

THE HELL'S WIND STAFF

Review by [Chuck Arrington](#) | posted September 14, 2001
Dvdtalk.com

World Video and Supply // Unrated // \$19.95 // July 9, 2001

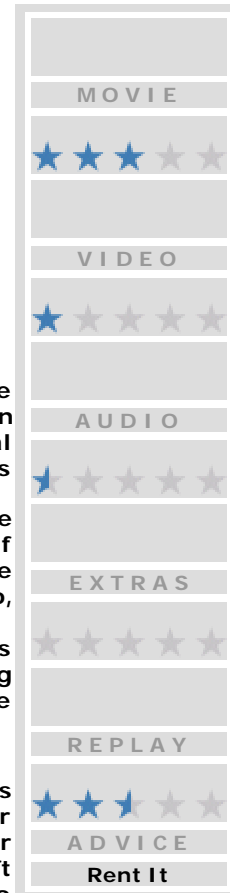
Synopsis:

Two young trouble makers stumble upon a plot to sell their local townspeople into slave labor. While fighting against those who would enslave their neighbors, they accidentally kill one of the architects of the scheme. As a result, revenge is taken on the family of one of the young men as well and in the scuffle the young boy is killed. It seems that the martial artist who killed the young boy and his family is known as "Lu, the Hell's Wind Staff". So named because of his prowess in fighting with this particular style of Kung-Fu. The remaining young men in the village are afraid of Lu yet, they feel he must be defeated. An old master (Dragon) of various styles of Kung-Fu has heard of the situation and offers to teach the boys his particular style of Kung-Fu, "White Dragon Fists". Many years ago, "Dragon" fought Lu and almost defeated him with this technique. Lu however got the best of him and severely injured Dragon. With a rigorous teaching schedule coupled with their innate fighting ability, the boys-young men of the village prepare for a showdown with Lu in an attempt to once and for all defeat his Hell's Wind Staff!

Audio/Video: The audio for the film is presented in a mono platform. As such, all of the aural information is channeled solely through the center speaker. The English-dubbed dialogue is easily understood. The video for the film is of very poor quality. The colors are faded, the image is very soft and there are far too many scratches and fleckings within the images to note. At the start of the feature the normal warning banners are brought up however, they appear to suffer from tracking difficulties usually found on VHS. Once the image is corrected a very poor menu screen is posted which echoes the poorly drawn caricatures from the artwork on the DVD Amaray case.

Extras: The extras identify a trailer for the feature in the disc however, the only trailer available is a very marred and for lack of a better term-"chewed up" trailer for a Jackie Chan movie. The trailer itself is in Chinese with English subs. The English subs are pretty garbled which makes understanding the point of the trailer a bit difficult to discern. No elements of any film are presented rather, Chan performing various forms of martial arts in period costumes.

Overall: Again, this is something of a throwback to the kinds of films I used to watch on "Black Belt Theater" here in Philadelphia as a kid! It's pretty solid fighting sequences are all made a little hoky with the inclusion of a very poorly acted English dubbed language track. The movie is very well choreographed and held my attention throughout. Not everyone is heavy on Martial Arts films and truthfully, these are not the best films to try to win someone over with. But for a lazy Sunday afternoon they are definitely worth a look. Rent it.



KUNG FU CINEMA

Reviews Hell's Wind Staff

Score: ★★★★★

Format: Region 1 DVD

Time: 90 min

Languages: English Dubbed

Subtitles: None

Sound: Dolby Digital Mono

Video: Fullscreen

Features: Scene Access

 Distributor: World Video/CAV

A.K.A.: Dragon And The Tiger Kids

Origin: Hong Kong

Genre: Classic Kung Fu, Action

Director:

Tung Wong

Action Director: Yuen Clan

Studio: -

Date: 1979

Rated: NR

Trailer: -

Cast: Hwang Jang Lee ...(Hu), Mang Hoi, Mang Yuen Man, Bai Biao, Yeh Feh Yang, Shu Shia, Kwan Young Moon, Liu He Liang, Lee Chuen Hwa

Synopsis

A story of revenge develops as Dao Ha is scarred and banished by his teacher and guardian, Master Wong for the crime of rape. He returns four years later under the leadership of Hu (Hwang Jang Lee), a slave runner and master of the fiendish "Devil's Stick" kung fu. With the support of Hu, Dao Ha kills Wong and his cousin who had scarred him. Now Wong's mischievous son, Tiger and his close friend Dragon vow revenge but first must learn "White Dragon's Fist" and "Paddle Stick," the only kung fu capable of defeating Hu's powerful staff skills.

Review by Mark Pollard

Hwang Jang Lee leads a capable cast of regulars in this rousing tale of revenge that features a climatic finale well worth the price of admission.

The film begins in a common manner with Dao Ha running with his tale between his legs, eventually ending in his expulsion from Master Wong's home. The story becomes more interesting once we get to meet Wong's unruly son, Tiger and his equally troublesome friend, Dragon. Reminiscent of Jackie Chan's performance as Wong Fei Hung in the classic, DRUNKEN MASTER, Tiger is a youngster gifted in martial arts but with a mischievous nature that confounds his father. Having previously sent three kung fu instructors packing,

Tiger finally meets his match when a wandering street performer is enlisted as the next teacher. This instructor's skill is only outmatched by his own clever nature and in a series of enjoyable scenes, he outwits Tiger's pranks devised to scare him away. But Tiger soon comes to appreciate the elder man's presence after he assists Tiger and Dragon in defeating the Four Snakes, who were duping men into becoming slaves. Word of this interference reaches Hu and its not long after that Tiger's father is killed along with the instructor who covers the young men's escape. The two hide out with Dragon's master who in an amazing twist of fate happens to be the one man able to train the two in skills capable of defeating Hu and Dao Ha. The training scenes that take place are fairly average with the ever-popular surgical tubing, usually labeled as ox sinew involved. Its the actual fights that will hold more interest and thankfully there are plenty. It doesn't take long for Tiger and Dragon to finally confront the villains. Dao Ha is unceremoniously dispatched by Tiger who puts the squeeze on him. But the final battle against Hu is the showstopper. Hwang Jang Lee's skills are in full display here as he wields an Iron Staff against his two opponents. The highlight is clearly a carefully choreographed scene involving Tiger, Dragon and their master who joins the battle midway through. The three run towards Hwang, each several feet apart. Hwang runs, leaps into the air and kicks each attacker on down the line. The whole fight rivals those of Jackie Chan's early films such as THE YOUNG MASTER in its fierceness, creativity and length.

But even without this final fight, the film is still enjoyable despite a lot of tired elements of the genre thrown in such as the whole revenge soap opera, a ripped soundtrack and two-dimensional characters. The dubbing is worth mentioning as a bit funnier than usual sporting lines such as, "Teacher, your Devil's Rod was really made in Hell." HELL'S WIND STAFF" is at times humorous, conventional, awe-inspiring, and laughable. While there is little to distinguish it from any number of late '70's chopsocky flicks, the presence of Hwang Jang Lee, coupled with some well-paced humor and solid performances by the remaining cast makes this film well worth a look.

Tech Notes

World Video/CAV DVD - This full screen print is somewhat degraded in quality. The first half of the film shows lots of scratches and marks although its not to the point of being overtly distracting. Characters are occasionally cut in half on the sides. The color and contrast is good. The sound quality is fairly good although some of the dubbing is too quiet. The DVD freezes momentarily at several chapter stops.