



FILM MOVEMENT[®] CLASSICS

presents

Raining in the Mountain

original title: KONG SHAN LING YU 空山靈雨

a film by KING HU

DIGITALLY RESTORED IN 2K BY TAIWAN FILM AND AUDIOVISUAL INSTITUTE

"An impressive achievement... breathtakingly beautiful... scrupulously restored by the Taiwan Film Institute, the subtle widescreen color looks glorious." –Phillip Kemp, Sight & Sound

> Hong Kong & Taiwan | 1979 | Mandarin with English Subtitles Wuxia/Action | 122 minutes | 2.35:1 | Mono

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SYNOPSIS

During the Ming Dynasty, a Buddhist abbot charged with protecting the sacred scroll of Tripitaka prepares to name his successor. An aristocrat and a general arrive at his secluded mountaintop monastery promising to help in his search, but are in fact scheming to secure the scroll for themselves. As they set about recommending corrupt successors, rival bands of martial artists lie in wait to steal the precious artifact. Soon, the monastery is transformed into an epic battleground for the scroll, with each player caught in a web of betrayal. Called a "remarkably photographed caper heist [featuring] intriguing battles of wits and minds" (*Far East Film Festival*), RAINING IN THE MOUNTAIN is also the peak of legendary director King Hu's (A TOUCH OF ZEN) infusion of Buddhist spiritual principles into the legacy of martial arts cinema.

SELECT PRESS

"A richly detailed and epic drama of corruption and betrayal... one of the last great films of King Hu's golden period." –Jordan Cronk, *The Hollywood Reporter*

"Saturated with gorgeous cinematography." -Niina Doherty, easternKicks

"A visual extravaganza." –Panos Kotzathanasis, Asian Movie Pulse

AWARDS & FESTIVALS

1979 – Chicago International Film Festival – Best Picture Nominee

2005 – Hong Kong Film Awards – Best 100 Chinese Motion Pictures

2018 – Golden Horse Film Festival – Restored Classics Selection





DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY – KING HU

Born in Beijing in 1932, King Hu moved to Hong Kong at the age of 18 and started work as an illustrator for film advertisements. In 1954 he made his acting debut in the film HUMILIATION FOR SALE, and in 1958, through director Li Han-hsiang, he joined Shaw Brothers as an actor, scriptwriter, and assistant director. In 1963 Hu was first assistant director to Li on the film THE LOVE ETERNE, and the following year his first directorial effort, THE STORY OF SUE SAN. This was followed in 1965 by WWII film SONS OF THE GOOD EARTH.

1966 saw Hu release his first *wuxia* film, COME DRINK WITH ME, marking the early days of Hu's characteristic style in which characters, settings, and even martial arts choreography all take strong influence from Peking opera. COME DRINK WITH ME was a major factor in the contemporary rise of *wuxia* films, and the embryonic forms of elements of Hu's later movies were already visible.

The 1967 DRAGON INN proved to be a blockbuster, setting box office records in Taiwan, Korea, and the Philippines, and the film would prove to have a broad and lasting influence. The follow-up to DRAGON INN would finally hit screens in 1971, after three years of filming. A TOUCH OF ZEN would go on to take the Technical Grand Prize award at the Cannes Film Festival in 1975, propelling Hu onto the world stage, and the bamboo forest duel scene became a classic scene and an indelible contribution to cinema. The 1979 films RAINING IN THE MOUNTAIN and LEGEND OF THE MOUNTAIN demonstrated Hu's unwillingness to be pigeonholed as simply a *wuxia* director. The former served as the opening movie of the 3rd Hong Kong Film Festival and the latter won the Best Director and Best Art Direction awards at the 16th Golden Horse Awards.

In 1981, Hu's film THE JUVENIZER – entirely self funded and self shot – was his first comedy and his only contemporary film, making it something different. After THE WHEEL OF LIFE (1983), Hu would step out of the limelight until 1990's THE SWORDSMAN, for which Hu made a comeback at the request of Tsui Hark. Hu was involved in costuming, styling, and set design on the film, including setting up a massive set in Xitou, Taiwan. The 1992 film PAINTED SKIN would be Hu's last. That same year, he received a lifelong achievement award from the Hong Kong Directors Association.

SELECT FILMOGRAPHY

1964 – THE STORY OF SUE SAN 1965 – SONS OF THE GOOD EARTH 1966 – COME DRINK WITH ME 1967 – DRAGON INN 1970 – A TOUCH OF ZEN 1970 – FOUR MOODS (ANGER) 1975 – THE VALIANT ONES

- 1979 RAINING IN THE MOUNTAIN 1979 – LEGEND OF THE MOUNTAIN 1981 – THE JUVENIZER 1983 – ALL THE KING'S MEN 1983 – THE WHEEL OF LIFE 1990 – THE SWORDSMAN
- 1992 PAINTED SKIN



HSU FENG BIOGRAPHY

Hsu Feng's first film was King Hu's 1967 DRAGON INN. The following year she began filming for A TOUCH OF ZEN, playing the lead female role with a combination of icy beauty, fierce will, and powerful heroism. A TOUCH OF ZEN would go on to win the Technical Grand Prize at the 1975 Cannes Film Festival, and Hsu's performance in the film received critical acclaim not only at Cannes, but around the world. During her five years (1966–1971) with Union Film Company, Hsu appeared in five films; between 1971 to 1975, she appeared in over 20 films, including THE FATE OF LEE KHAN (1973) and THE VALIANT ONES (1975). In the former she played a steely Mongolian princess, dignified, imposing, and ruthless; this was possibly her greatest performance in a wuxia film, although her lead role in 1976's ASSASSIN earned her the Best Leading Actress award at the 13th Golden Horse Awards. That same year, her role as Weicheng, the wife of famed Nationalist Chinese military officer Xie Jinyuan, in the film EIGHT HUNDRED HEROES earned her a Special Award for Acting Technique at that year's Asian Film Festival. 1980's THE PIONEERS saw her earn another award, this time Best Leading Actress in a Feature Film at the 17th Golden Horse Awards. Hsu's other films include RAINING IN THE MOUNTAIN, LEGEND OF THE MOUNTAIN, and EVERLASTING GLORY.



CAST

White Fox Esquire Wen Chiu Ming Master Wu Wai Gold Lock Hui Wen Hui Tung General Wang Lieutenant Chang Cheng Hui Ssu The Abbot

CREW

Director/Screenwriter Producers Assistant Directors Executive Producers Art Director Martial Arts Director Editor Cinematography Music Hsu Feng Sun Yueh Tung Lin Wu Chia-Hsiang Wu Ming-Tsai Lu Chun Shih Chun Tien Fung Chen Hui-Lou Paul Chun Pui Chin Chang-Ken

King Hu King Hu, Wu Sau-Yee Tung Lin, Tan Han-Chung Lo Kai-Muk, Chung Ling King Hu Wu Ming-Tsai King Hu Henry Chan Ng Tai Kong





ABOUT FILM MOVEMENT

Founded in 2002 as one of the first-ever subscription film services with its DVD-ofthe-Month club, Film Movement is now a North American distributor of awardwinning independent and foreign films based in New York City. It has released more than 300 feature films and shorts culled from prestigious film festivals worldwide. Film Movement's theatrical releases include American independent films, documentaries, and foreign art house titles. Its catalog includes titles by directors such as Hirokazu Kore-eda, Maren Ade, Jessica Hausner, Andrei Konchalovsky, Andrzej Wajda, Diane Kurys, Ciro Guerra and Melanie Laurent.

In 2015, Film Movement launched its reissue label Film Movement Classics, featuring new restorations released theatrically as well as on Blu-ray and DVD, including films by such noted directors as Eric Rohmer, Peter Greenaway, Bille August, Marleen Gorris, Takeshi Kitano, Arturo Ripstein, Sergio Corbucci and Ettore Scola.

For more information, please visit www.filmmovement.com.