

# Martial Club

## AKA *Instructors of Death*



35mm  
Print

(Lau Kar-leung, 1981, 102 min, Hong Kong, dubbed in English, Color, 35mm)

'Sifu' is the Cantonese term for a skillful master/teacher. Renowned Hong Kong film director/choreographer Lau Kar-leung (Liu Chia-liang), was also a kung fu master whose lineage traced back to legendary folk hero Wong Fei-hung (portrayed by Gordon Liu in Lau's *Instructors of Death*). In wildly entertaining films like *The 36th Chamber of Shaolin*, Lau used authentic kung fu demonstrations and arduous training sequences to educate audiences about kung fu, and to document and preserve its traditions.

In *Martial Club AKA Instructors of Death*, Gordon Liu Chia-hui plays a young Wong Fei-hung, the legendary kung fu master. When his friend is brutally injured by members of a rival martial arts club/school, he must rise to demand justice. Liu displays his remarkable combat skills in an ingeniously choreographed duel in a narrow alleyway that remains one of the best action sequences ever filmed. Lau Kar-leung uses this film as a vehicle to illustrate the age-old code of ethics observed by martial arts practitioners; speaking directly to the camera, he makes a special appearance in the opening credit sequence to demonstrate the kung fu world's rules of engagement.

Courtesy of Celestial Pictures Ltd. 35mm film print provided by University of North Carolina School of the Arts Moving Image Archives. Sponsored by the Program in the Arts of the Moving Image (AMI).

**THURSDAY**

**OCT 04<sup>H</sup>**

**7:00 PM**

**Rubenstein  
Arts Center  
Film Theater**

**Free Screening!**

