

= Rob @-@ B @-@ Hood =

Rob @-@ B @-@ Hood ( traditional Chinese : 雙星報喜 ; simplified Chinese : 双星报喜 , also known as Robin @-@ B @-@ Hood ) is a 2006 Hong Kong action comedy film written , produced and directed by Benny Chan , and starring Jackie Chan , Louis Koo , Yuen Biao and Michael Hui . The film was produced with a budget of HK \$ 130 million ( US \$ 16 @.@ 8 million ) and filmed between December 2005 and January 2006 . Rob @-@ B @-@ Hood is the first film in over 30 years in which Jackie Chan plays an anti @-@ hero .

Rob @-@ B @-@ Hood tells the story of a kidnapping gone wrong in Hong Kong ; a trio of burglars consisting of Thongs ( Chan ) , Octopus ( Koo ) and the Landlord ( Hui ) kidnap a baby from a wealthy family on behalf of triads . With the Landlord arrested , Thongs and Octopus take care of the baby for a short time , developing strong bonds with him . Reluctant to hand the baby over , the two are forced to protect him from the triads who hired them in the first place .

Rob @-@ B @-@ Hood was released in Hong Kong , China and Southeast Asia on 29 September 2006 based in Hong Kong to generally positive reviews . The film topped the Chinese box office in October 2006 and despite not being given a release in most European and North American countries , it grossed over US \$ 20 million worldwide .

= = Plot = =

The film begins showing Thongs and Octopus evading security guards in a hospital , having stolen money and cancer medication from the safe . Meanwhile , a newborn baby to the wealthy Lee family is snatched by Max , the mother 's ex @-@ boyfriend , prompting the security guards give chase , ignoring the burglars , and corner Max on an escalator . Following a violent struggle , Max and the baby fall over the side ? the baby is caught by Thongs , while Max plummets to his death . While the guards are distracted , Thongs and Octopus leave in the Landlord 's minivan .

A few months later , the Landlord finds his flat burgled , his life savings gone . He receives a phone call from his middleman Uncle Seven , offering him a job to kidnap baby Lee on behalf of a triad boss , who claims the baby is his grandson . Enticed by the HK \$ 7 million reward , Thongs and Octopus accept the job without knowing its objectives , finding out only after the Landlord has fled the Lees ' mansion with the baby . Disgusted by the idea of kidnapping a baby , Thongs threatens to return him , but relents after the Landlord tells him of his predicament . En route to their rendezvous point in Sai Kung , the trio encounter a police road block which the Landlord attempts to outrun , only to crash his van down a hill . As the police close in on them , the stuck Landlord instructs Thongs and Octopus to leave with the baby . While in custody for reckless driving , the Landlord learns of the baby 's value through the news . He phones Thongs , instructing him not to hand the baby over to anyone prior to his release so he can jack up the price . Over the next few days , Thongs and Octopus take care of the baby , developing a strong bond with him . The two begin to regret their vices : Thongs resists the urge to gamble , while Octopus feels sorry for cheating on his wife . Meanwhile , both the triads and the police are after the baby . The triad boss , enraged by the non @-@ delivery of his " grandson " , sends his men to retrieve the baby from Thongs ' flat . Confronted by both the triads and Police Inspector Mok , Thongs and Octopus go into hiding with the baby .

Shortly after his release , the Landlord is brought to the triad boss , who increases his offer to HK \$ 30 million for the baby . He finds Thongs and Octopus at the hospital , where the baby is being treated for fever . The Landlord informs the two of the triads ' latest offer , but Thongs and Octopus are more concerned about the baby 's welfare than the cash . However , the two agree to bring the baby to the triad boss ' mansion , where the Landlord will meet them with the rest of the money . They reach the triad boss ' mansion and hand over the baby reluctantly . As the trio are about to leave , they hear the baby crying for them as a blood sample is taken from his arm . Thongs and Octopus experience a flashback of the days they spent with the baby . Overcome by their feelings , they fight their way into the triad boss ' private amusement park to recover the baby while the Landlord leaves with the money . Thongs almost manages to escape with the baby , but is forced to

surrender when the triads threaten to hurl Octopus to his death .

Thongs and Octopus are taken to the triad boss , who insists the baby is his grandson , only to be proven wrong by the blood test . Driven mad , the boss places the baby in a deep freeze room next to Max 's corpse so the baby can be with his son , prompting Thongs and Octopus to fight for the baby . The two end up trapped in the room with two minions , but are saved when Inspector Mok arrives with the Landlord , who swiftly cracks the lock to the room . Thongs and Octopus run to the garage with the comatose baby , where Thongs attempts to revive him with a makeshift defibrillator powered by a car battery from a Pagani Zonda . Despite his efforts , the baby does not come to and is driven off in an ambulance , where his heart is found to be beating weakly . Imprisoned for kidnapping , Thongs , Octopus and the Landlord volunteer for a mock capital punishment demonstration during an open day , using the opportunity to apologise to their loved ones . After the demonstration , Inspector Mok informs the three that their sentences have been further reduced by the Department of Justice . Thongs , Octopus , and the Landlord then see the baby alive and well with his parents . As a token of appreciation for saving the baby 's life , Thongs , Octopus and the Landlord are offered jobs by the Lee family as a bodyguard , chauffeur and head of security respectively .

= = Cast = =

Jackie Chan ( ?? ) as Thongs ( ??? ) : A professional burglar who has stolen a variety of expensive goods . A compulsive gambler , he has fallen out with his family over his lifestyle , resulting in his father having a stroke . Despite his vices , Thongs maintains a sense of ethics , making him reluctant to kidnap the baby . The name " Thongs " refers to his flip @-@ flop footwear .

Louis Koo ( ??? ) as Octopus ( ??? ) : A fellow burglar working with Thongs . He uses the money he steals to buy expensive cars and to court a rich girl . He neglects his pregnant wife ( played by Charlene Choi ( ??? ) , forcing her into a series of dead end jobs to make ends meet .

Michael Hui ( ??? ) as The Landlord ( ??? ) : The mentor of Thongs and Octopus for over 20 years . Unlike his trainees , the Landlord does not spend his share of the loot , instead stashing it in a safe in his home .

Matthew Medvedev as Matthew the Baby : The infant son of the wealthy Lee family , kidnapped by Thongs , Octopus and the Landlord on behalf of a triad boss .

Yuen Biao ( ?? ) as Inspector Steve Mok ( ??? ) : The policeman in charge of the case involving the baby 's disappearance .

Teresa Carpio as The Landlady ( ??? ) : The Landlord 's wife . Driven mad by the death of her only son many years earlier , the Landlady carries a doll of a baby boy with her at all times .

Gao Yuanyuan ( ??? ) as Melody : A student nurse from the Peking University , who works as a part @-@ time childcare consultant , teaching Thongs and Octopus how to take care of the baby , and later becomes Thong 's love interest .

Terence Yin ( ??? ) as Max : The former boyfriend of the baby 's mother who claims the baby as his . He dies from a fall following a struggle for the baby in a hospital soon after it is born .

Chen Baoguo ( ??? ) as The Triad boss : Having lost his only son Max , the triad boss will stop at nothing to capture the baby .

Ken Lo ( ??? ) and Hayama Go ( ??? ) as Balde and Tokyo Joe : Two high @-@ ranking minions of the triad gang .

Daniel Wu as agen Daniel ( cameo appearance )

Nicholas Tse as agen Nicholas ( cameo appearance )

= = Jackie Chan stunt team = =

Chan Man @-@ ching

Nicky Li

Ken Lo

Wu Gang

He Jun  
Park Hyun Jin  
Lee In Seob  
Han Kwan Hua

= = Production = =

Rob @-@ B @-@ Hood was a joint production from JCE Movies Limited , a company set up by Jackie Chan in 2003 , and Huayi Brothers Film & Taihe Investment Company , distributors of films such as Warriors of Heaven and Earth , The Banquet and Kekexili : Mountain Patrol . Chan has starred in over 50 action films , and has intimated in recent years that he has grown tired of being typecast as the " nice guy " . The film is notable as the first in over 30 years , in which he plays a negative character ? a criminal and compulsive gambler .

= = = Writing = = =

Jackie Chan contacted Benny Chan shortly after the release of New Police Story to discuss plans for a new action film . Chan stated that he did not want to play the typical nice guy role that has been the staple of his previous films . Eventually , Benny Chan and scriptwriter Alan Yuen came up with a daring idea : Chan will play Thongs , a petty criminal who has fallen out with his family over his gambling habit . Benny Chan had originally intended for Jackie to play a full @-@ fledged villain , who " hits women and burns people with cigarettes " . However , the script was toned down to appease the Chinese censors , who found the character to be too evil . Nevertheless , for only the third time in his acting career , Chan plays a character who is sentenced to prison .

Chan co @-@ wrote the film and designed the action sequences , whilst director Benny Chan wrote the film 's dramatic elements , completing the script by October 2005 . Two additional protagonists were designed as Thongs ' partners in crime , with the intention of increasing the comedic value of the film through their interactions . The film 's Chinese title is Bo Bui Gai Wak ( Cantonese : ???? , literally Project BB , with " BB " being a homophone for " Baby " ) , a reference to Chan 's award winning 1983 film Project A ( Cantonese : A Gai Wak , A?? ) .

= = = Casting = = =

The cast of Rob @-@ B @-@ Hood includes actors ranging from newcomer Gao Yuanyuan to veteran actor Chen Baoguo . Daniel Wu and Nicholas Tse , stars of New Police Story , make cameo appearances as homosexual security van drivers during a car chase in the film .

Octopus , Thong 's partner in crime , is played by Louis Koo , an award winning actor with past appearances including the TVB drama series Detective Investigation Files IV and the films Election and Election 2 . Although Koo co @-@ starred with Jackie Chan , a number of action scenes involving his character were shot with a stunt double . In addition , Koo was the baby 's favourite on set ? Whenever the baby cried , Koo was always the first to cheer him up .

The Landlord , the leader of Thongs and Octopus , is played by Michael Hui , a Hong Kong Film Award @-@ winning comedic actor who starred in various box office hits from 1970s to 1990s before emigrating to Canada shortly before the handover of Hong Kong . Hui was chosen for the part because he is the ideal actor to play a character who persuades others to do bad things . The producers had originally intended Hui to fight along with Chan and Koo , however , it was eventually decided that Hui would simply act as the brains of the gang .

Rob @-@ B @-@ Hood features a collaboration between Jackie Chan and Yuen Biao . The pair , along with Sammo Hung , were Peking Opera School classmates and co @-@ starred in a number of action comedy films in the 1980s , including Project A , Wheels on Meals , and the Lucky Stars trilogy . Chan had originally intended to co @-@ star with both Yuen and Hung , reuniting the trio for the first time since 1988 film Dragons Forever . However , Hung declined due to a scheduling conflicts . Yuen Biao plays the role of Police Inspector Steve Mok , assigned to investigate the baby

's disappearance . Some of Yuen 's past antics were revisited in Rob @-@ B @-@ Hood , including a fight in which he tried in vain to handcuff Chan 's character .

Over 100 auditions were held before the suitable baby was found to star in the film . Benny Chan chose Matthew Medvedev , a one @-@ year @-@ old infant of Chinese and Colombian descent . Medvedev , known as Baby Matthew , was literally recruited off the street when an assistant director spotted him with his parents on the MTR . Although his family was simply visiting Hong Kong , they agreed to stay and let Matthew appear in Rob @-@ B @-@ Hood .

= = = Filming = = =

Rob @-@ B @-@ Hood is the third Jackie Chan film directed by Benny Chan , following Who Am I ? and New Police Story . Filming took place in Hong Kong between December 2005 and April 2006 with a budget of HK \$ 16 @. @ 8 million . Filming locations included Central , Sai Kung , Sha Tin , Hong Kong Ocean Park , Cyberport , Tai Po Waterfront Park and Victoria Prison .

Benny Chan described the filming process as some of the darkest days of his career , explaining that the baby was a factor beyond his control , and could not work more than eight hours a day . Whenever a scene involving the baby was shot , the crew members had to be silent , communicating in sign language . Benny Chan stated it took time , patience , and money to guide the baby through each shot , and numerous retakes were required due to the baby 's constant crying and napping . As a result , production went over budget . Special methods were sometimes used to coax the baby into co @-@ operation . One scene required the baby to suckle Chan 's nipple . The baby was initially hesitant , but relented after the crew brushed a large amount of honey onto the nipple .

Jackie Chan was the stunt director of Rob @-@ B @-@ Hood , having choreographed all the stunts with the Jackie Chan Stunt Team . He continued his tradition of performing his own stunts in the film , for example , jumping between several air @-@ conditioners on the outer wall of a tall building to reach the ground . Several scenes required Chan to co @-@ ordinate his stunts with the baby , including a car chase around the Sha Tin industrial area , in which he managed to snatch the baby away seconds before a car crashed into him ; and a scene in Ocean Park in which he climbed on the underside of a roller coaster with the baby in hand . Chan suffered minor injuries attempting stunts in the film , having been kicked in the chest by a stuntman wearing the wrong boots and fallen off a quad bike , while attempting to perform a wheelie . Chan 's combat choreography included the use of improvised weapons in combat ; when he fought a pair of skilled henchmen in a deep freeze room , he defeated them by spraying them with milk and then using a large fan to blast them with cold air .

= = Releases = =

Rob @-@ B @-@ Hood had its world premiere at the Venice Film Festival on 8 September 2006 . After the film 's premiere at the Venice Film Festival , several scenes highlighting the personal relationships between characters were deleted from Rob @-@ B @-@ Hood prior to its release to the general public . Benny Chan explains that including too many dramatic scenes may distract the audience from the plot . The uncut version of Rob @-@ B @-@ Hood is included in the DVD release as the " Extended Version " feature .

The cut version of the film was released simultaneously in Hong Kong , China , Singapore , Malaysia and other Southeast Asian countries on 29 September . Afterwards , Rob @-@ B @-@ Hood was released in Japan on 7 April 2007 . Greece remains the only European country in which Rob @-@ B @-@ Hood was released , on 13 February 2007 . The film is rated IIA in Hong Kong ( unsuitable for children ) , G in Singapore and U in Malaysia .

The Japanese title of Rob @-@ B @-@ Hood is ??????BB ( Purojekuto BB ) , literally Project BB , the name initially proposed for the film . In Greece , the film is known as ?????????? ?????????? ( transliteration : Asulliptoi Apateones ) , meaning Inconceivable Frauds . In the United States , the film is known as Robin @-@ B @-@ Hood .

== DVD ==

The first pressing of the DVD was released in Hong Kong in November 2006 on Region 0 . This has since been discontinued and the subsequent standard and limited edition releases were on Region 3 . All Hong Kong versions contain two discs : a movie disc and an extras disc . The movie disc features both the cinematic and uncut versions of the film , along with a commentary track by Benny Chan . The extras disc contains a " behind @-@ the @-@ scenes " video , the post @-@ production press conference , a collection of deleted scenes and the music video of the theme song .

The limited edition DVD is housed in a box @-@ file style box and contains various pieces of merchandise including branded sandals and door signs . An even more limited release of 5000 units was briefly available , and handed out at various film festivals . This edition contained a crystal dummy , an imitation bank note and a branded 2007 calendar in addition to the merchandise in the other limited edition release .

The DVD was later released in other East Asian countries , including China ( Region 6 ) , Japan ( Region 2 ) , South Korea , Thailand and Malaysia ( Region 3 ) . On 26 December 2007 , the DVD was released in the US ( Region 1 ) by Dragon Dynasty in a " two @-@ disc ultimate edition " , which contains much of the same extras as the Hong Kong releases , including the commentary by Benny Chan , though with US trailers replacing the domestic ones . However , the runtime for this release is 126 : 28 , which is somewhere between the theatrical cut ( 121 : 46 ) and the director 's cut ( 135 : 11 ) on the Hong Kong releases .

On 24 May 2010 , DVD was released by Cine Asia in a two @-@ disc ultimate edition at the United Kingdom in Region 2 .

== Reception ==

Rob @-@ B @-@ Hood was generally well received by critics . Jay Weissberg of Variety described the film as " a mildly fun ride that banked on Jackie 's tried @-@ and @-@ true comic charm in a standard baby kidnapping farce enlivened by just enough action sequences to keep hoary diaper scenes from soiling the playpen " . Credit was given to the stunt choreography and the acting partnership of Jackie Chan and Louis Koo , although some reviewers were disappointed about the absence of Sammo Hung .

The plot of Rob @-@ B @-@ Hood received mixed reviews : The Chinese newspaper Xiao Xiang Chen Bao found it concise , hilarious and touching , whereas Jay Weissberg criticised it for being unoriginal . In addition , Felix Cheong of Channel NewsAsia found the subplots involving the antagonists ' families redundant , detracting from the main story and making the film " tediously long " . However , Chan was praised for his decision to play a darker character in Rob @-@ B @-@ Hood . Andrew Sun of South China Morning Post stated that " one of the best things Chan can do for his flagging movie career is to play a heavy ? a nasty , scum @-@ of @-@ the @-@ earth antagonist , since you do not always have to play a hero to be a hero . " Sun emphasised the need for Chan to show flexibility in his roles , citing a number of actors that have thrived by playing the occasional villain .

== Box office ==

Rob @-@ B @-@ Hood grossed HK \$ 1 @. @ 2 million the day it was released in Hong Kong . In China , the film topped the box office during the four @-@ day National Day holiday weekend , grossing ¥ 8 @. @ 9 million . It went on to top the Chinese box office in October with box office figures exceeding ¥ 90 million . Rob @-@ B @-@ Hood performed well in Southeast Asia , grossing US \$ 404 @, @ 000 in Singapore , US \$ 400 @, @ 000 in Malaysia and US \$ 604 @, @ 000 in Thailand during its first four days . In total , Rob @-@ B @-@ Hood had a worldwide gross of US \$ 20 @, @ 434 @, @ 179 despite not being released in North America and most of Europe .

