

A WE PICTURES PRODUCTION
A PETER HO-SUN CHAN FILM

DONNIE YEN TAKESHI KANESHIRO TANG WEI

WU XIA



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WU XIA

/ˈwu ː ʃi ː ˈɑ ː / noun. Derived from Chinese words 武俠, meaning the adventures of martial arts chivalries

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

Director : **Peter Ho-Sun CHAN**
Producer : **Peter Ho-Sun CHAN, Jojo HUI**
Action Choreographer : **Donnie YEN**
Production Designer : **YEE Chung Man**
Costume Designer : **Dora NG**
Directors of Photography : **Jake POLLOCK, LAI Yiu-Fai**
Music Composers : **CHAN Kwong-Wing, Peter KAM**
Scriptwriter : **Aubrey LAM**

Donnie YEN as LIU Jin-xi / TANG Long
Takeshi KANESHIRO as XU Bai-jiu
TANG Wei as AYU
Jimmy WANG Yu as The MASTER
Kara WAI Ying Hung as The Master's Wife
LI Xiaoran as Xu's Wife

Production Budget : US\$20 million
Production Status : Completed
Release Date : 28 July 2011 (Hong Kong)

World Sales

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SYNOPSIS

From **Peter Ho-Sun CHAN**, the acclaimed director behind such blockbusters as **The Warlords** and **Perhaps Love**, comes a new action film that will redefine the martial arts genre and bring a new level of visual style to the big screen. The action choreography will bring audience a first-hand experience in the physicality and lethality of martial arts. International action star **Donnie YEN** (**Ip Man I & II**) reteams with Chan (producer of **Bodyguards and Assassins**) to play the leading role of a ruthless killer-turned-repentant family man whose sinful past is catching up with him. He also plays a dual role as action choreographer in the film. Pan-Asian heartthrob **Takeshi KANESHIRO** (**House of Flying Daggers**, **Red Cliff**) stars as the detective who determines to bring him to justice but discovers that he is no ordinary killer.

Wu Xia, derived from pronunciation of the Chinese characters 武 (Wu) and 俠 (Xia), literally means “martial arts chivalry”. In Chinese popular culture, it depicts the adventures of martial arts heroes in ancient time that are bound by a code of chivalry and require them to right wrongs when the helpless or the poor are oppressed.

In the late Qing Dynasty, LIU Jin-xi (played by **Donnie YEN**) is a papermaker and father of two sons who lives a seemingly normal life with his family in a remote village. However, the arrival of a detective soon threatens to tear them apart.

Detective XU Bai-jiu (played by **Takeshi KANESHIRO**) arrives in town to investigate the recent death of two bandits during a robbery. It appears that they are accidentally killed by LIU out of self-defense. But upon autopsy, XU discovers that they are in fact two of the most wanted outlaws with martial arts skills! How could an average family man kill two fierce desperados single-handedly? As a kung fu fanatic, XU figures out that this is no pure accident; LIU must conceal extraordinary martial arts skill necessary to make such a deadly defense. XU’s investigation further leads him to the involvement of the 72 Demons – the most hostile and vicious clan in the martial arts world whose members are trained to kill without mercy. The MASTER (played by **Jimmy WANG Yu**), the ruthless head of the clan, possesses skills so powerful beyond

anyone's imagination.

But the deeper XU digs into LIU, the less convinced he is of a foul play. "Either LIU is a master of deception, or he is truly an honest man," XU starts to believe. In order to draw this case to a close, XU recklessly assaults LIU in hopes that LIU will unveil his martial arts power in return, which is unfortunately not the case. LIU is badly injured during the assault, forcing XU to withdraw his suspicion. Just when all the evidences have proved XU wrong, intelligence confirms that LIU is indeed TANG Long – the second-in-command of the 72 Demons. Once a martial arts expert with a taste for killing, TANG awakened from his sin one day and decided to leave his evil past behind, using a new identity to go on with his life.

The news of TANG's whereabouts soon gets to the MASTER. Unable to come to terms with TANG's betrayal, the MASTER threatens to slaughter his family and every villager if TANG refuses to return to the clan. Meanwhile, XU is leading an elite team to LIU's arrest. When the three unstoppable forces converge in the small village, an inevitable battle is about to break out any moment.

The road to redemption is paved with blood. TANG's fate now lies in the hands of XU, who is torn between law and morality.

DIRECTOR / PRODUCER

PETER HO-SUN CHAN

One of the predominant Chinese filmmakers, Peter Ho-Sun CHAN has established himself firmly as a distinguished director/producer whose last 4 films have generated a staggering RMB600 million in China box office alone. In as early as the nineties, CHAN already scored a string of critically acclaimed box office hits, including his award-winning directorial debut *Alan and Eric: Between Hello and Goodbye* (1991) and those produced by his own United Filmmakers Organization (UFO) like *Tom, Dick & Hairy* (1993), *He's a Women, She's a Man* (1994) and *Comrades, Almost a Love Story* (1997) among which *Comrades* has won

a record 9 Hong Kong Film Awards and was named one of the Ten Best Movies of 1997 by Time Magazine.

In 1998, CHAN directed his first Hollywood picture *The Love Letter* for Steven SPIELBERG's Dreamworks SKG. In 2000, he established Applause Pictures dedicated to quality co-productions aimed at audiences across Asia. Films produced under the Applause Pictures banner include *Jan Dara* (2001), *One Fine Spring Day* (2001), *The Eye* series (2002, 2004, 2005), *Three* (2002) and *Three...Extremes* (2004), *Golden Chicken* (2002) and *Golden Chicken 2* (2003), and *McDull, The Alumni* (2006).

Chan's next project, the musical *Perhaps Love* (2005), became one of the year's top-grossing films in China, Hong Kong and Taiwan, and received a record 29 awards. CHAN next directed *The Warlords* (2007) and produced Derek YEE's *Protégé* (2007). The two films were the two highest grossing Hong Kong-China co-productions of 2007. *The Warlords* grossed a record RMB220 million in China and over US\$40 million across Asia, and garnered 8 Hong Kong Film Awards and 3 Golden Horse Awards, including Best Director and Best Feature Film.

In 2009, CHAN produced Teddy CHEN's *Bodyguards and Assassins*, which has garnered a spectacular RMB300 million in China box office alone, accumulating over US\$50 million Asia-wide. It has scored a stunning 8 awards in the Hong Kong Film Awards, including Best Film, Best Director, Best Supporting Actor (Nicholas TSE), Best Action Choreography, among others. It also won 5 Best Actor awards for WANG Xueqi, adding up to an impressive 146 awards out of 231 nominations for CHAN's awards track record.

CAST / ACTION CHOREOGRAPHER

DONNIE YEN as **LIU Jin-xi / TANG Long**

An honest papermaker and father of two sons, LIU is living a peaceful life in a small village. But with the arrival of detective XU Bai-jiu, LIU's secret identity is slowly surfaced. LIU's alter ego, by the name of TANG Long, was the second-in-command of the vicious clan 72 Demons. Once a merciless martial arts expert, he awakened from his sin one day and

decided to leave the martial arts world. But with his identity being revealed, so is his inner blood-thirsty beast ...

After a successful early career as a martial arts star in Hong Kong in the 1990s, Donnie YEN made his Hollywood debut in ***Highlander: Endgame*** (2000), while he provided a cameo and the action choreography for Guillermo DEL TORO's ***Blade II*** (2002). His captivating performance in ZHANG Yimou's ***Hero*** (2002) earned him accolades as a fine actor beyond his martial arts skills. Other starring roles include TSUI Hark's ***Seven Swords*** (2005), Wilson YIP's ***S.P.L.*** (2005) (also as action director), CHING Siu-tung's ***An Empress and the Warriors*** (2008) and Gordon CHAN's ***Painted Skin*** (2008). He also serves as action director in Dante LAM's ***Twins Effect*** (2003), Geoffrey SAX's ***Stormbreaker*** (2006), Wilson YIP's ***Dragon Tiger Gate*** (2006) and ***Flash Point*** (2007), etc.

Ip Man (2008), a semi-biographical martial arts film based on the life of Bruce LEE's legendary grandmaster, skyrocketed YEN's career to superstardom and made him a household name among international audience. His remarkable performance also earned him Best Actor nomination in the 28th Hong Kong Film Awards. He followed up the success with another action blockbuster ***Bodyguards and Assassins*** (2009), produced by Peter Ho-Sun CHAN and directed by Teddy CHEN. His dramatic turn as a gambler who eventually sacrifices for a greater cause is praised by audience and critics alike. In 2010, YEN reprised his leading role in the sequel ***Ip Man 2***, which surpassed the original film in Hong Kong box office to become the highest-grossing Chinese film in 2010. YEN's recent film, ***Legend of the Fist: The Return of Chen Zhen*** (2010) by Andrew LAU, premiered at the opening night of the Venice International Film Festival.

CAST

TAKESHI KANESHIRO as **XU Bai-jiu**

A detective from the courthouse, XU is also martial arts fanatic who is addicted to learning every existing kung fu knowledge possible. It is his intuition, imagination and stubbornness that lead him to discover the

true identity of Liu.

Takeshi KANESHIRO is one of Asian cinema's most-favored heartthrobs, with a wide fan base that spans across Asia. Born in Taiwan in 1973 to a Japanese father and Taiwanese mother, KANESHIRO started his career in the early 1990s, appearing in a series of Taiwanese comedies and releasing several albums. He rose to stardom when he starred in WONG Kar-wai's international hits ***Chungking Express*** (1994) and ***Fallen Angels*** (1995). His starring roles in ***Sleepless Town*** (1998) and the TV drama ***God! Please Give Me More Time*** further established him as one of the most sought-after actors in Japan.

KANESHIRO has since starred in successful films in a wide variety of genres, ranging from romance (YEE Chung Man's ***Anna Magdalena*** (1998), Johnny TO's ***Turn Left, Turn Right*** (2003)) and action (ZHANG Yimou's ***House of Flying Daggers*** (2004), Peter Ho-Sun CHAN's ***The Warlords*** (2007)), to thriller (Andrew LAU's ***Confession of Pain*** (2006)), sci-fi (Takashi YAMAZAKI's ***Returner*** (2002), Shimako SATO's ***K-20: The Fiend with Twenty Faces*** (2008)), and musical (Peter Ho-Sun CHAN's ***Perhaps Love*** (2005)). He was last seen onscreen with his ***Chungking Express*** and ***Confession of Pain*** costar Tony LEUNG Chiu-Wai in John WOO's battle epic ***Red Cliff I & II*** (2008, 2009). ***Wu Xia*** marks his 3rd collaboration with Peter Ho-Sun CHAN.

CAST

TANG WEI as AYU

A woman who lacks a sense of security after being abandoned by his husband, AYU picks herself up again after starting a new family with LIU. Realizing the potential threat XU will bring upon her family, she will do everything in order to keep her family intact. But little does she know the horrific past of his husband ...

Listed by the New York Times as one of the Best 15 Performers in 2007, TANG Wei appeared in numerous local TV dramas before she was handpicked by director Ang LEE from more than 10,000 actresses to play

the role of a seductive spy opposite Tony LEUNG Chiu-Wai in the espionage thriller **Lust, Caution** (2007). The film's worldwide success catapulted her to international fame almost overnight and her daring performance was unanimously praised by audience and critics. She was awarded the Best New Performer in the 44th Golden Horse Film Awards and the Chopard Trophy in the 61st Cannes Film Festival, while receiving nominations in the BAFTA Awards, Independent Spirit Awards, Chicago Film Critics Association Awards, Asian Film Awards, etc. She was suddenly showered with film offers but chose to take on a small-scale romantic comedy **Crossing Hennessy** (2010). She will next be seen in the Korean drama **Late Autumn** (2010).

CAST

JIMMY WANG YU as the MASTER

The MASTER is a surviving member of the Tangut tribe who was annihilated by the Mongols. He gathers lost members of the tribe and leads a group of ruthless bandits who would become known as the 72 Demons. By the age of 60, the MASTER sires over 50 children, with TANG Long being his favorite son. When TANG leaves the 72 Demons, he feels betrayed and is determined to destroy him....

A screen legend in the Asian cinema, Jimmy WANG Yu is widely credited as being the first Hong Kong kung fu star. He joined Shaw Brothers in 1963 and was frequently cast as the leading man in martial arts films by famed director CHANG Cheh. WANG shot to fame with **One Armed Swordsman** (1967), which was the first film in Hong Kong to reach one million dollars in the box office and spawned three sequels and one spin-off. **The Chinese Boxer** (1970), in which WANG directed and starred in, established the kung fu genre that took the world by storm in the 70s. It paved the way for the future kung fu stars such as Bruce LEE and Jackie CHAN. With over 70 films under his belt, his notable films also include **The Assassin** (1967), The **Golden Swallow** (1968), and **The Invincible Sword** (1972). **Wu Xia** marks WANG's return to the big screen after 13 years.

CAST

KARA WAI YING HUNG as the Master's Wife

One of the MASTER's wives and top assassin in the 72 Demons, she is assigned to track down LIU and makes him pay for his betrayal.

Discovered by legendary director CHANG Cheh at the age of 14, Kara WAI Ying Hung started her acting career as a contract actress at Shaw Brothers Studio and quickly become one of the female kung fu stars by starring in over 70 films, such as **Mad Monkey Kung Fu** (1979), **Martial Club** (1981) and **The Lady is the Boss** (1983). WAI is a two-time Best Actress winner at the Hong Kong Film Awards, the first time in 1981 for **My Young Auntie**, and the second time in 2009 for **At the End of Daybreak**, for which she also earned 6 more Best Actress/Supporting Actress Awards. In 2011, she returned to action cinema in Peter Ho-Sun CHAN's Cannes Official Selection **Wu Xia**.

CAST

LI XIAORAN as Xu's Wife

XU's estranged wife, torn between love and hatred for XU, remains his last resort when he most needs help.

One of the most in-demand actresses in China, LI Xiaoran graduated from Beijing Dance Academy in 1993 and was soon discovered by TV producer. She has since starred in over 30 mainland TV dramas and 5 movies, notably Wilson YIP-directed comic book adaptation **Dragon Tiger Gate** (2006) also starring Donnie YEN, French-Canadian coproduction **Les Filles du Botaniste** (2006) and the recent **Driverless** (2010).

PRODUCTION DESIGNER

YEE CHUNG MAN

YEE Chung Man is considered a legend in the Hong Kong film industry. For almost three decades, he has worked in over 80 films and received 7 Hong Kong Film Awards in art direction and costume design for Peter Ho-Sun CHAN's *The Warlords* (2007), *Perhaps Love* (2005) and *Comrades: Almost a Love Story* (1996), ZHANG Yimou's *Curse of the Golden Flower* (2006), Samson CHIU's *Golden Chicken* (2002), Corey YUEN's *Saviour of the Soul* (1991) and CHING Siu-tung's *A Chinese Ghost Story* (1987). *Curse of the Golden Flower* also earned YEE an Oscar nomination for Best Achievement in Costume Design in 2007. His recent credits include the Peter Ho-Sun CHAN-produced *Mr. and Mrs. Incredible* (2010), YUEN Woo-ping's *True Legend* (2010), and PANG Brothers' *Storm Warriors* (2009). YEE recently joins the production of TSUI Hark's *Flying Swords of Dragon Gate*.

COSTUME DESIGNER

DORA NG

After graduating from The Hong Kong Polytechnic University in fashion design, Dora NG immediately entered the film industry as the costume designer for Jacob CHEUNG's *The Twilight of Forbidden City* (1988). To date, NG has been involved in over 40 productions, including the recent *Storm Warriors* (2009), *CJ7* (2008), *An Empress and the Warriors* (2008), *Re-cycle* (2006). She has garnered 4 Hong Kong Film Awards, 1 Golden Horse Award and a total of 13 nominations for Best Costume and Makeup Design. Her award-winning design work has appeared in Teddy CHEN's *Bodyguards and Assassins* (2009) and *Purple Storm* (1999), Peter Ho-Sun CHAN's *Perhaps Love* (2005) and *Comrades: Almost a Love Story* (1996), and Samson CHIU's *Golden Chicken* (2002). NG's latest credits include the Andrew LAU-directed, Donnie YEN action vehicle *Legend of the Fist: The Return of Chen Zhen* (2010).

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

JAKE POLLOCK

A rising star in cinematography who is labeled the new Christopher DOYLE, Jake POLLOCK started working as lighting technician for independent films after graduating from Film & TV Department of New York University. Being a huge fan of Taiwan cinema, he made a bold decision to relocate to Taiwan in 2002. His unique handhanded style soon caught the eyes of Taiwan rising directors and it didn't take long before he earned industry recognition. He received the Special Jury Prize at the 8th Taipei Film Festival for his cinematography work in HO Wi Ding's *Respire* (2005) (also winner of Kodak Short Film and Young Critics Awards at the 58th Cannes Film Festival). He was nominated for Best Cinematographer in the 4th Asian Film Award for his work in CHENG Yu-Chieh's *Yang Yang* (2009). His last two films as cinematographer, espionage thriller *The Message* (2009) and crime saga *Monga* (2010), are massive success. *The Message* snapped up a staggering RMB225 million in China box office alone, while *Monga* totaled NT260 million to become the highest grossing Chinese film in Taiwan this year.

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

LAI YIU-FAI

International audience are familiar with the works of the Hong Kong-based veteran cinematographer LAI Yiu-Fai, whose frequent collaboration with the likes of WONG Kar-Wai and Andrew LAU has created a string of worldwide hits such as *Infernal Affairs* (2002) (nominated for Best Cinematography at the 22nd Hong Kong Film Awards and 40th Golden Horse Awards), *2046* (2004) (winner of Best Cinematography at the 24th Hong Kong Film Awards, National Society of Film Critics Awards and New York Film Critics Circle Awards), *Eros* (2004), *Initial D* (2005) (nominated for Best Cinematography at the 25th Hong Kong Film Awards) and *Confession of Pain* (2006) (winner of Best Cinematography at the 26th Hong Kong Film Awards).

SCRIPTWRITER

AUBREY LAM

Aubrey LAM started as a fulltime scriptwriter for United Filmmakers Organization (UFO) and collaborated with Peter Ho-Sun CHAN on his early works such as *The Age of Miracles* (1995), *Yesterday You Yesterday Me* (1996) and *Who's the Woman, Who's the Man* (1996). In 2000, she wrote and directed her first feature *12 Nights*, for which she was nominated for Best Screenplay in the Golden Bauhinia Awards. Her success as a director/scriptwriter carried on in *Hidden Track* (2003) and *Anna & Anna* (2007). LAM continues to work with CHAN throughout the years in films such as *Perhaps Love* (2005), *The Warlords* (2007) and the latest *Wu Xia* (2011).