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# Risus Martial Arts Cliches

Martial arts movies are replete with some of the most campy cliches known to man. The [Risus](#) game system seems remarkably well-suited for role playing in this genre. This page contains a list of cliches describing some of the more common characters you see in Kung-Fu movies.

Inspiration for these cliches comes from any number of Bruce Lee / Jackie Chan / Chow Yun-Fat / Jet Li flicks as well as a bunch of others like: *The Legend of Fong-Sai-Yuk*, *Iron Monkey*, *Big Trouble in Little China*, and of course the immortal *Kung Pow*. Some inspiration also comes from the *Mortal Combat* and *Tekken* games and the ever-popular *Feng Shui* RPG.

## The Cliches

**Kick-Fu Fighter** - Whirly kicking, across-the-room kicking, upside down helicopter kicking, kicking down doors, kicking through tables, kicking just because you can.

**Acrobat-Fu Fighter** - Jumping around, doing lots of flippy things, having a gift for finding naturally-occurring uneven bars in urban sprawls.

**Gun-Fu Fighter** - Drawing guns out of your belt / sleeves / ankle holster, shooting locks off doors, sliding across tables / floors / rooftops while shooting, sliding underneath someone and giving them the "ejector seat" maneuver.

**Dance-Fu Fighter** - Flipping around your girlfriend / sidekick / one of the bad guys / unsuspecting passer-by really fast so that your dance partner kicks all the bad guys and knocks 'em out.

**Improvised Weapon Master** - Fighting people with chairs / tables / ladders / garbage can lids / fire hoses.

**Blade Whirler** - Drawing blades really quick, flashing blades, spinning blades, maybe even stabbing somebody with one of your blades.

**Ninja** - Wearing black pajamas, moving stealthy-like, pole-vaulting up to a roof, throwing ninja stars, squinting a lot.

**Crazy Driver** - Not being particularly choosy about who actually owns the cars you drive, miraculously finding the keys behind the sun shade, hotwiring a car in record time, flipping a car up sideways so you can drive down a narrow alleyway, finding lots of naturally-occurring inclined planes so you can jump over things, escaping from bad guys at a top-speed chase--in reverse.

**Big Guy** - Being tall, being fat, being broad-shouldered, being "big boned", thumping people.

**Bimbo / Girlfriend** - Looking coy, wearing lots of makeup, wearing provocative outfits, screaming a lot.

**Store Owner** - Looking pitiable / confused / innocent, getting picked on by local thugs, having lots of fruits and vegetables in bins that can be easily kicked over, NOT having a lot of money in the till.

**Gangsta** - Signing, trash talking, wearing the colors, wearing stylin' high-top shoes, callin' on your gantsta buddies.

**Cop** - Putting a siren on top of your unmarked beater car, showing people your badge, yelling "freeze", firing and THEN yelling "freeze".

**Hit Man** - Not talking much, wearing a cheap suit, looking intimidating, stalking targets, telling people to go out in the alley but still not talking much.

**Zen Monk** - Wearing orange robes, being bald, not being perturbed, uttering cryptic sayings that astound your friends and bewilder your enemies.

**Kid** - Being plucky, using campy slang words, having a mom that loves you, stumbling into the bad guys lair, easily getting caught by the bad guys.

**Wino** - Sleeping on park benches, drinking your hooch, being filthy, having an astounding amount of information at ready recall.

**Little Old Man** - Being little, being old, being a man, having a scraggly Fu-Manchu goatee.

**Evil Sensei** - Being gruff, having a crewcut and a big lanternjaw, lumbering around your dojo while teaching your students to say "Strike hard! Strike first! No mercy sir!"

## Martial Arts Hooks

The following are some hooks appropriate to Martial Arts gaming:

- The gangsters are chasing you
- The Yakuza are chasing you
- The Mafia are chasing you
- The cops are chasing you
- The thugs are chasing you
- The kids from the rival dojo are chasing you
- The Emperor's soldiers are chasing you
- The monks from the temple are chasing you
- The gods of lightning and thunder are chasing you (might be worth more than one extra die)
- You're accused of a crime *that you didn't commit!*
- You've got a kid / love interest that needs protecting--a lot
- You can't hit a girl

## Other Stuff

If you're looking for more John Woo-stle Risus action, check out [The Innocents Must Die](#) by Dylan Craig.