

THE HELL'S WIND STAFF

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

World Video and Supply / Unrated / \$19.95

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.

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