative, accurate but not too long), chances are that it will be printed. Whereas big-shot magazines like "Fighting Stars" probably don't even bother to read much of what they receive,  
Damon Foster.

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