

Press release

To: Local News / Feature / Cultural Editors

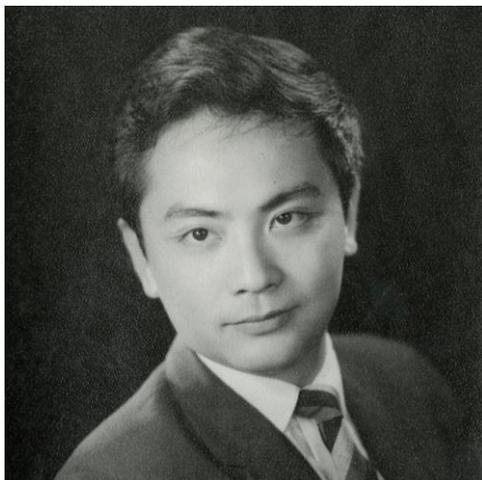
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Immediate Release

15 Nov 2019



About King HU



Hu was born in Beijing and emigrated to Hong Kong in 1949. Hu worked in a variety of occupations, such as advertising consultant, artistic designer and producer for a number of media companies. In 1958, he joined the Shaw Brothers Studio as a set decorator, actor, scriptwriter and assistant director.

Hu's first film as a full-fledged director was *Sons of the Good Earth* (1965), while he is better remembered for his next film, *Come Drink with Me* (1966). Hu then began the trend of a new school of wuxia films.

Leaving the Shaw Brothers Studio in 1967, Hu travelled to Taiwan, where he made another wuxia movie, *Dragon Inn* (1967), which broke box office records and became a phenomenal hit and cult classic. *A Touch of Zen* (1971), which won the Grand Prix de la Commission Supérieur Technique in 1975 Cannes Film Festival.

Other films include *Raining in the Mountain* (1979) and *Legend of the Mountain* (1979), where both shot in Korea. And 1981 making his first and only sitcom *The Juvenizer* (1981).

The Swordsman (1990), King Hu was credited as the director but allegedly left the project midway in 1989, and the film was completed by a team led by producer Tsui Hark.

Hu died in the age of 65 in Taipei of complications from angioplasty.

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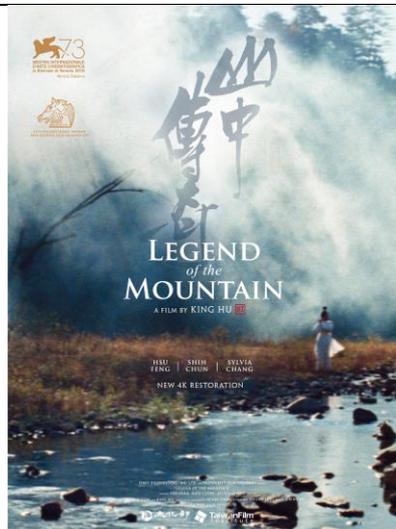
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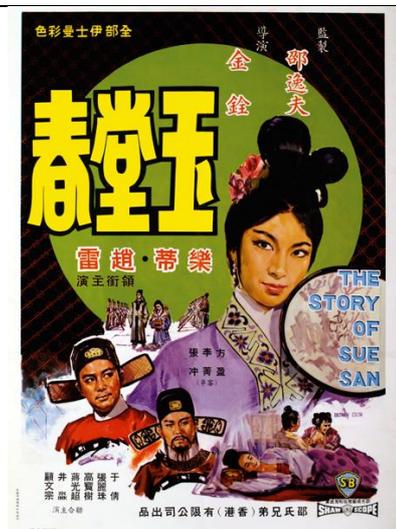
Film Info



Opening Film: Legend of the Mountain (Restored)

Young scholar He (Shih Chun) visits an old monk in the mountain, and is entrusted to copy a sutra to redeem the wandering souls. On his way to a tranquil environment for the task, he meets Melody (Hsu Feng), and her mother (Rainbow Hsu). He ends up marrying Melody after a night of drunkenness and confusion. It turns out Melody and her mother are ghosts incarnated as human, trying to steal the hand-copied sutra. A lama comes to rescue He, but is defeated by Melody's black magic and requires help from a Taoist priest. He meets another beautiful girl, Cloud (Sylvia Chang). Eventually, He becomes embroiled in multiple conflicts, the magic power struggle between the monk and ghost; the love and infatuation between man and ghost; and the jealousy and struggle between good ghost and bad ghost...

Screening schedule
6.12 (Fri) 19:00 BC (with post-screening talk)
8.12 (Sun) 15:50 PE



The Story Of Sue San (Restored)

“Of all those wallowing in the world of love,
Few have attained wealth and rank, both husband and wife.”

King Hu's directorial debut is a film that is originally the brain child of director Li Han-hsiang and is an adaptation of the story "Yutangchun Reunites with Her Husband in Her Distress" in Stories to Caution the World by Feng Menglong. Wang Jinglong (Chao Lei), son of the Ming-dynasty Minister of Personnel, meets courtesan Sue San (Betty Loh Ti). They quickly fall in love and wed. As Wang's money runs out, the couple becomes separated from each other inadvertently, and Sue San is sold as a concubine to a rich merchant. She ends up being framed for murder of her husband. Fortunately, Wang becomes a high-ranking official after being First Graduate of the palace exams. He handles the case of Sue San and overturns her execution verdict.

Screening schedule
12.12 (Thu) 19:30 BC

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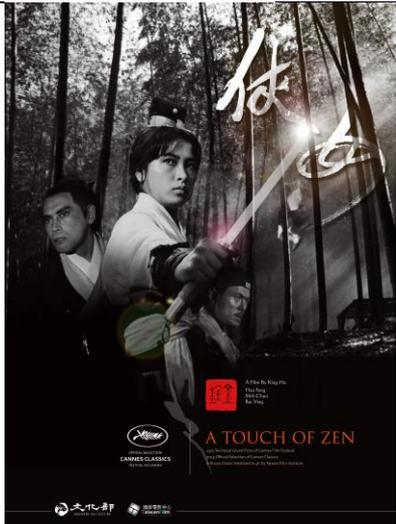
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	<p>7.12 (Sat) 13:10 BC (with post-screening talk) 15.12 (Sun) 15:20 PE</p>
	<p>Four Moods – Anger (Restored) The Wheel of Life – Part I (Restored) Triangle – Johnnie TO</p> <p>In the rare cinematic gem consisting of four unrelated stories by four revered filmmakers, Hu directed the section Anger. Inspired by the Peking Opera “At the Crossroads”, Anger depicts the tense showdown and complicated relationships between political schemers, avengers and vagabonds inside an inn. Whether indoor or outdoor, upstairs or downstairs, inside or outside of lobby, the scenes and movements are intertwined and filled with significance. In the Wheel of Life– Part 1, the characters battle with each other behind their own secret agendas and intrigue. Although the doomed outcome for everyone may follow the motif of Buddhist reincarnation, it may be indicative of Hu’s disappointment with humanity as exemplified in the world of wuxia. To directed the final act in “Triangle”, following the segments by Tsui Hark and Ringo Lam, on a tale of a heist gone wrong resulting in a restaurant-set standoff and subsequent shootout in the forest. Both chilling and ironically absurd, the story allows the director to revisit his frequent theme of Buddhism, moral gravitas, and redemption.</p> <p>Screening schedule 8.12 (Sun) 17:30 BC (with post-screening talk) 13.12 (Fri) 21:40 BC</p>
	<p>A Touch of Zen (Restored)</p> <p>Adapted from a chapter in Pu Songling’s Strange Stories from a Chinese Studio, Hu’s ambition and perseverance are manifest from the conception to production of the film, considered a masterpiece at the climax of his cinematic career. Scholar Gu Sheng-tsai (Shih Chun) falls in love with the ghostly Yang Hui-zhen (Hsu Feng), not knowing that she is the descendant of a persecuted minister escaping enemy’s pursuit. The film was awarded the Technical Grand Prize at the 1975 Cannes Film Festival.</p> <p>Screening schedule 7.12 (Sat) 20:10 MM 14.12 (Sat) 16:10 MM (with post-screening talk)</p>

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	<p>The Fate of Lee Khan (Restored)</p> <p>Set in the Yuan Dynasty, <i>The Fate of Lee Khan</i> is about Mongol general Lee Khan and a map of the tactical plans of the rebel forces. The girls in the Spring Inn are all undercover resistance fighters: Pickpocket Peony (Mao Ying), cheater Peach (Hu Chin), courtesan Little Chili (Yen-erh Shangguan), bandit Lilac (Helen Ma), headed by the charismatic inn manager Wendy (Li Hua-li). Possessing unique skills and charms, these women fighters under disguise lay in wait in order to find out the spy who will bring the map to the enemy.</p> <p>Screening schedule 7.12 (Sat) 15:15 BC 11.12 (Wed) 19:30 MM (with post-screening talk)</p>
	<p>The Valiant Ones</p> <p>The story opens with the historical figures Zhu Wan and Yu Dayou and their important mission to counter against wokou pirates. General Yu (Roy Chiao) recruits hidden masters from all over the country: The seven including the Wu Jiyuan couple (Bai Ying, Hsu Feng) and strategist Tang Ke-jian (Lau Kong). Together they disguise as merchants to bait the enemy. The Wus pretend to surrender, infiltrating into the enemy camp, where they confront Hakatatsu (Chu Yuan-lung).</p> <p>Screening schedule 11.12 (Wed) 19:50 BC (with post-screening talk) 14.12 (Sat) 15:50 PE</p>
	<p>Raining in the Mountain (Restored)</p> <p>In the middle of the Ming Dynasty, the old abbot of a secluded mountain monastery is looking for a successor. He invites Esquire Wen (Sun Yueh) and General Wang (Tien Feng) to discuss the matter. However, the two covet a sacred handwritten scroll of Tripitaka hidden in the monastery's library, with the help of two accomplices. At the same time, the abbot's three disciples plot to usurp the abbotship. Things become more complicated when the abbot names Chiu Ming, a former convict as successor.</p> <p>Screening schedule 8.12 (Sun) 19:25 MM (with post-screening talk)</p>
	<p>All the King's Men (Restored)</p> <p>Superstitious Zhou Shizong Chai Rong (Tien Feng) is addicted to magical potions, believing himself invincible but is in fact suffering from epilepsy. He is obsessed with the most beautiful woman White Lotus (Tsui Tai-ching). His ministers, in trying to cure the emperor, solicit the best doctor on earth. But for the doctor to get cross the border, they need to obtain a work by the best</p>

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	<p>painter Wei, who asks for White Lotus to be his model. In turn, White Lotus demands the most precious jade stone on earth, which happens to be the one worn by the emperor. Now only the best thief can lay hands on the jade. The film won Best Costume Design at the 1983 Golden Horse Award.</p> <p>Screening schedule 8.12 (Sun) 15:30 BC (with post-screening talk)</p>
	<p>Painted Skin</p> <p>King Hu's last work is a fantasy adapted from Strange Stories from a Chinese Studio. Ill-fated scholar (Adam Cheng) encounters a beautiful maiden (Joey Wong) in an alley on his way home and leads her to his house, where he tries to marry her as a concubine, scarce knowing that the attractive face is a human mask worn by a ghost. Terrified, he enlists the help of Taoist priests, and finds that the ghost is persecuted by an evil Yin-Yang King. The Yin-Yang King comes to earth and possesses the scholar. To save him, the ghost and the Taoist priests find help from the Taoist Master (Sammo Hung), to bring all back onto the right track.</p> <p>Screening schedule 15.12 (Sun) 19:40 BC (with post-screening talk)</p>
	<p>Special Presentation: Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon</p> <p>As a special feature in this retrospective we present Ang Lee's Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon, a successor of the cinematic arts of King Hu. The film was nominated for 10 Academy Awards (2000), winning Best Cinematography, Best Music, Original Score, Best Art Direction-Set Decoration and Best Foreign Language Film.</p> <p>Accomplished Wudang swordsman Li Mu Bai (Chow Yun-fat) decides to retire. He asks Yu Shu Lien (Michelle Yeoh) to give his sword Green Destiny to their benefactor Sir Te, which is stolen by Jiao Long (Zhang Ziyi) who sneaks into Sir Te's estate at night. Yu, recognising the true identity of Jiao Long, and not wishing to ruin her future, asks her to return the sword. Headstrong Jiao Long refuses and pledges true love with desert bandit Lo (Chang Chen). When Li learns that his enemy Jade Fox (Cheng Pei-pei) has been meddling in the affairs, all the past hatred and sentiments resurface, and another turbulent time begins.</p> <p>Screening schedule 9.12 (Mon) 19:30 BC (with post-screening talk)</p>