

Screening of *Martial Club* (Lau Kar-leung, 1981)

AKA *Instructors of Death* (US title)

Vocabulary terms:

Han = China's main ethnic majority population

Ming Dynasty = the last Han-led dynasty (1368–1644), which followed the collapse of the Mongol-led Yuan dynasty.

Manchu = ethnically distinct population from northeastern Chinese provinces known as “Manchuria”

Qing/Ching/Ch'ing Dynasty: the Manchu-led dynasty (1636/1644 - 1912), which conquered the Ming capital, Beijing, in 1644 and was in turn overthrown in 1912, when the Republic of China (1912-1949) was founded – making the Qing the last Chinese dynasty.

Sifu [Cantonese]: skilled teacher or master

Men (Mand.) / **Mun** (Canto.) = Kung fu schools/clans/clubs – as in:

Jing Wu Men/Ching Mo Mun, both the main school and the Chinese film title for Bruce Lee's *Fist of Fury/The Chinese Connection* [1971]). *Martial Club* features 3 of these. And Wang Lung Wei's northerner might be from **Jing Wu Men** in Shanghai! [Huo Yuan Jia/Chen Zhen]

Kuen/Kune: “Fist” or “style” (Jeet Kune Do, Joi Kuen, Hung Kuen)

Gar: also means clan - as in **Hung Gar** or **Hung Kuen Gar**. This “Gar” might also be the same word as the “Kar” in Lau Kar-Leung, Lau Kar-fai, etc?

Hung Gar/Hung Kuen/Hung Gar Kuen: style of Southern kung fu passed on from survivors of the burning of the **southern Shaolin Temple in Fujian province** through underground fraternal groups of anti-Qing rebels [**Tongs**] hiding out in **Chinese opera troupes** on Red Boats in Guangdong province, and on through a chain of teachers/sifus in Fujian, Guangdong, and (importantly, for cinema) Hong Kong...

- **Hung Gar** was founded by **Luk Ah Choi/Lu A’Cai** [who was San Te and Hung Hsi-Kuan’s student, and later Wong Fei Hung’s teacher!].
- **Hung Gar** is possibly named after Luk’s teacher, Hung Hsi Kuan [Cantonese: Hung Hei Kwun], or possibly **Hongmen/Hung Mun** [an anti-Qing secret society/Tong] or the word “Hong” - meaning “Red,” which appears in terms like *Hong Soan* [“Red Boats” – which the southern Chinese Opera troupes traveled on] and **Honghua Ting** [“Red Flower Pavilion” – where Ming loyalists and Shaolin temple survivors made a pledge to "Oppose Qing and restore Ming"]
- **Lineage:** Monk Zhi Zhan/Jee Sin Sim See, Abbot of Southern Shaolin temple and **San Te** (“3 Virtues Monk”), taught **Hung Hsi Kuan/Hung Hey Kwun** and **Luk Ah Choi/Lu A’Cai**. Luk Ah Choi founded Hung Gar, moved to Canton and taught Wong Kei-ying and his son **Wong Hei-hung** [1848-1924]. Wong Hei-hung taught Lam Sai Wing (“Butcher Lam”), who moved to Hong Kong and taught Lau Charn and also wrote 3 important books on Hung Gar techniques. Lau Charn taught his son, **Lau Kar-leung**. **Gordon Liu** studied under both Lau Charn and Lau Kar-leung, and took on their family name, renaming himself Lau Kar-Fai, and while no blood relation is almost like a family member.

Tiandihui: “Heaven and Earth Society” aka **Hongmen/Hong Mun**. The Tiandihui, also known as the Heaven and Earth Association or the **Triads**, was one of the earliest, largest, and most enduring of the Chinese secret societies that have played crucial roles at decisive junctures in modern Chinese history. These organizations were characterized by ceremonial rituals, often in the form of blood oaths, that brought people together for a common goal.

“Northern Leg, Southern Fist”: often-used expression that gestures to stylistic differences and characteristic strengths of Northern and Southern kung fu styles

Wu De: “Martial Virtue”(Martial Code of Conduct) is the Chinese martial arts code of appropriate social interaction. Ethics and etiquette is ingrained not only in the culture of China but also pervades throughout the philosophy that holds the society together. There are five points in *Wu De*:

Respect, Humility, Trust, Virtue, and Honor.

Yi: “Righteousness”. *Yi* resonates with Confucian philosophy's orientation towards the cultivation of benevolence (*ren*) and skillful practice (*li*).

Yi represents moral acumen which goes beyond simple rule following, and involves a balanced understanding of a situation, and the "creative insights" necessary to apply virtues with no loss of sight of the total good. *Yi* represents this ideal of totality as well as a decision-generating ability to apply a virtue properly and appropriately in a situation.

Lion Dance: is a form of traditional dance in Chinese culture and other Asian countries in which performers mimic a lion's movements in a lion costume to bring good luck and fortune. The lion dance is usually performed during the Chinese New Year and other Chinese traditional, cultural and religious festivals.

Po Chi Lam: a medical clinic in Guangzhou City, Guangdong Province, founded by **Wong Kei-ying** (one of the “Ten Tigers of Canton) and later run by his son, **Wong Fei-hung**.

On the General's Orders: Chinese folk song that became Wong Fei Hung's “theme song” (used in many movies)

Chinese Opera: A popular form of drama and musical theatre in China with roots going back to the early periods in China. Over time it incorporated various art forms, such as music, song and dance, martial arts, acrobatics, as well as literary art forms.

Diegetic: existing within the narrative/story world [“diegesis”]

Extradiegetic/nondiegetic: not “situated” within (not part of) the world and space inhabited by the characters. (Non-diegetic music is “for” the audience’s benefit and by definition could not ever be “heard” by any characters.)

Profilmic event (profilmic space): The slice of the world in front of the film camera; including protagonists and their actions, lighting, sets, props and costumes, as well as the setting itself, as opposed to what eventually appears on the cinema screen. Much of it is “stuff that’s in place before the camera gets turned on,” but it importantly includes the actions that take place before the camera [Cf.: “**mise en scène**”].