

Elite Group (2003) Enterprises Inc.
Presents
An Edko Films, Zhang Yimou Studio Production
in collaboration with
Beijing New Picture Film Co., Ltd.

HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS

Directed by

Zhang Yimou

Starring

Takeshi Kaneshiro

Andy Lau

Ziyi Zhang

A Sony Pictures Classics Release

Running time: 119 minutes

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ZHANG YIMOU ON HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS

ON THE LOVE STORY

This is a love story wrapped inside of an action film.

HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS tells of a passionate emotional journey, in which three people suffer for love – it tears them apart, yet they are willing to sacrifice everything for it.

When a woman is torn between two men, we know that it will end in tragedy. The dynamics of the relationships between three very different people with different backgrounds is intriguing. The only thing they all have in common is that nobody is who they claim to be. Everyone is deceiving each other. In Chinese, we say that “Love, Hate, Passion and Vengeance” are the most volatile emotions, and it is these feelings that envelope the three main characters.

Jin and Mei only spend three days together, but during their time, they love fiercely, and in the end – tragically. There is no way to explain their love. If you can explain it, then it is not love. Perhaps three seconds is all we need to find true love. Thirty years together does not necessarily equal a deeper connection.

Many directors have told similar stories, but my concern is how people fall in love, and what we are willing to sacrifice for the sake of that love. At the end of the day, love is a triumph of the human spirit.

ON ACTION AND BAMBOO FORESTS

As a setting, the bamboo forest is inextricably linked to martial arts films. In fact, for the past fifty years, everybody has shot action in a bamboo forest. It is as though you have to fight in the bamboo forest before you can be considered a true warrior. So of course, if I was going to make an action film, I also had to shoot in the bamboo forest, to keep with tradition. But I insisted on making the tradition my own. I made each scene a little different. In my bamboo forest, the battle takes place simultaneously on the ground and high up on the bamboo. The two lovers on the run fight on the ground while the enemy attacks them from above.

ON THE WEATHER

The snow [in Ukraine] came very early this year – in October. It began to snow heavily when we were half way through a scene, and this worried me a great deal because if it snowed for much longer, all the leaves on the trees would be gone, and we would face huge problems with continuity. I had to make a decision, and after some thought I decided to shoot the scene in the snow. But because we had already begun shooting that scene, we had to make a lot of adjustments – to the script, the pace and so on. When I look at the way this sequence turned out, I feel enormously lucky. The snow created the perfect tone for the scene. It's fate – someone up above decided to help me out.

ON THE SET

For the Peony Pavilion, we built a very elaborate set to showcase Mei and Leo's "Echo Game," but the fighting, the action, the visual effects all take the back seat to the emotional journey – the fate – of the three main characters. Ultimately, movies are about people, regardless of genre or style.

Credits

CAST

Mei.....Ziyi Zhang
Jin..... Takeshi Kaneshiro
Leo.....Andy Lau
Yee.....Song Dandan

CREW

Directed by.....Zhang Yimou
Produced by.....Bill Kong, Zhang Yimou
Executive Producer.....Zhang Weiping
Story by.....Zhang Yimou, Li Feng, Wang Bin
Screenplay by.....Li Feng, Zhang Yimou, Wang Bin
Director of Photography.....Zhao Xiaoding
Action Director.....Tony Ching Siu-Tung
Production Designed by.....Huo Tingxiao
Sound Designed by.....Tao Jing
Original Music Scored and Produced by.....Shigeru Umebayashi
Theme Song Performed by.....Kathleen Battle
Costume Designed by.....Emi Wada
Edited by.....Cheng Long
Associate Producer.....Zhang Zhenyan

Synopsis

It is 859AD, and the Tang Dynasty, one of the most enlightened empires in Chinese history at its height, is in decline. The Emperor is incompetent and the government is corrupt. Unrest is spreading throughout the land, and many rebel armies are forming in protest. The largest, and most prestigious, is an underground alliance called the House of Flying Daggers.

The House of Flying Daggers operates mysteriously, stealing from the rich to give to the poor. Thus, they have earned the support and admiration of the people and expanded quickly. Based in Feng Tian County, close to the Imperial Capital, the House of Flying Daggers has long been a thorn in the side of the local deputies, their bitter enemies.

The deputies are enraged because, even after they fought and killed the leader of the House of Flying Daggers, the House continues to thrive. Under the leadership of a mysterious new leader, the House of Flying Daggers grows ever more powerful. Feng Tian County's two local captains, Leo (ANDY LAU TAK WAH) and Jin (TAKESHI KANESHIRO) are ordered to capture the new leader within ten days.

Captain Leo has heard that one of the new dancers at the Peony Pavilion, a local brothel, is a member of the House of Flying Daggers. So, he sends Captain Jin to the Pavilion undercover, to search her out. When the Madam (SONG DANDAN) presents Jin with Mei (ZIYI ZHANG), the beautiful new dancer, he is surprised to learn that she is blind.

Nevertheless, Jin goes forward with the plan – Mei begins to dance for him, and Jin pretends to be drunk and attacks her, trying to rip her clothes off. Leo then charges in, threatening to arrest both Jin and Mei for their indecent behavior. The Madam begs Leo to spare Mei, as she relies on her to bring in customers, and asks that he at least watch her dance before he makes a decision.

At Leo's request, Mei performs an elaborate dance called The Echo Game, which reaches a stunning climax when Mei reveals herself to be a member of the House of Flying Daggers and challenges Leo with his own sword. Mei is an impressive fighter, despite her lack of sight, and the two engage in a fierce battle – but Leo eventually triumphs, and arrests Mei.

Mei is put through an interrogation, and threatened with instruments of torture,

but she refuses to divulge any information about the House of Flying Daggers. The two Captains become convinced that Mei is the blind daughter of the Flying Daggers' old leader, and are determined to get information from her, so they set up another plan.

This time, Captain Jin will pretend to be a lone warrior called "Wind" and rescue Mei from prison, earning her trust and escorting her to the secret headquarters of the House of Flying Daggers.

The plan works, and the two set out into the forest, pursued by the deputies at every turn. Mei is suspicious of "Wind" at first, but when the two are caught in an ambush, and he uses his skills with a bow and arrow to swiftly kill four deputies and save her life, Mei begins to trust him.

When Mei and Jin leave the scene, and the deputies get up and remove the arrows from where they were lodged in their clothes, we realize this battle was staged for her benefit, but a long journey with real danger still lies ahead.

As they travel through the forest, Jin and Mei begin to warm to each other. Before long, Mei has developed feelings for her enigmatic protector, and Jin is surprised to find himself falling for Mei's headstrong charm. Both struggle to contain their feelings, but their desire is irrepressible, almost beyond their control, and they soon end up locked in an embrace. Still wary of each other's motives, their suspicions keep them from letting it go too far.

Jin sneaks away to meet with Leo, who is worried that he is being taken in by Mei's beauty and charm. Jin assures him, unconvincingly, that this is not the case, and returns to Mei.

The two are soon lost in another romantic moment – he is picking wildflowers for her in a field – when two soldiers sneak up on them. Jin tries to fend them off and protect himself and Mei by covertly explaining to the soldiers that he is on their side, but they are not privy to Jin and Leo's plan. More soldiers soon arrive to back them up, and Mei and Jin are forced to fight for their lives. Just when it seems as if all is lost for them, Jin and Mei are saved by the flying daggers of a mysterious stranger.

They are then able to turn things in their favor, and defeat the remaining soldiers. But when the battle is over, Jin is devastated – realizing that he is now caught between his loyalty to his comrades and defending his and Mei's lives. Mei senses his sadness, and tries to comfort him with passionate

kisses, telling him that she now believes he is “for real”. Worried for his safety, she tells him that he has done enough for her and that he should leave her on her own, but he insists on staying.

Jin sneaks off again to meet with Leo, eager to know why he was ambushed. Leo tells him that the soldiers were ordered by the General – that he has decreed that real blood must be spilt in order to draw the Flying Daggers out. Jin is crushed when he realizes how little his life means to those he serves, and the two men argue – both tortured by the mission they have taken on. Jin storms off, telling Leo that he is quitting.

When Jin returns to Mei, they argue as well, as she is suspicious about where he has been. The argument ends with Mei riding off on her own. Jin begins to ride away, but he can’t bring himself to part with Mei. He turns around and chases after her, with soldiers quickly closing in on her from the opposite direction.

Mei is trapped in the bamboo forest, valiantly fighting off a group of soldiers, when Jin arrives and joins the fight at her side. Jin and Mei struggle against the soldiers, and are close to defeat when the Flying Daggers – led by Madam of the Peony Pavilion – come to their rescue.

Jin is shocked to realize that the Madam was undercover, and even more surprised when she tells him that the Flying Daggers want him to marry Mei. The moment he consents, Jin is tied up and treated as a prisoner. Leo is brought in as well, and it becomes clear that the Flying Daggers have been aware of their plot all along.

The revelations continue when Mei walks in and pours a cup of tea for the Madam without any hesitation, making it clear that she is not blind at all. Jin is devastated, and asks her if it was all just an act. She explains that she is not the old leader’s daughter, and is just one of the many girls in the House of Flying Daggers.

Meanwhile, the Madam takes Leo out to the bamboo forest, and just when it seems as if she is going to finish him off, she slices his ropes open with her sword and sets him free. She explains that she knows that the old leader planted him as a mole in the government, and that Nia, the new leader, appreciates what he and Mei have done for the Flying Daggers.

It is revealed that Leo and Mei had a relationship in the past, and this mission

is the first time they have seen each other in three years. Leo is angry that he was forced to see the woman he loves seducing Jin. The Madam explains that they are facing an epic battle that will decide the fate of the Flying Daggers, and that it is not the time for romance. Nevertheless, she consents to let Leo see Mei.

Leo tells Mei how much he missed her and that he still loves her. She thanks him for saving her – it was his flying daggers that rescued her and Jin in the field – but, when he tries to embrace her, Mei pushes him away. When Leo asks if she loves Jin, and Mei doesn't answer, the truth is clear to them both.

Leo vainly tries to convince Mei that there can be nothing between her and Jin, but then becomes violent in his advances toward her. As Mei struggles to push him away, a dagger flies in and stabs him in the shoulder. Nia, the leader of the Flying Daggers, appears and tells him that she is sending him back to the government to continue spying. Nia tells Mei that she has a task for her as well – she orders her to kill Jin, as he is no longer of use to them.

Mei takes Jin out into the field to kill him, but she cannot do it. She sets him free and they make love passionately in the grass. When it is over, she tells him to leave, but he does not want to go without her. She tells him that it is impossible for them to be together – that the next time meet, one of them will have to die.

Jin begs her to come with him, and they joke in hopeful tones about being together one day. At the other end of the field, Jin realizes he cannot bear to part with Mei, and turns back to find her.

Jin discovers Mei lying in the grass, bleeding and close to death. As he holds her in his arms, Leo comes at him from behind. Jin is suddenly faced with the truth the Leo is not his comrade after all, but a member of the Flying Daggers, as well as his rival for Mei's affections.

As the government soldiers advance upon the Flying Daggers, Jin and Leo engage in their own epic battle, one so fierce that the seasons change from brilliant autumn to cruel winter.

Jin is on the verge of defeat when Mei rises from the ground, kept alive by Leo's dagger, which is preventing the blood from draining from her body. She tells Leo that if he kills Jin, she will rip out the dagger and kill him with it. Jin begs her not to sacrifice herself, but when Leo pretends to throw his dagger at

Jin, Mei rips out the dagger and throws it at Leo, missing him when it bounces off a tree. Leo watches Mei die in Jin's arms, with snow falling all around them.

About the Production

Best known for his beautiful, sensitive portraits of China, Director Zhang Yimou doesn't see himself as an expert action film director, but rather an enthusiastic student of the genre. After his first foray into "*Wuxia*" (martial arts) films with the Academy Award® nominated "HERO," Zhang found himself hooked on action. "This time around, I am braver and more accustomed to the genre," says China's most celebrated director. "You can say that this film is a tribute to kung fu movies."

HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS bears Zhang Yimou's trademark exquisite visual beauty and incisive storytelling. "I don't want to make an ordinary martial arts film," explains Zhang, "I want to talk about passion, interesting characters... my own style of *Wuxia* film. This is a story my be a *Wuxia* film, but it is also an evocative and romantic love story, I hope."

Despite being one of Asia's best known leading men, Takeshi Kaneshiro ("The Returner," "Chungking Express") found himself in awe of the three-time Academy Award® nominated director for Best Foreign Language Film ("Ju Dou," "Raise the Red Lantern," "Hero"). "I was worried that I would say the wrong thing or keep making mistakes, but Zhang was always very encouraging," says the Japanese-Taiwanese actor, "He would explain what he wanted, and listening to him was like hearing someone tell a story – I was entranced, and came away knowing exactly what I needed to do."

For Hong Kong megastar Andy Lau ("Infernal Affairs"), it was the director's story-driven approach that proved a surprise and delight: "When I accepted the part, I thought there would be many fight scenes, but then I realized Yimou wanted an in-depth portrayal of the character and his personality traits... Zhang Yimou will put the camera on you and leave it there. And if you're good, you're good. And if you're not, well..." For Zhang Yimou, there is no question of whether or not Lau is good. "He can cry on cue five takes in a row, which isn't easy – and he's improving all the time."

Zhang Ziyi, who has collaborated many times with Zhang Yimou since her debut in Zhang's "The Road Home," is consistently impressed with the

director's inquisitive mind and poetic storytelling. In HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS, Zhang Ziyi plays a blind dancer who is not all she seems to be. To prepare for her challenging role, Zhang lived with a blind girl for two months. "When this girl was twelve," explains Zhang, "A brain tumor caused her to lose her sight... at the beginning, I had no idea that a blind person's world is so completely different." Zhang Ziyi's role also allowed her to showcase her talented dancing, a discipline she has trained in since age eleven.

About the Director

From his directorial debut, "Red Sorghum" (1987), which won the Golden Bear Award at the Berlin Film Festival, **ZHANG Yimou (Director, Co-Writer, Producer)** has established his reputation as one of the world's great film masters.

Zhang Yimou was born in China in 1950 and studied cinematography at the Beijing Film Academy. He became a leading member of China's Fifth Generation Filmmakers, the first group to graduate following the turbulent Cultural Revolution. He is also an accomplished actor, earning the Best Actor Award at the Tokyo International Film Festival for his performance in "Old Well" (1986). Before becoming a director, Zhang Yimou was an exceptional cinematographer with credits including "Yellow Earth" (1984), "Old Well" (1986), and "The Big Parade" (1986).

Zhang Yimou has received multiple honors as a director. He is the first Chinese filmmaker to be recognized by the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences, nominated in the Best Foreign Language Film category for "Ju Dou" in 1990, "Raise the Red Lantern" in 1991, and "Hero" in 2002. He has earned numerous accolades around the world, including two Golden Lions and a Silver Lion at the Venice Film Festival, the Grand Jury Prize at the 47th Cannes Film Festival for "To Live" (1994), the Silver Bear at the Berlin International Film Festival for "The Road Home" (1999), and the Alfred Baur Award for "Hero" (2002).

Zhang Yimou has had amazing success with actors over the years. Many performances in his movies have won awards and he is known to work with the same actors time and time again. Actresses Gong Li and Ziyi Zhang have given their greatest performances under his direction.

FILMOGRAPHY

HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS (2004)

2004 Cannes Film Festival - Official Selection

HERO

75th Annual Academy Awards – Nominee

Best Foreign Language Film

2003 Golden Globe Awards – Nominee, Best

Foreign Film Language Film

HAPPY TIMES (2000)

THE ROAD HOME (1999)

51st Annual Berlin Film Festival – Winter, Silver Bear

2001 Sundance Film Festival – Winter, Golden Lion

NOT ONE LESS (1999)

51st Annual Venice Film Festival – Winter, Golden Lion

KEEP COOL (1997)

LUMIERE AND COMPANY (1995)

SHANGHAI TRIAD (1995)

68th Annual Academy Awards – Nominee, Best Cinematography

1996 Golden Globe Awards – Nominee, Best Foreign Language Film

1995 Cannes Film Festival – Official Selection

1995 New York Film Festival – Opening Night Selection

TO LIVE (1994)

1994 Cannes Film Festival – Winter, Golden Lion

THE STORY OF QIU JU (1992)

44th Annual Venice Film Festival – Winter, Golden Lion

RAISE THE RED LANTERN (1991)

64th Annual Academy Awards – Nominee, Best Foreign Language Film

43rd Venice Film Festival – Winter, Silver Lion

JU DOU (1990)

63rd Annual Academy Awards – Nominee, Best Foreign Language Film

THE PUMA ACTION (1989)

RED SORGHUM (1987)

40th Annual Berlin Film Festival – Winter, Golden Bear

In a short period of time, **Ziyi Zhang (Mei)** has already established herself as one of the world's great screen actresses.

She recently completed legendary Japanese director Seijun Suzuki's last movie, "Raccoon Palace," a period musical set in Japan. Also due for release is "2046", an exploration of a writer's memory against the backdrop of his efforts to write a futuristic novel. Directed by critically acclaimed Hong Kong-based director Wong Kar-Wai, the film was in competition at the 2004 Cannes Film Festival and also stars Tony Leung, Maggie Cheung and Gong Li.

Ziyi recently appeared in two movies: the Mainland Chinese box-office hit "Hero" directed by Zhang Yimou, and "Purple Butterfly", directed by the award-winning Sixth Generation Mainland Chinese director Lou Ye. "Purple Butterfly" was in competition at the 2003 Cannes Film Festival, where Ziyi won the hearts of critics for her depiction of a young woman caught between love and duty during Japanese-occupied Shanghai in the thirties.

ZIYI ZHANG'S FILMOGRAPHY

HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS (2004)	RUSH HOUR 2 (2001)
2046 (2004)	CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON (2000)
HERO (2003)	THE ROAD HOME (1999)
PURPLE BUTTERFLY (2002)	
THE WARRIORS (2001)	

Previously, Ziyi was seen opposite Jackie Chan and Chris Tucker in Brett Rattner's box office hit "Rush Hour 2." Ziyi's role in the movie earned her a MTV Movie Award for "Best Villain."

Ziyi's first appearance on screen was also her first star turn. While still a student in Drama School, she was offered the lead in director Zhang Yimou's 1998 film "The Road Home." Set during the very early years of China's Cultural Revolution, the film is an intimate account of a young girl's first love.

In 2000, Ziyi delivered a stunning performance in director Ang Lee's "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" (2000). Ziyi received 14 nominations around the world for her performance. She won the Independent Spirit Award and the 2000 Toronto Film Critics Association Award, among others.

Ziyi's first appearance on screen was also her first star turn - while still a student the prestigious China Central Drama College, she was offered the lead in Zhang Yimou's 1998 film "The Road Home." Set at the beginning of China's "Cultural Revolution" in the 1950s, the film is a beautifully shot, intimate account of a young girl's first love. "The Road Home" was awarded the Grand Jury Silver Bear at the 2000 Berlin Film Festival.

Ziyi Zhang was brought up in a middle class family in Beijing. Her father is a government economist and her mother a retired kindergarten teacher. She also has an elder brother, Zhang Zinan. At the age of 11 she began a 6-year study of folk and modern dance training at the Beijing Dance Academy. After graduating, she decided to switch career paths. On a lark, she went for an entrance exam at the prestigious China Central Drama College and was accepted right away.

One of the most sought-after male leads in Asia, half-Taiwanese, half-Japanese **Takeshi KANESHIRO (Jin)** began his role to stardom at age 15 when he was talent spotted and recruited to be a Taiwanese pop idol. A string of successful music hits followed, from 1992's "Heart Breaking Night" to 1996's "Painful Love." Fluent in five languages, Takeshi Kaneshiro quickly captured the hearts of fans throughout Asia.

Mr. Kaneshiro's film debut came in Tony CHING and Johnnie TO's "Executioners" (1993) where his turn as a quasi-religious villain made such a deep impression that it is his only supporting role to date. Takeshi Kaneshiro has since played the male lead in all of his subsequent 27 films, which include the Golden Horse Award and Hong Kong Film Award winning "Chungking Express" (1994), and "Fallen Angels" (1995).

Well known for his quirky character acting, Takeshi Kaneshiro made his mark on world cinema working with Hong Kong directing heavyweights including WONG Kar Wai ("Chungking Express," 1994, and "Fallen Angels," 1995), Sylvia CHANG ("Tempting Heart," 1998), and LEE Chi Ngai ("Lost and Found," 1996, and "Sleepless Town," 1997).

Mr. Kaneshiro's extensive filmography is testament to his versatile acting skills. While he is best known for his high-profile work with Hong Kong directors, he is an even bigger star in his native Taiwan and Japan. He

continues to earn accolades there from critics and audiences for his nuanced performances in films including Johnnie To and WAI Ka-Fai's "Turn Left, Turn Right" (2003) and Takashi YAMAZAKI's Japanese science fiction hit "The Returner" (2002).

TAKESHI KANESHIRO'S FILMOGRAPHY

House of Flying Daggers (2004)	Hero (1995)
Turn Left Turn Right (2003)	Military Horn (1995)
The Returner (2002)	Young Policeman In Love (1995)
Lavender (2000)	Dr. Wai in the Scripture
Space Traveler (1999)	with no Words (1995)
Tempting Heart (1998)	Fallen Angels (1995)
Sleepless Town (1997)	Trouble Maker (1995)
Too Tired To Die (1997)	Don't Give A Damn (1994)
Ana Magdalena (1997)	China Dragon (1994)
Downtown Torpedoes (1997)	School Days (1995)
First Love (1997)	Mermaid Got Married (1994)
The Odd One Die (1996)	Chungking Express (1994)
The Jail Of Burning Island (1996)	Yes, Sir Series 3 (1993)
Misty (1996)	The Wrath of Silence (1994)
Lost & Found (1996)	Executioners (1993)
Pick up Artist (1996)	

Hong Kong superstar **Andy LAU Tak Wah's (Leo)** accomplishments in singing and acting have made him one of the most bankable stars in Asia.

Born in Hong Kong in 1961, Andy Lau first enrolled in the Television Broadcast Limited (TVB) Artist Training Programme in 1981. On graduation, Lau was immediately recruited by the station and went on to act in fifteen television series, which earned him fame not only in his native Hong Kong, but also in Singapore, Malaysia and Taiwan. Andy Lau gained instant critical recognition in 1982 for his work on Ann HUI's Hong Kong Film Award winning "Boat People."

Since then, Andy Lau has emerged as one of Hong Kong's hardest working actors, completing 115 movies between 1981 and 2004. Mr. Lau won the Best Actor Award at the coveted Golden Dragon Awards in Taiwan for his collective contributions to NG Siyuan's "The Unwritten Law" (1986), David LAI Tai Wai's

“Sworn Brothers” (1986), David Lai and Taylor WONG’s “Tragic Hero” (1986) and “Rich and Famous” (1986). Andy Lau’s sensitive portrayal of a man who has 72 hours to live in Johnnie To’s “Running Out of Time” (1999) earned him the Best Actor Award at the 19th Hong Kong Film Awards. A two-time Best Actor winner at the Hong Kong Film Critics Society Awards for “A Fighter’s Blues” (2000) and “Running on Karma” (2004), Andy Lau has proved his acting versatility with a combination of sensitive character acting and demanding fight sequences. In 2004, Andy Lau was awarded the Best Actor Award for the second time in his career at the 23rd Hong Kong Film Awards for “Running on Karma”.

Andy Lau’s commitment to improve the quality of Hong Kong’s film industry has been uncompromising. In 1990, he set up his own company, Teamwork to produce high-caliber local movies, and give aspiring filmmakers and actors the chance to develop their talents. This earned him the Swissair / Crossair Special Prize at the Locarno International Film festival for Hong Kong director Fruit CHAN’s “Made In Hong Kong” (1997).

In addition to his film accomplishments, Andy Lau has made a phenomenal impact on Asia’s music scene. Dubbed one of the “Four Heavenly Kings” along with Leon LAI, Jacky CHEUNG and Aaron KWOK, in 2001 Mr. Lau became a Guinness World Record holder as the artist with the most pop awards. Lau has received 292 music awards over the past 12 years including the MTV Movie Award for the “Most Multi-Talented Artiste in Asia” (1998).

ANDY LAU’S FILMOGRAPHY

Magic Kitchen (2004)	Running Out of Time (1999)
Infernal Affairs 3 (2003)	Century of a Dragon (1999)
Running On Karma (2003)	The Conmen in Vegas (1999)
Give Them a Chance (2003)	Prince Charming (1999)
Cat and Mouse (2003)	Fascination Amour (1999)
Golden Chicken (2002)	The Longest Summer (1998)
Infernal Affairs (2002)	The Conman (1998)
The Wesley’s Mysterious File (2002)	A True Mob Story (1998)
Fat Choi Spirit (2002)	Island of Greed (1997)
Dance of a Dream (2001)	Made in Hong Kong (1997)
Fulltime Killer (2001)	“Cause We Are So Young (1997)
Love on a Diet (2001)	Armageddon (1997)
A Fighter’s Blues (2000)	Thanks For Your Love (1996)
Needing You (2000)	Shanghai Grand (1996)
The Duel (2000)	A Moment of Romance 3 (1996)

What a Wonderful World (1996)
 Full Throttle (1995)
 The Adventurers (1995)
 Tian Di (1994)
 The Three Swordsmen (1994)
 A Taste of Killing and Romance (1994)
 Drunken Master III (1994)
 Drunken Master II (1994)
 Perfect Exchange (1993)
 Future Cops (1993)
 Days of Tomorrow (1993)
 What a Hero! (1992)
 The Sting (1992)
 Saviour of the Soul 2 (1992)
 The Prince of Temple Street (1992)
 The Moon Warriors (1992)
 Handsome Siblings (1992)
 Guns n' Roses (1992)
 Gameboy Kids (1992)
 Come Fly the Dragon (1992)
 Casino Tycoon 2 (1992)
 Casino Tycoon (1992)
 Zodiac Killers (1991)
 Tricky Brains (1991)
 The Tigers (1991)
 Saviour of the Soul (1991)
 Lee Rock 2 (1991)
 Lee Rock (1991)
 The Last Blood (1991)
 Hong Kong Godfather (1991)
 Don't Fool Me (1991)
 Dances with the Dragon (1991)
 Casino Raiders 2 (1991)
 The banquet (1991)
 Return Engagement (1990)
 No Risk, No Gain (1990)
 A Moment of Romance (1990)
 Kung Fu vs. Acrobatic (1990)
 Kawashima Yoshiko (1990)
 Island of Fire (1990)
 A Home Too Far (1990)
 God of Gamblers2 (1990)
 Gangland Odyssey (1990)
 The Fortune Code (1990)
 Dragon in Jail (1990)
 Days of Being Wild (1990)
 The Truth-Final Episode (1989)
 Stars and Roses (1989)
 Runaway Blues (1989)
 The Romancing Star 3 (1989)
 Proud and Confident (1989)
 Perfect Match (1989)
 Long Arm of the Law III (1989)
 Little Cop (1989)
 God of Gamblers (1989)
 The First Time is the Last Time (1989)
 Crocodile Hunter (1989)
 City Kids 1989 (1989)
 China White (1989)
 Casino Raiders (1989)
 Bloody Brotherhood (1989)
 Walk On Fire (1988)
 Three Against the World (1988)
 The Romancing Star 2 (1988)
 Last Eunuch in China (1988)
 In the Blood (1988)
 The Dragon Family (1988)
 Crazy Companies 2 (1988)
 Crazy Companies (1988)
 As Tears Go By (1988)
 Tragic Hero (1987)
 Sworn Brothers (1987)
 Rich and Famous (1987)
 Lucky Stars Go Places (1986)
 Twinkle Twinkle Lucky Stars (1986)
 Magic Crystal (1986)
 The Unwritten Law (1985)
 Shanghai 13 (1985)
 Everlasting Love (1984)
 On the Wrong Track (1983)
 Home in Hong Kong (1983)
 Boat People (1982)

SONG Dandan (Yee) hails from Beijing. After graduating from high school in 1981, Ms. Song followed her love of acting and enrolled in the celebrated People's Artistic Troupe to study theatre.

Soon after, Song Dandan won the Best Actress Award at China's prestigious Plum Blossom Awards for Theatre for her role in 1992's "Reunification." Song Dandan's other theater credits include "A Red and White Celebration" (1984), "Major Barbara" (1991) and "City of Lights" (2003).

Song Dandan made her feature film debut in the sentimental drama "Crescent Moon" (1986), and has starred in films including "The Red Suit" (1997) and "Family Ties" (2000) where her turn as a mother obsessed with IQ tests cemented her reputation as one of China's leading comedienne.

Critically applauded for her work in theatre and film, it is through Song Dandan's television work that she captured the hearts of audiences throughout China. Song's comedic talent in sitcoms such as "I Love My Home" (1992) and "An Empty House" (2003) earned her huge popularity and made her a household name. In 1985, Song Dandan won television's "Sky High Award" for Best Actress for her role in "Searching for the Lost World" (1985).

SONG DANDAN'S FILMOGRAPHY

HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS (2004)

THE RED SUIT (1997)

CRESCENT MOON (1986)

FAMILY TIES (1999)

About the Filmmakers

Born in 1968, **LI Feng (Co-Writer)** graduated from Nanjing University with a Masters Degree in Chinese Classics. One of his generation's leading fiction writers, Li Feng is also a founding member of the new generation of novelists. He was awarded the first ever Internet Quartet Cultural Prize, and lives and works in Beijing.

Li Feng's literary works include the novels "Confucius" and "Shattered Father" (Sui Baba), and short stories "Death of Lu Yin," (Lu Yin Zhi Si), "China Story" (Zhong Guo Gu Shi), "The Tang Dynasty," "No One Can Sleep Tonight" (Jin Ye Mei Ren Jin Shui), and "Another Monkey King."

Li Feng made his screenwriting debut in 2000, in Zhang Yimou's epic drama, "HERO".

LI FENG'S FILMOGRAPHY

HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS (2004)

HERO (2002)

WANG Bin (Co-Writer) hails from Shandong Province. He left home at fifteen to join the army, after which he worked as a traveling book salesman, a literary researcher and a literary editor. In the 1980s, he began writing literature, and became one of China's first freethinking writers.

Wang met Director Zhang Yimou at a discussion group for Zhang's film, "Ju Dou," and a fruitful collaboration was born. Since "To Live," Wang Bin has acted as literary consultant on all of Zhang Yimou's films including last year's martial arts epic, Hero.

Outside his work with Zhang Yimou, Wang's other credits include Lu Yue's "Mr. Jiao," Wang Xiao Shuai's "Dreamland" (Meng Huan Tian Yuan) and Sun Zhou's "Breaking the Silence." He has worked on the TV series "Let Love Run 'Til the End" (Zhang Ai Qing Jin Cheng Dao Dai) and "The Friends" (Peng You).

WANG BIN'S FILMOGRAPHY

HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS (2004)	(2000)
HERO (2003)	BREAKING THE SILENCE (1999)
DREAMLAND (MENG HUAN TIAN YUAN)	MR. ZHAO (1998)

Bill KONG (Producer) is head of Edko Films, one of Hong Kong's longest-standing independent film companies. Bill Kong's production credits include Yim Ho's "The Day the Sun Turned Cold" (1994), which won Best Picture and Best Director at the Tokyo International Film Festival, and the Academy Award® winning martial arts epic, "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" (2000).

"Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" was one of the biggest hits of 2000, and the most popular foreign film in US cinematic history. It went on to earn a roaring US\$130 million at the box office and win multiple awards including four Academy Awards® for Best Foreign Language Film, Best Art Direction, Best Original Score and Best Cinematography, as well as two Golden Globe Awards for Best Foreign Language Film and Best Director.

Bill Kong's recent projects include Sun Zhou's acclaimed love story "Zhou Yu's Train" starring Gong Li, Tian Zhuangzhuang's remake of the Chinese classic film "Springtime in a Small Town" which won the San Marco prize at the 2002 Venice Film Festival, and Zhang Yimou's Academy Award nominated martial arts drama, "Hero."

BILL KONG'S FILMOGRAPHY

HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS (2004)	CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON
HERO (2003)	(2000)
ZHOU YU'S TRAIN (2003)	THE DAY THE SUN TURNED COLD (1994)
SPRINGTIME IN A SMALL TOWN (2002)	

ZHAO Xiaoding (Director of Photography) graduated from the prestigious Beijing Film Academy in 1987 with a degree in Cinematography. Zhao photographed his first feature film, "Soul of the Thundering Mountain" (1987) straight out of college and has since been extremely prolific, averaging at least one film a year. His other works include the critically acclaimed "A Season of Flowers and Rain" (1999) and "Subway to Spring" (2000).

In 2001, Zhao Xiao Ding began his collaboration with Director Zhang Yimou, working as the Cameraman on Zhang's martial arts epic, "HERO" (2003). The two struck up a great working relationship, and when Zhang Yimou began preparations for the HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS, the helmer quickly asked Zhao to be Director of Photography on his new film.

Zhao Xiao Ding has shot advertising campaigns for some of the leading brands in the world including Coca Cola, Armani Perfume, Toyota and the Bank of China.

More recently, Zhao Xiao Ding was Director of Photography on the successful publicity film for Beijing's Olympic Bid, the Shanghai Expo Bid and the Beijing 2008 Logo Unveiling publicity film.

ZHAO XIAODING'S FILMOGRAPHY

HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS (2004)	THE SUBSTITUTE HUSBAND (1995)
HERO (2003)	THE TEMPORARY DAD (1994)
SUBWAY TO SPRING (2001)	THE DIVORCE WAR (1993)
SEASON OF THE FLOWERS AND RAIN (1999)	PUBLIC HERO (1992)
THE PROSPEROUS QUEEN MOTHER (1998)	A RAGING GRUDGE (1991)
LOVE FOOL (1997)	THE WOLF AND THE ANGEL (1990)
ONE FAMILY, TWO SYSTEMS (1996)	SOUL OF THE THUNDER MOUNTAIN (1987)

Acclaimed Hong Kong action director **Tony CHING Siu Tung (Action Director)** has worked with top names of the Hong Kong movie industry including Jackie Chan in "City Hunter" (1992) and "Duel of Dragons" (1992), Chow Yun Fat in "The Nepal Affair" (1985), and "Colour of a Hero" (1987) and Michelle Yeoh in "Wonder Seven" (1994).

A two-time winner of Taiwan's Golden Horse Awards for his action direction in "New Dragon Inn" (1992) and "My Schoolmate, the Barbarian" (2001), Tony Ching has also been the recipient of the Best Action Choreography award for "The Affair from Nepal" (1987) and "Swordsman" (1990) at the Hong Kong Film Awards. Mr. Ching's "A Chinese Ghost Story" pioneered the craze for Chinese horror films in the late 1980s and was awarded the Best International Fantasy

Film Award, and Best Director for Mr. Ching, at Fantafestival. In 2001, he choreographed the Jet Li - Mel Gibson TV collaboration, "Invincible," and the multi award winning smash hit "Shaolin Soccer" (2001) starring Hong Kong superstar Stephen Chiao.

For his choreography of the beautiful yet thrilling fight scenes for Zhang Yimou's "Hero," Tony Ching was awarded the Best Action Choreography award at the 22nd Hong Kong Film Awards for the third time in his career.

TONY CHINGS'S FILMOGRAPHY

HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS (2004)	WONDER SEVEN (1994)
BELLY OF THE BEAST (2003)	NEW DRAGON INN (1992)
HERO (2003)	FLYING DAGGER (1993)
NAKED WEAPON (2002)	STREET FIGHTER (1993)
INVINCIBLE (2001)	THE HEROIC TRIO (1992)
SHAOLIN SOCCER (2001)	SON ON THE RUN (1991)
	SWORDSMAN II (1991)
	A CHINESE GHOST STORY III (1991)
	A CHINESE GHOST STORY (1987)
THE DUEL (2000)	THE COLOUR OF A HERO II (1987)
THE BLACKSHEEP AFFAIR (1998)	PEKING OPERA BLUES (1986)
MOON WARRIORS (1993)	THE AFFAIR FROM NEPAL (1985)
CITY HUNTER (1992)	DUEL TO THE DEATH (1982)
ADVENTURE KING (1996)	THE MASTER STIKES (1980)
	THE SPOOKY BUNCH (1980)

HUO Tingxiao (Production Designer) graduated from the Beijing Academy of Film in 1991. In the same year, he was invited to work as Production Designer on Yang Fengliang's "A Woman from North Shaanxi" (1991) as well as esteemed Fifth Generation director, Chen Kaige's "Life on a String" (1991).

Since this auspicious beginning, Mr. Huo has worked with a string of renowned filmmakers including He Ping in "Red Firecracker, Green Firecracker" (1993), for which Mr. Huo was awarded the prestigious Golden Rooster Award for Best Production Design. Huo Tingxiao has collaborated closely with Chen Kaige, acting as Production Designer for Chen's Academy Award® nominated "Farewell My Concubine" (1993) and Chen's "The Emperor and the Assassin"

(1998) for which Huo was awarded the Cannes Film Festival Technical Grand Prize for Best Art Direction.

HOU TINGXIAO'S FILMOGRAPHY

HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS (2004)	WING CHUN (1994)
HERO (2003)	RED FIRECRACKER, GREEN FIRECRACKER
SONG OF TIBET (2000)	(1993)
STEAL HAPPINESS (1998)	FAREWELL MY CONCUBINE (1993)
THE EMPEROR AND THE ASSASSIN (1998)	A WOMAN FROM NORTH SHAANXI (1991)
JIE FANG DA SHI BI (1997)	LIFE ON A STRING (1991)

One of the most highly regarded costume designers in the world, **Emi WADA (Costume Designer)** has received recognition far beyond her native Japan to become the first Japanese woman ever to win an Academy Award (Best Costume Design for Akira Kurosawa's "Ran" 1985).

Born in Kyoto, Japan, Ms. Wada graduated from the Kyoto City College of Arts with a degree in Western Painting. A fruitful collaboration with acclaimed British director, Peter Greenaway, began with "Prospero's Book" in 1991 and continued with "The Pillow Book" (1995), starring Ewan McGregor, and "8 1/2 Women" (1998). Emi Wada's work with Hong Kong filmmakers has also been recognized, and she earned Best Costume Design honors for Ronny Yu's "The Bride with White Hair" (1993), Mabel Cheung's "The Soong Sisters" (1995) and Zhang Yimou's "HERO" (2003) at the Hong Kong Film Awards.

Wada has also worked as costume designer on numerous stage productions including Shakespeare's "Antony and Cleopatra" directed by Peter Stein, and Julie Taylor's opera, "Oedipus Rex" (1992) which for which Wada won Best Costume Design at the 45th Emmy Awards. She has exhibited her costumes and designs both in Japan and abroad, and has published three books on her costume designs.

EMI WADA'S FILMOGRAPHY

HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS (2004)	THE SOONG SISTERS (1995)
HERO (2003)	THE PILLOW BOOK (1995)
GOHATTO (1999)	THE BRIDE WITH WHITE HAIR (1993)
8 1/2 WOMEN (1998)	PROSPERO'S BOOK (1991)

Shigeru UMEBAYASHI (Composer) career as a professional musician began when he led the legendary new-wave rock band EX to stardom in Japan. In the early 1980s, EX was selected to be the supporting band for Eric Clapton's Japan Tour.

When EX split up in 1985, Umebayashi began writing film scores. He won immediate recognition in the same year for "Sorekara" and "Tomoyo Shizukani Nemure" which were awarded with several music prizes including the Music Award at the Mainichi Film Contest, the Japanese Academic Music Award as well as Music Awards at the Yokohama Film Festival and the Osaka Film Festival.

Since then, Mr. Umebayashi has scored more than 30 films, which include Morita Yoshimitu's "And Then," Wong Kar Wai's multiple award winning "In the Mood for Love" and Carol LAI Miu Suet's critically acclaimed "Floating Landscape" (2003). Mr. Umebayashi was awarded Best Original Theme Song for Jacob Cheung Chi Leung's "Midnight Fly" at the 2001 Golden Horse Awards.

SHIGERU UMEBAYASHI'S FILMOGRAPHY

HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS (2004)	SHIN GOKUDO KISHA (1996)
ONMYOJI II (2003)	THE CHRIST OF NANJING (1995)
FLOATING LANDSCAPE (2003)	HASHIRANA AKAN YOAKE MADE (1994)
ZHOU YU'S TRAIN (2002)	KITANAI YATSU (1994)
ONMYOJI (2001)	BOXER JOE (1995)
HIKARI NO AME (2001)	ZERO WOMAN (1995)
MIDNIGHT FLY (2001)	NATURAL WOMAN (1994)
IN THE MOOD FOR LOVE (2000)	IZAKAYA YUREI (1994)
SHOJO (2000)	TOKAPEB (1993)
2000 AD (2000)	NEMURANAI MACHI SHINJUKU ZAME (1993)
BELLE (1998)	BYOIN HE IKO 2 YAMAI HA KIKARA (1992)
SLEEPLESS TOWN (1998)	ARIHURETA AI NI KANSURA CHOSA (1992)
G4 OPTION ZERO (1997)	GOAISATSU (1991)
WATASHITACHI GA SUKI DATTA KOTO (1997)	OTE (1991)
ISANA NO UMI (1997)	YUMEJI(1991)
ICHIGO DOMEI (1997)	TEKKEN(1990)
IZAKAYA YUREI 2 (1996)	HONG KONG PARADISE (1990)
	GETTING BLUE IN COLOR (1988)

KYOJU NO YACCHAN (1987)

SOREKARA (1985)

SHINSHI DOMEI (1986)

TOMOYO SHIZUKANI NEMURE (1985)

SOROBANZUKU (1986)

ITSUKA DAREKAGA KOROSARERU (1983)

Kathleen BATTLE's (Soprano, Theme Song) lyric soprano voice has captivated audiences around the world, making her one of the most acclaimed singers of our time.

A native of Portsmouth, Ohio, U.S.A., Kathleen Battle made her professional debut at the Spoleto Festival in Brahms' "Ein deutsches Requiem." Her Metropolitan Opera debut followed only five years later in Wagner's "Tannhäuser." A five-time Grammy Award winner, Kathleen Battle's repertoire spans three centuries from the Baroque era to contemporary works.

Kathleen Battle has enjoyed some of her greatest successes in the opera house. For her Covent Garden debut as Zerbinetta in Strauss' "Ariadne auf Naxos," Ms. Battle became the first American to be honored with a Laurence Olivier Award for Best Performance in a New Opera Production. For her interpretation of "Ariadne auf Naxos," Kathleen Battle was awarded the first of two Grammy Awards for Best Opera Recording. Her performance of the title role in the DG recording of Handel's "Semele" earned Ms. Battle a second Grammy. In recital, Kathleen Battle has mesmerized audiences around the world with her unique artistry and vocal beauty. Ms. Battle has been honored with three Grammy Awards for Best Classical Vocal Soloist for her Carnegie Hall recital debut, her Salzburg Recital, and for her legendary interpretation of Mozart with conductor Andre Previn.

Kathleen Battle has collaborated with some of the world's most talented musicians and conductors including conductors Andre Previn, Seiji Ozawa and Sir George Solti; tenors Luciano Pavarotti and Placido Domingo; violinist Itzhak Perlman and trumpeter Wynton Marsalis.

Kathleen Battle has made immeasurable contributions as an ambassador for classical music, performing for Presidents and dignitaries. Her performance on the PBS broadcast of the Metropolitan Opera's 1991 season opening gala won her an Emmy for Outstanding Individual Achievement in a Classical Program on Television. A documentary film on the recording of Sony's Baroque Duet

album with Wynton Marsalis and John Nelson conducting the Orchestra of St. Luke's was nominated for an Emmy. Kathleen Battle has been awarded six honorary doctorates from American Universities. In honor of her outstanding artistic achievements, Miss Battle was inducted into the "NAACP Image Award Hall of Fame," and in 2002 into the "Hollywood Bowl Hall of Fame."

A veteran of the prestigious Beijing Film Academy, **TAO Jing (Sound Supervisor)** was nominated for the Best Sound award at the 8th Golden Rooster Awards for work on his debut project, Chen Kaige's "The King of Children" (1988). This proved to be an auspicious start to a career that includes work on Chen Kaige's Palme d'Or winning "Farewell, My Concubine" (1993) and Zhang Yimou's BAFTA and Cannes Grand Jury Prize winning "To Live" (1994). In 1989, Tao Jing supervised the sound for Mu Deyuan and Liang Ming's "Lonely Soul in a Black Chamber," the first film in China to be mixed in Dolby Stereo.

A long-time collaborator of Director Zhang Yimou's, Tao Jing was awarded the Golden Reel Award for Zhang's "Shanghai Triad" in 1995, and the Best Sound Award at the 22nd Hong Kong Film Awards for "HERO" (2003). Tao Jing is a two-time winner of the Golden Rooster Award for Best Sound for Chen Kaige's "The Emperor and the Assassin" (1998) and "HERO" (2003). He has published widely on the subject of sound in film and is a Visiting Professor at the Beijing Film Academy.

TAO JING'S FILMOGRAPHY

HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS (2004)	FAREWELL MY CONCUBINE (1993)
HERO (2003)	MORNING BEIJING (1992)
BEAUTIFUL SHANGHAI (2003)	SPRING ON A STRING OF LIFE (1991)
THE EMPEROR AND THE ASSASSIN (1998)	OH SNOW OF FRAGRANCES (1990)
KEEP COOL (1996)	LONELY SOUL IN A BLACK CHAMBER (1989)
SHANGHAI TRIAD (1995)	THE KING OF CHILDREN (1987)
TO LIVE (1994)	

An Electronic Engineering graduate of the Shanghai University of Science and Technology, **CHENG Long (Editor)** began graduate studies in Computer Science in the U.S.A. before working as a sound engineer in a news van for

WPVI-TV6 in Philadelphia. This ignited Mr. Cheng's love for motion pictures and led him to pursue a Masters degree in Film and Media Arts from Temple University, Philadelphia followed by a course in Feature Filmmaking at the prestigious American Film Institute in 1995. On graduation, Cheng Long edited a series of U.S.-based projects including "Bontoc Eulogy" (1995) which screened at the 1996 Sundance Film Festival and "US Custom Classified" (1995) which premiered on CKAL-9.

Returning to China in 1997, Cheng Long edited the feature film, "A Time to Remember" (1998) before editing the television shows "A Hero Without a Name" (1997-1998) and "Love Affairs in Two Generations" (2000) for China's Zhejiang TV Drama Centre and Nanjing Cable TV Station respectively. Cheng Long is currently a visiting scholar in the Directing Department of the Beijing Film Academy.

CHENG LONG'S FILMOGRAPHY

HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS (2004)

A TIME TO REMEMBER (1998)

BONTOC EULOGY (1995)

For Immediate Release

**JAPANESE COMPOSER SHIGERU UMEBAYASHI CREATES
ORIGINAL SCORE FOR DIRECTOR ZHANG YIMOU'S
ACCLAIMED ACTION EPIC *HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS*
SONY CLASSICAL CD RELEASED December 7, 2004**

**Original Soundtrack Recording Features Soprano Kathleen Battle
Singing End-Title Song 'Lovers'**

**From The Director Of The Summer Box Office Hit *Hero*,
House Of Flying Daggers Opens In New York & Los Angeles On
December 3, 2004**

(New York, NY, October 26, 2004) – In his critically acclaimed new martial arts adventure *House of Flying Daggers*, Chinese director Zhang Yimou (*Raise the Red Lantern*, *Ju Dou*, *Red Sorghum*) returns to the milieu of his international hit *Hero*, this time featuring an original musical score by Japanese composer Shigeru Umebayashi, which is heard on Sony Classical's original soundtrack recording. A Sony Pictures Classics release starring Zhang Ziyi (*Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* and *Hero*), Andy Lau (*Internal Affairs*) and Japanese-Taiwanese star Takeshi Kaneshiro, *House of Flying Daggers* opens in New York and Los Angeles on Friday, December 3, 2004, and Sony Classical will release the film's original soundtrack recording on Tuesday, December 7, 2004.

"Lovers" – the end-title song from *House of Flying Daggers*, with music and lyrics by Umebayashi – is sung on the soundtrack by the American soprano Kathleen Battle. One of the most acclaimed singers of her day, Battle has recorded extensively in the classical and crossover repertoire for Sony Classical. This marks her first appearance on a film soundtrack.

Once the leader of Japan's legendary new-wave rock band EX, composer Shigeru Umebayashi began scoring films in 1985 when the band broke up. He has more than 40 Japanese and Chinese films to his credit and is perhaps best known in the West for his score for director Wong Kar-Wai's *In the Mood for Love* (2001). Umebayashi is also scoring Wong Kar-Wai's long-awaited *2046*, scheduled for release this year.

The Hollywood Reporter hailed *House of Flying Daggers* as a “gem ... While the action sequences are right up there with *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*, Zhang uses the genre to relate a touching and tragic tale about star-crossed lovers caught up with forces that threaten to overwhelm them ... The director lets the action unfold amid landscapes so beautiful they feel like paintings ... **Shigeru Umebayashi’s music, Chinese with Western modulations, well serves the movie’s epic quality.**”

Set in China in 859 A.D., in the declining days of the enlightened but now corrupted Tang dynasty, *House of Flying Daggers* is “a love story wrapped inside of an action film,” Zhang says. Two deputies – Leo (Andy Lau) and Jin (Takeshi Kaneshiro) – are sent to find the mysterious leader of the revolutionary alliance called the House of Flying Daggers, and their suspicions lead them to the beautiful Mei, a blind dancer at the Peony Pavilion. No one is quite who they seem to be in the intrigue that follows, complicated by the fact the Jin and Mei fall passionately in love despite divided loyalties, in the midst of a furious showdown between opposing forces.

The original soundtrack recording of *House of Flying Daggers* will be featured on Sony Classical’s Web site at www.sonyclassical.com.

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