

Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon, 2000.

The film *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* was directed by Ang Lee in 2000. It is a Chinese martial film that was nominated for ten Academy Awards in 2001 and won Best Foreign Language Film, Best Art Direction, Best Original Score, and Best Cinematography (Huaiting). This film opened the eyes of western viewers and brought them into concepts of Chinese philosophy, ethics, community, manners, and morality (Chen and Yang). The film talks about love and loss (Stewart), duty and honor (Cai), letting go (Crittenden), hidden potential (Eperjesi), and finding our own path (Smith).

Lee heavily utilized Chinese architecture to orchestrate the story development. In the beginning of this film, Lee used several scenes to move the viewers from the outside of Yu Shu Lien's house into her inner courtyard (Fig. 1-5). This same inner courtyard later also frames the fighting between Yu Shu Lien and Jen Yu (Fig. 6-7). Another interesting usage of architecture was the fight inside the inn. Lee shows us how a large Chinese inn looks. He moved the fighting up and down, in and out of that inn (Fig. 8-13). Through the movement of the camera following the fights, Lee guided the viewers to see dynamic vivid images of what a historical Chinese inn looked like. In the end of the film, Jen Yu meets her boyfriend Lo "Dark Cloud" Xiao Hou then jumps out from the temple on the cliff and drags the viewers down with her into the mystical future (Fig. 14-16).

Yu Shu Lien's inner courtyard shows us the view of a friendly private household, the inn renders the location of community public life, and the temple on the cliff represent the inward meditation looking her own private life.

Works Cited

- Cai, Rong. "Gender imaginations in *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* and the wuxia world." *positions: east asia cultures critique* 13.2 (2005): 441-471.
- Chen, Kedi, and Jialu Yang. "A good one or a bad one: A comparison of US and Chinese reviews of the film: *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*." (2012).
- Crittenden, Jasmine. "Culture clash: East meets West in 'Crouching tiger, hidden dragon'." *Screen Education* 80 (2016): 104-110.
- Eperjesi, John R. "Crouching tiger, hidden dragon: Kung fu diplomacy and the dream of cultural China." *Asian Studies Review* 28.1 (2004): 25-39.
- Huaiting, W. U. *Globalizing Chinese Martial Arts Cinema A Case Study of Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*. Diss. The Chinese University of Hong Kong, 2002.
- Smith, Bonne. "Crouching tiger, hidden dragon." (2008).
- Stewart, Jane Alexander. "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon." (2002): 57-66.

Illustrations



Fig.1 Opening scene of Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon



Fig. 2 Outside Yu Shu Lien's House



Fig. 3 The Inner Courtyard of Yu Shu Lien's House



Fig. 4 The Inner Courtyard of Yu Shu Lien's House



Fig. 5 Li Mu Bai and Yu Shu Lien meet in the Inner Courtyard of Yu Shu Lien's House



Fig. 6 The fights between Yu Shu Lien and Jen Yu in the Inner Courtyard of Yu Shu Lien's House



Fig. 7 The fights between Yu Shu Lien and Jen Yu in the Inner Courtyard of Yu Shu Lien's House



Fig. 8 Jen Yu walking up the stairs in the inn



Fig. 9 Local gangsters walking up the stairs inside the inn



Fig. 10 A local gangster got throw out the second floor of the inn by Jen Yu



Fig. 11 Jen Yu flying over the staircase during the fight



Fig. 12 Jen Yu moving up and down inside the inn during the fight.



Fig. 13 Jen Yu jump back to the second floor during the fight



Fig. 14 The temple on the cliff in the end of the film



Fig. 15 Jen Yu look outward from the temple on the cliff



Fig. 16 Jen Yu jump off from the temple of the cliff as the last scene