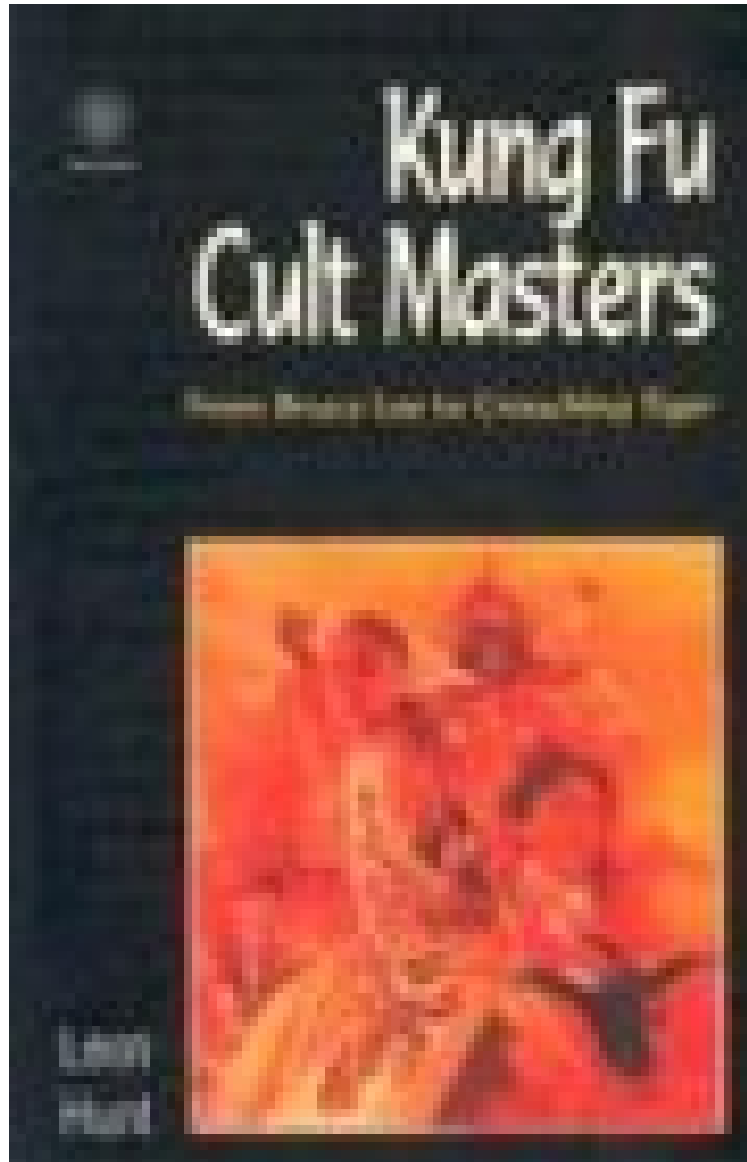


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## Kung Fu Cult Masters

*Leon Hunt*

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**Leon Hunt : Kung Fu Cult Masters** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Kung Fu Cult Masters:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The 36th Chamber of Film StudiesBy RoochakThis is an academic study focused on questions of authenticity (or multiple authenticities), mythmaking, satire, gender roles, transnationalism and postcolonialism in kung fu movies, and while the text is accessible to fanboys who are willing to

read footnotes, it's not just another breathless love letter to the genre's best fight scenes. Just navigating the history of the kung fu genre is a tricky affair, tied up in Mandarin-dialect fight films set in "historical" China and Cantonese-dialect fight films set in more-or-less contemporary Hong Kong, with plenty of overlap. Author Leon Hunt makes several fascinating arguments along the way: that Bruce Lee is the center of the kung fu universe, but a cinematic dead end; that filmmaker Zhang Che's homoerotic gaze foregrounded and queered (my word, not Hunt's) Chinese masculinity onscreen; that Brigitte Lin's genderbending roles in the 1990s were a correction to the film industry sexism that had dogged Angela Mao Ying and Kara Hui Ying-hung; that Jet Li is effectively the last martial arts superstar, and that the genre has reached a seeming dead end. There's a final chapter on martial arts videogames, which I don't play now and which I didn't play when this book was published (2003). Is their immersive experience where the kung fu genre now resides? Is kung fu cinema now an exercise in remakes and pure nostalgia?

From the balletic intensity of Bruce Lee to the gravity-defying swordplay of *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*, the Chinese martial arts film has captured audiences' imaginations around the world while absorbing influences ranging from Beijing opera to computer games. Its global impact can be seen in the Hollywood crossover of stars such as Jackie Chan and Hong Kong-influenced films such as *The Matrix*. In this wide-ranging study, Leon Hunt looks at the mythic allure of the Shaolin Temple, the 'Clones' of Bruce Lee, gender-bending swordswomen, and the knockabout comedy of Sammo Hung, bringing new insights to a hugely popular yet critically neglected genre. In addition, he considers the impact of new technologies on a genre focused on physical performance, from the 'wire fu' of Jet Li to the digital 'stars' of console games like *Tekken*. Films discussed include both popular and cult classics like *Game of Death*, *Fist of Legend*, *The 36th Chamber of Shaolin*, and *Drunken Master*.

" "Kung Fu Cult Masters" is set to become an essential text... [and] Hunt has made an unparalleled contribution to kung fu film analysis." -- "Senses of Cinema"

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About the Author: Leon Hunt is a senior lecturer in Film and TV Studies at Brunel University, UK. He is the author of *British Low Culture: From Safari Suits to Sexploitation*.