

= Ip Man (film) =

Ip Man is a 2008 Hong Kong martial arts film based on the life of Yip Man , a grandmaster of the martial art Wing Chun and teacher of Bruce Lee . The film focuses on events in Ip 's life that supposedly took place in the city of Foshan during the Sino @-@ Japanese War . The film was directed by Wilson Yip , and stars Donnie Yen as Ip Man , with martial arts choreography by Sammo Hung . The supporting cast includes Simon Yam , Lynn Hung , Lam Ka @-@ tung , Xing Yu and Hiroyuki Ikeuchi .

The idea of an Ip Man biopic originated in 1998 when Jeffrey Lau and Corey Yuen discussed the idea of making a film based on Bruce Lee 's martial arts teacher . However , the studio producing that proposed film closed , and the project was abandoned . Producer Raymond Wong decided to develop his own Ip Man film with full consent from Ip 's sons , and had filmmakers head to Foshan to research Ip 's life . Ip Chun , Ip Man 's eldest son , along with martial arts master Leo Au @-@ yeung and several other Wing Chun practitioners served as technical consultants for the film . Principal photography for Ip Man began in March 2008 and ended in August ; filming took place in Shanghai , which was used to architecturally recreate Foshan . During filming , conflicts arose between the producers of Ip Man and filmmaker Wong Kar @-@ wai over the film 's working title . Wong , who had been developing his own Ip Man biopic , clashed with the producers after learning that their film would be titled Grandmaster Ip Man (Chinese : ??????) , which was too similar to the title of the other film . The producers of Ip Man agreed to change the film title , despite Wong 's film being in development hell . Kar @-@ wai 's film , titled The Grandmaster , was released on 10 January 2013 .

Ip Man is the first film in the Ip Man film series . It premiered in Beijing on 10 December 2008 , and was released theatrically in Hong Kong on 19 December 2008 , receiving widespread acclaim from critics and audiences . Before the film 's release , Raymond Wong announced that there would be a sequel ; a second installment titled Ip Man 2 , was released in April 2010 , and a third installment titled Ip Man 3 was released in 2015 . Ip Man grossed over US \$ 21 million worldwide , despite not being released in North America and most of Europe . Following its success , the film was nominated for 12 Hong Kong Film Awards , winning awards for Best Film and Best Action Choreography .

= = Plot = =

In the 1930s , Foshan is a hub of Southern Chinese martial arts , where various schools actively recruit disciples and compete against each other . Although the Wing Chun master Ip Man is the most skilled martial artist in Foshan , he is unassuming and keeps a low profile . As an independent wealthy man , he feels no need to accept any disciples and instead spends his days training , meeting with friends , and spending time with his family . However , his wife is often resentful of the time he spends training and discussing martial arts with friends and colleagues . Though not a professional martial artist , Ip is respected in Foshan due to the abilities he displays in friendly , closed @-@ door competitions with local masters . Ip 's reputation is further enhanced when he defeats an aggressive , rude , highly skilled Northern Chinese martial arts master , Jin Shanzhao , thus upholding the regional pride of fellow Southern stylists and others in Foshan .

The Japanese invasion in 1937 adversely affects the life of everyone in Foshan . Ip 's house is claimed by the Japanese and used as their Foshan headquarters . Ip and his family lose their wealth and are forced to move into a decrepit house . Desperate to support his family , Ip accepts work at a coal mine . The Japanese General Miura , who is a Karate master , establishes an arena where Chinese martial artists compete with his military trainees . The Chinese earn a bag of rice for every match they win . Li Zhao , a former police officer and Ip 's acquaintance , is now working as a translator for the Japanese and is making the offer to the martial artists working at the coal mine . Ip at first declines to participate in the matches . However , when his friend Lin goes missing , he agrees to take part in order to investigate . Ip arrives to see Lin executed by Miura 's lieutenant , Sato , for picking up a bag of rice from a prior victory after conceding in a second match against

three karateka . He also comes to understand that Lin was killed in an earlier fight . Barely able to contain his rage , Ip demands a match with ten karateka at once . Despite having not practiced Wing Chun since the invasion began (in order to conserve what little food his family had to survive) , he proceeds to mercilessly crush each of them with a brutal barrage of his martial art mastery , showing none of the restraint he exhibited in previous engagements . His skill arouses the interest of Miura , who seeks to learn more about Ip and see him fight again .

When Ip does not return to the arena , Miura grows impatient and sends Sato along with several soldiers to find him . The lieutenant then gestures at Ip 's wife , prompting Ip to incapacitate them . Ip later visits his friend Chow Ching @-@ chuen , who owns and runs a cotton mill in Foshan . Chow tells Ip that a bandit gang led by Jin Shanzhao is harassing his workers and trying to extort money from them . Ip trains the workers in Wing Chun for self @-@ defense . When the bandits return to the cotton mill , the workers fight back using the techniques that Ip taught them . Ip himself arrives midway through the battle to take care of things personally and defeats Jin Shanzhao , warning him never to harass the workers again .

The Japanese soldiers eventually find Ip at the cotton mill . Miura tells Ip that his life will be spared if he agrees to instruct the Japanese soldiers in martial arts . Ip refuses and challenges Miura to a match , which Miura accepts , both because of his love for martial arts and because refusing the challenge would be a humiliation to the Japanese . The match between Ip and Miura is held in public in Foshan 's square . At first , the two fighters seem equally matched , but Miura soon finds himself unable to penetrate Ip 's impeccable defense and becomes overwhelmed by his relentless and direct blows . He is helpless to defend himself as Ip effortlessly uses him as a wooden dummy , inflicting a severe beating on him and clearly winning .

As the beaten general lies down after his defeat , Ip looks over to the cheering Chinese crowd and spots his wife and child with Chow . Enraged , Sato shoots at Ip , sparking a scuffle between the Chinese audience and the Japanese soldiers . During the scuffle , Li Zhao kills Sato with Sato 's own gun . Ip is taken away amidst the chaos . The epilogue reveals that he survives and escapes to Hong Kong with his family with the help of Chow Ching @-@ chuen . There , Ip establishes a Wing Chun school , where his students come to learn martial arts from him , including Bruce Lee .

= = Cast = =

Donnie Yen as Ip Man (simplified Chinese : 叶问 ; traditional Chinese : 葉問 ; pinyin : Yè Wèn) , a sole practitioner of the martial art Wing Chun .

Lynn Hung as Cheung Wing @-@ sing (simplified Chinese : 鍾春英 ; traditional Chinese : 鍾春英 ; pinyin : Zhōng Yīng) , Ip Man 's wife .

Hiroyuki Ikeuchi as Miura (Chinese : 三浦 ; pinyin : Sānpǔ) , a Japanese general and a Karate expert .

Gordon Lam as Li Chiu (simplified Chinese : 李超 ; traditional Chinese : 李超 ; pinyin : Lǐ Zhào) , a police inspector and Ip Man 's acquaintance .

Fan Siu @-@ wong as Kam Shan @-@ chu (Chinese : 甘山 ; pinyin : Gān Shān) , an aggressive northern martial artist who comes to Foshan to challenge other masters .

Simon Yam as Chow Ching @-@ chuen (Chinese : 周振權 ; pinyin : Zhōu Zhènquán) , a businessman and Ip Man 's close friend .

Xing Yu as Master Lam (Chinese : 林 ; pinyin : Lín) , the first son of a restaurant owner in Foshan , he is a martial artist and Ip Man 's friend .

Wong You @-@ nam as Yuan , the second son of a restaurant owner in Foshan who causes a lot of trouble .

Calvin Cheng as Chow Kong @-@ yiu , the son of the cotton mill owner , who is interested in learning kung fu .

Chen Zhihui as Master Liu (simplified Chinese : 廖 ; traditional Chinese : 廖 ; pinyin : Liào) , a martial arts master .

= = Production = =

The idea of an Ip Man biopic originated in 1998 when Jeffrey Lau and Corey Yuen discussed the idea of making a film based on Bruce Lee 's martial arts master . However , Paragon Films Ltd , the studio producing the proposed film , closed and the project was abandoned . Producer Raymond Wong decided to develop his own Ip Man film with full consent from Ip 's sons , and had filmmakers head to Foshan to research Ip 's life . Ip Chun , Ip Man 's eldest son , along with martial arts master Leo Au @-@ yeung and several other Wing Chun practitioners served as technical consultants for the film . Principal photography for Ip Man began in March 2008 and ended in August ; filming took place in Shanghai , which was used to architecturally recreate Foshan . During filming , conflicts arose between the producers of Ip Man and filmmaker Wong Kar @-@ wai over the film 's working title . Wong , who had been developing his own Ip Man biopic , clashed with the producers after learning that their film would be titled Grandmaster Ip Man (Chinese : ??????) , which was too similar to the title of Wong 's film .

Ip Man is the first film based on the life of Ip Man . It also marks the fourth film collaboration between director Wilson Yip and actor Donnie Yen . The two also reunite with co @-@ star Simon Yam after 2005 's SPL : Sha Po Lang . The screenplay for Ip Man was written by Edmond Wong , the son of film producer Raymond Wong . Wong was the screenwriter of Yip and Yen 's second collaboration , 2006 's Dragon Tiger Gate . Ip Man 's eldest son , Ip Chun , his student Leo Au @-@ yeung , and Changquan gold medalist To Yu @-@ hang served as technical consultants for the film , providing advice on the film 's story and martial arts choreography . The music for the film was provided by veteran Japanese composer Kenji Kawai , who also served as a composer on the 2006 film , Dragon Tiger Gate which featured Wilson Yip and Donnie Yen as director and actor respectively .

= = = Pre @-@ production = = =

The film was originally conceived in 1998 when Jeffrey Lau and Corey Yuen first thought of the idea of making a film based on Ip Man 's life . Donnie Yen signed onto the project , hoping to star as Ip , with Stephen Chow co @-@ starring as Bruce Lee . Yen had signed the contract and received part of the acting fee . However , the studio producing the film closed , and the project was abandoned .

In December 2007 , plans to make a new Ip Man film were announced with the filmmakers researching Ip 's life in Foshan . Producer Raymond Wong stated that the film would take on a similar look and feel to SPL : Sha Po Lang . On 26 February 2008 , a press conference for the film was held in Foshan , where it was announced that Wilson Yip would be directing the film , while Yen would appear in the leading role as Ip . Lynn Hung , Lam Ka @-@ tung , Simon Yam were announced to be appearing in supporting roles , while Sammo Hung would serve as the film 's martial arts choreographer . Casting director Zhang Yan Bin spent three months casting actors in various roles for the film . He had completed casting during principal photography in March 2008 .

= = = Filming = = =

Principal photography for Ip Man began in March 2008 , and was completed by the end of August . A majority of the film focuses on events surrounding Ip Man that took place in Foshan in the 1930s and 1940s during the Sino @-@ Japanese War . Since the buildings in modern @-@ day Foshan are architecturally different from the ones of the film 's period , the filmmakers decided to shoot the film in Shanghai .

Filming first took place in a storeroom in the industrial district of Shanghai . Having difficulties scouting a cotton factory suitable for shooting , set designers decided to recreate one in the style of the 1930s . They spent weeks transforming an abandoned storeroom into the Zhen Hua Cotton Mill Factory , a 1930s cotton mill factory founded by Ip 's friend Chow Ching @-@ chuen (played in the film by Simon Yam) during the Sino @-@ Japanese War . It was where Ip Man first taught Wing Chun openly to the public .

Production designer Kenneth Mak included Western elements in his design , since Foshan , in

earlier years , was a unique place where Chinese and Western cultures converged . Pillars were made to resemble English lampposts , and Western lighting , chairs and tableware were also used . To convey the culture and feel of the time , the buildings were made to look obsolete and worn out . Apart from historical references , Mak also created a glass house which was used in a scene in the film .

= = = Stunts and choreography = = =

The martial arts choreography was designed by Sammo Hung and veteran fight and stunt coordinator Tony Leung Siu @-@ hung . Hung had previously collaborated with Wilson Yip and Donnie Yen as an actor in the 2005 film SPL : Sha Po Lang . He was hired as the choreographer mainly because of his experience on the 1978 film Warriors Two and 1982 's The Prodigal Son , both of which involved Wing Chun . When asked how he would work with Yen to direct the action scenes , Hung replied matter @-@ of @-@ factly , " With my mouth . "

Yen described the role as the most emotionally and mentally difficult in his career . He spent months preparing for the role by going on a strict diet which consisted of eating one meal a day , training in Wing Chun , and learning more about Ip Man through his two sons . This was all in the hopes of portraying an erudite and cultured Ip Man , as well as bringing out the special traits of Wing Chun . Yen even went as far as to stay in character after filming , wearing his costume and changing his voice and movement patterns . While rehearsing a fight scene , Yen was reportedly injured when an axe wielder accidentally slashed the side of his left eye . Yen also had a masseur on set as he could not raise his right shoulder due to an injury .

Japanese actor Hiroyuki Ikeuchi , who holds a black belt in Judo , found it " difficult " working under Hung 's command . In one scene , he suffered a mild concussion after receiving four consecutive blows . Hung later praised Yen and Ikeuchi 's performances in the film , even though Ikeuchi was not trained in Chinese martial arts and was not given a lot of complex moves .

= = Film title controversy = =

Ip Man 's original title was controversial . It was disputed when film director Wong Kar @-@ wai announced plans to make his own Ip Man film with Tony Leung Chiu @-@ wai while filming 2046 . Wong had planned his own Ip Man biopic titled The Great Master (????) , with Leung playing the role of Ip . Wong 's film , however , had been in development hell , having been announced several years earlier . Producer Raymond Wong wanted to name his film Grandmaster Yip Man , which bore a resemblance to the title Wong Kar @-@ wai wanted to use for his film .

To settle the dispute , Raymond Wong publicly retracted the film title , stating " Actually , all along , we have called our film Ip Man , but our mainland investors said that Yip Man was a great master of his times , so we changed our title to Grandmaster Yip Man out of respect for him . " In a more recent interview , Raymond Wong revealed that The Great Master is currently in development . Wong Kar @-@ wai 's Ip Man film , titled The Grandmaster , was released on 8 January 2013 in China .

= = Release = =

Ip Man premiered in Beijing , China on 10 December 2008 , only two days prior to its release in China . The film was later released in Malaysia , Singapore and New Zealand on 18 December 2008 , one day prior to its release date in Hong Kong . The film was released in the United Kingdom on 2 October 2009 . In 2010 , Mandarin Films sold North American distribution rights for the film to distributor Well Go USA .

= = = Reception = = =

Prior to its theatrical release in China , Ip Man held a test screening in Beijing on 4 December 2008

. The film was highly praised , based on survey sheets returned by the audience . Donnie Yen 's portrayal of Ip Man was repeatedly hailed as the year 's best performance . High praise was also given to the film 's co -@ stars , Fan Siu @-@ wong , Lam Ka @-@ tung , and Lynn Hung . Ip Man also received positive reactions from film critics . Salon 's Andrew O 'Hehir deemed Ip Man a " well @-@ paced and satisfying piece of Chinese @-@ nationalist pulp , " referring to the film 's heavy anti @-@ Japanese sentiment .

Derek Elley of Variety Magazine wrote in his review , " Yen , who 's taking on real star charisma in middle age , is aces as Ip , with a simple dignity that exactly mirrors the movie 's own and a gracefulness in combat that 's very different from his trademark whiplash style . " Malaysian film critic Lim Chang Moh of The Malay Mail awarded the film three stars out of four , writing that the film was " nicely balanced with great martial arts action and an engaging narrative . " Lim later placed the film at number six in his list of " Top Ten Movies of 2008 . " Jen Ogilvie of Fortean Times wrote , " what carries Ip Man is its dramatic charge : it is the story 's entanglement in the real horrors of Japanese occupation that pulls the viewer in and builds tension into the fight scenes . "

= = = Fact and fiction = = =

The film was never meant to be a true biographical film to Ip Man 's life , but to broadly touch on the elements from his life . Most of the central turns of the plot are there only for the purpose of making a movie more exciting , including the scenes depicting duels between Ip Man and the Japanese , including Consul General Miura Yoshiaki (????) , as well as Ip Man encountering hardship during the Second Sino @-@ Japanese War .

Ip Man 's eldest son , Ip Chun , would have preferred the film to be shot on location in Foshan and noted the mansion being more grand than the original .

= = = Box office = = =

Ip Man grossed ¥ 14 @, @ 948 @, @ 157 (US \$ 2 @, @ 188 @, @ 982) on its opening weekend in China . The film 's revenues increased largely by 86 @. @ 1 % , grossing ¥ 27 @, @ 812 @, @ 224 (US \$ 4 @, @ 073 @, @ 201) to retain second place at the box office . The film experienced a small decrease in revenue in its third weekend , dropping 10 @. @ 5 % to ¥ 24 @, @ 889 @, @ 189 (\$ 3 @, @ 645 @, @ 112) , though remaining in second place . Ip Man continued to decrease in revenue , grossing ¥ 19 @, @ 956 @, @ 454 (US \$ 2 @, @ 922 @, @ 695) in its fourth week while staying in second place . After six weeks of theatrical release , Ip Man grossed a total of ¥ 93 @, @ 740 @, @ 529 (US \$ 13 @, @ 728 @, @ 640) . The film currently remains as China 's 13th highest grossing film of 2008 .

During its opening weekend in Hong Kong , Ip Man came in first place at the box office , grossing HK \$ 4 @. @ 5 million (US \$ 579 @, @ 715) . In its second week , Ip Man moved to second place , while grossing HK \$ 6 @, @ 156 @, @ 765 (US \$ 789 @, @ 303) with a 36 @. @ 2 % increase in revenue . The film continued to decrease in revenue in its third week , grossing HK \$ 3 @, @ 494 @, @ 366 (\$ 447 @, @ 981) , while staying in second place at the box office . Ip Man moved to third place in its fourth week , grossing HK \$ 2 @, @ 075 @, @ 250 (\$ 266 @, @ 055) . After seven weeks of theatrical release in Hong Kong , Ip Man had grossed HK \$ 25 @, @ 581 @, @ 958 @. @ 69 (US \$ 3 @, @ 300 @, @ 847) domestically . The film ranks as the 8th highest @-@ grossing film of 2008 . In total , the film had grossed \$ 21 @, @ 888 @, @ 598 worldwide , despite not being released in North America and most of Europe .

= = = Home media = = =

Ip Man was released on DVD and Blu @-@ ray disc formats on 13 February 2009 . Releases include single @-@ disc and two @-@ disc special @-@ edition formats . Features for the special edition include deleted scenes , a making @-@ of featurette , a theatrical trailer , interviews with director Wilson Yip and actor Donnie Yen and featurettes on both Ip Man and Wing Chun martial

arts . Ip Man was released on DVD and Blu @-@ ray in the United States on 27 July 2010 . A 3 @-@ disc Deluxe Collector 's Edition was released in China , but only contains Mandarin @-@ dubbed soundtracks and no English subtitles .

= = Accolades = =

= = Sequels = =

Ip Man is the first film in a planned trilogy . Donnie Yen reprised the lead role in the sequel Ip Man 2 , the second feature film based on the life of Ip Man . The film focuses on Ip 's movements in Hong Kong as he attempts to propagate his discipline of Wing Chun martial arts ; at the end it also briefly introduces a young Bruce Lee prior to becoming one of Ip 's most famed disciples . Ip Man 2 was released theatrically in Hong Kong in late April 2010 . Lynn Hung and Fan Siu @-@ wong reprise their supporting roles , while martial arts choreographer Sammo Hung appears as a master of Hung Ga martial arts .

Yen expressed his lack of interest in making a third film , feeling that , " Ip Man 2 will incontrovertibly become a classic , bettering the first . " Yen later stated that after Ip Man 2 , he would no longer be involved in a film based on Ip 's life . While both Donnie Yen and Raymond Wong were not keen on making a third Ip Man film , director Wilson Yip expressed interest in making one that would focus on the relationship between Ip and Bruce Lee . While Ip Man 2 very briefly shows Lee as a child , Yip hoped to find a suitable actor to portray Lee as an adult for the third installment .

In January 2014 , Variety reported that Ip Man 3 would begin shooting in 2015 with Donnie Yen reprising his role as Ip Man and Wilson Yip returning to direct . The film was initially scheduled for a late 2015 release , but it eventually was released in early 2016 .