

Mr Donnie Yen

Doctor of Humanities *honoris causa*

Citation

Mr Donnie Yen is a legendary figure whose contributions to the martial arts, cinema, and Chinese culture have left an indelible mark. Born in Guangzhou, China, and raised in Hong Kong and Boston, Mr Yen's life has been one of perpetual passion, innovation, and excellence. As a martial artist and an international action star, director, and producer, his spirit has always been one of perseverance, creativity, and cross-cultural harmony. Today, we celebrate his achievements, his artistry, and his powerful influence on generations of fans and filmmakers alike.

A Legacy of Martial Arts Mastery

Mr Yen's mastery of the martial arts is rooted in his upbringing. Trained by his mother, renowned kung fu grandmaster Bow-sim Mark, he honed his skills from childhood. Yet his artistry extended beyond tradition and, as a teenager, he explored diverse disciplines - karate, taekwondo, boxing, and even hip-hop dance - forging a unique style blending techniques of East and West. This signature fusion revolutionised action cinema. His breakout role in *Drunken Tai Chi* (1984) showed both his physical prowess and his charisma as a leading man. Over the decades, he redefined screen combat in films like *Iron Monkey*, where his shadowless kick mesmerised audiences, and *SPL*, where his gritty MMA-inspired fights set new benchmarks. His choreography in *Flash Point* and *Wu Xia* earned acclaim for its precision and storytelling, cementing his status as one of action cinema's greatest filmmakers.

Ip Man becomes a Cultural Ambassador

Mr Yen's portrayal of *Ip Man* elevated him to global stardom. His nuanced performance captured the wisdom, humility, and strength of Bruce Lee's mentor, resonating deeply with audiences worldwide. The *Ip Man* series (2008-2019) became a cultural phenomenon, celebrating Wing Chun and Chinese heritage as well as breaking box office records. His duels with legends such as Sammo Hung Kam-po and Mike Tyson were not just fights, but poetic expressions of honour and resilience.

Beyond *Ip Man*, Mr Yen brought legendary Chinese heroes to life - General Guan Yu in *The Lost Bladesman*, Qiao Feng in *Sakra*, and Sun Wukong in *The Monkey King*. Each role displayed his versatility, blending historical gravitas with electrifying action. His performance in *Hero* (2002) alongside Jet Li introduced wuxia to global audiences, bridging Eastern and Western storytelling.

Hollywood and Global Impact

Mr Yen's talents have transcended borders. In Hollywood, he choreographed fights for *Blade II* and *Highlander: Endgame*, infusing Western films with his dynamic style. His role as Chirrut Îmwe in *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story* (2016) made him a household name worldwide as an embodiment of spiritual strength and martial grace. Films like *xXx: Return of Xander Cage* (2017) further showed his ability to unite cultures through action. By delivering a standout performance as Caine in *John Wick 4* (2023), Mr Yen not only stole the show but also elevated the stature of Chinese actors in international cinema. His martial arts mastery and charismatic presence shattered stereotypes, proving Chinese actors can dominate Hollywood's biggest stages with dignity and artistry.

In *The Prosecutor* (2024), Mr Yen once again took on the roles of producer, director, and actor, successfully blending traditional legal drama with action sequences, showcasing his talent as a versatile filmmaker.

Innovator and Mentor

Behind the camera, Mr Yen's choreography has reinterpreted action cinema. From *Flashpoint* to *Raging Fire*, he integrated Mixed Martial Arts and traditional kung fu with modern stunts, inspiring a whole new generation of filmmakers. Action thriller *Raging Fire* smashed box office records in Chinese Mainland, making it the highest-grossing Hong Kong film at the time. His accolades - multiple Hong Kong Film Awards for Best Action Choreography, Golden Horse Awards, Huabiao Awards (華表獎) and the Taurus Award - are proof of his visionary approach. In 2016, Mr Yen was honoured with imprints of his hands and feet at the iconic TCL Chinese Theatre in Hollywood, cementing his legacy as a global action icon. He is also a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

Beyond Mr Yen's iconic screen presence, he has dedicated decades to humanitarian causes, and is a long-standing ambassador for Rotary District 3450 "THE ONE International Humanitarian Award" and charity organisations Save the Children, Po Leung Kuk. In 2020, he and his wife Ms Cissy Wang founded The Y.E.N. Charity Foundation, which contributes directly to Youth, the Elderly, and the Needy.

A Family Man of Harmony

Off-screen, Mr Yen, an accomplished pianist, is devoted husband to Ms Cissy Wang, and loving father to Jasmine and James. He exemplifies balance - martial discipline alongside artistic sensitivity, global fame grounded in family values.

Mr Yen's legacy is one of boundless creativity, cultural pride, and universal appeal, not only as a martial artist and actor, but also as a storyteller who uses movement to convey emotion, history, and humanity. As we honour him, we recognise a true pioneer - one whose kicks and punches have etched his name into the annals of cinema history, and whose spirit continues to inspire.

Mr Yen, your journey - from Guangzhou to a galaxy far, far away - has shown the world the power of dreams. May your star shine ever brighter.

Mr Chairman, it is my honour to present Mr Donnie Yen for the conferment of the degree of Doctor of Humanities *honoris causa*.

Citation written and delivered by Professor Emilie Yeh Yueh-yu

甄子丹先生

榮譽人文學博士

贊辭

甄子丹先生，國際功夫巨星，對武術、電影及中華文化的貢獻，深鑄於世。生於中國廣州，成長於香港與波士頓，甄先生之人生旅程，始終貫穿著熱忱、創新與卓越。作為國際動作巨星、導演及監製，其人生貫徹堅毅、富創意與跨文化共融的精神。今天，我們隆重表彰甄先生的成就、藝術造詣，以及他對全球數代影迷與電影人的深遠影響。

武藝傳承 宗師風範

甄先生之武學修為，植根於家學淵源。自幼承母親——著名武術大師麥寶嬋之教誨，刻苦砥礪，然其藝不止於傳統：他少年時更涉獵空手道、跆拳道、拳擊乃至嘻哈舞蹈，融匯東西方技法，自創獨特風格。此融合之道成為其標誌，更助他革新動作電影。1984年，他在《笑太極》（又名《醉太極》）中初露鋒芒，不僅展現其矯健身手，更顯其非凡的銀幕魅力。數十年來，他以《少年黃飛鴻之鐵猴子》之無影腳技驚四方，以《殺破狼》之綜合格鬥開創新境；《導火線》與《武俠》動作設計之精準及影片所用的敘事手法，奠定其當代動作電影巨匠的地位。

葉問典範與文化使者

甄先生以飾演葉問一角，使其躍登國際舞台；其細膩演繹，將李小龍師傅之智慧、謙厚與剛毅刻畫入微，深入人心。《葉問》系列（2008-2019）成為文化現象，既弘揚詠春與中華傳統，亦屢破票房紀錄。甄先生與洪金寶、米克·泰臣等高手過招，不止於武術，更是尊嚴與堅毅的詩意表現。

此外，甄先生更賦予傳奇英雄新生命——《關雲長》之關羽、《天龍八部之喬峯傳》之喬峯、《西遊記之大鬧天宮》之孫悟空，皆見其剛柔並濟、史詩與動作交融的功力。2002年他與李連杰聯袂出演的《英雄》，將武俠美學推至世界，貫通東西方敘事語境。

縱橫荷里活 影響無遠弗屆

甄先生之才華超越疆界。在荷里活，他曾為《幽靈刺客2：變種復活》及《挑戰者之終極爭霸》設計動作，為西方電影注入靈動風格；2016年《星際大戰外傳：俠盜一號》中飾演盲俠智刃嚴，以武悟道，以心明志，成為全球家喻戶曉的角色；2017年

《3X：反恐暴族》進一步展現他以動作融匯文化的能量；2023年於《殺神John Wick 4》中飾演「肯恩」，不僅技驚四座，更提升華人演員於國際影壇的地位——其武藝與氣度打破刻板框架，證明華人演員能以尊嚴與藝術征服荷里活。甄先生於2024年《誤判》再度身兼監製、導演及演員，將傳統的法律「文戲」與動作「武戲」成功融合，同時展現了其作為全能電影人的才華。

創新先驅與薪火相傳

鏡頭之後，甄先生以動作設計重新定義了動作電影。從《導火線》至《怒火》，融合綜合格鬥與傳統功夫於現代特技，啟發新一代電影人。其動作巨製《怒火》更創中國內地票房紀錄，成為當時內地電影史上最高票房港產片。甄先生屢獲香港電影金像獎最佳動作設計、金馬獎、華表獎及世界特技獎的殊榮，足證其具開創性的視野。2016年，甄先生獲邀於荷里活TCL中國劇院留下手足印，銘記其國際動作傳奇地位；此外，甄先生亦是奧斯卡金像獎主辦組織美國影藝學院的成員，於國際電影界具有一定的影響力。

光影之外 熱心公益

除銀幕英姿，甄先生數十年來致力人道事業，長期擔任國際扶輪3450地區「THE ONE 國際無名英雄獎」大使、「香港救助兒童會」及「保良局」大使。2020年，他更與妻子汪詩詩成立「甄愛慈善基金」，直接支援有需要人士、長者及兒童。

剛柔並濟 以家為本

銀幕之外，甄先生是汪詩詩女士的伴侶，亦是女兒 Jasmine 與兒子 James 的慈父。其人生映照平衡之道——武道修持與藝術感性（他亦是一位技藝精湛的鋼琴手）並存，國際聲譽與家庭價值相繫。

甄子丹之傳奇，源於無盡創造力、文化自豪與普世共鳴。他不僅是武術家與演員，更是以動作傳遞情感、歷史與人性的故事講述者。今日我們致敬的，是一位真正的先驅——其拳腳刻印於電影史冊，其精神將持續啟發後世。

甄先生，從廣州至廣袤星海，您的旅程向世界昭示夢想之力。願您的星光永遠璀璨！

主席先生，本人謹恭請 閣下頒授榮譽人文學博士學位予甄子丹先生。

贊辭由葉月瑜教授撰寫及宣讀