

# Film legend Jackie Chan brings own stunt experiences to movie 'Ride On'

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The long, challenging and prolific career of Hong Kong actor Jackie Chan has been condensed into the heart-warming film, "Ride On," which is a homage to the devotion and hard work of kung fu stuntmen behind successful action movies.

During an exclusive interview with Shanghai Daily last Wednesday, Chan said that although he is widely known as an action star, he hopes to be remembered as an actor who is adept at a variety of different roles, as is one of his favorite actors Robert De Niro.

The script by post-80s generation filmmaker Larry Yang touched Chan as he said he had considered making a similar film about 40 years ago.

"It reminded me of the days I did stunt work on films," said Chan.

The 69-year-old superstar, who is the winner of an honorary Oscar, began his career as an anonymous stuntman who risked his life performing dangerous stunts such as jumping from speeding trucks or leaping from a six-story building to catch the rope ladder of a hovering helicopter.

Even after he rose to worldwide fame, Chan insisted he do all of his own stunts and has endured decades of risky and dangerous work. He has suffered multiple injuries to almost every part of his body, broken many bones and subsequently undergone many surgical procedures.

In his latest film, "Ride On," Chan plays poor and washed-up stuntman Luo Zhilong, who tries to prevent his beloved stunt horse "Red" from being auctioned off by debt collectors. After performing many



**Above: The heart-warming film is expected to move many audience members to tears.**

**Right: Jackie Chan spent much time talking to the horse and feeding it to build trust between them. — Ti Gong**



jaw-dropping stunts with the horse, the stuntman comes to realize that his real responsibility is to his family.

The film was being released on April 7, Chan's birthday, and provides an insight into the work and concerns of stuntmen devoted to their movie careers. A line in the movie, "It's just action, jump, hospital!" demonstrates the risks that stunt people face on a daily basis.

The movie also portrays how Chan first entered the movie business and what he and his colleagues have experienced in the industry. In the movie, a stuntwoman is severely injured when an explosion goes off on set ahead of the scheduled time. Protagonist Luo's experience is also similar to that of Chan's own as both the actor and his character

required emergency surgery to remove broken bone fragments from their brains.

That incident was one of the worst injuries of Chan's long career. While filming "Armour of God" (1986) in Yugoslavia in the 1980s, Chan missed a tree trunk and plummeted 12 meters to the ground. His skull was fractured and his life was only saved because a veteran brain surgeon from Switzerland happened to be attending a nearby medical conference. The injury led to a permanent plastic plug being inserted in Chan's skull and partial hearing loss in his right ear.

Director Yang, known for the romance movies "Mountain

Cry" (2016) and "Adoring" (2019), said that he grew up watching a lot of Chan's classic movies. Two years ago, he decided to write a story about the lives of stuntmen after watching "Kung Fu Stuntmen," a documentary about the golden age of Hong Kong action cinema.

Yang said Chan's acting amazed him as he gave a down-to-earth depiction of an ordinary stuntman in "Ride On," which was very different from the usual heroic roles Chan played in previous movies.

"Chan has made a great breakthrough on the silver screen as he portrays the

character's fragility, loneliness and weakness," Yang said. "He breaks audiences' stereotypical impressions of his former action-packed heroic roles. That is an unknown but very charming facet of him as an actor."

In addition to depicting his character's deep love for his daughter, Chan also manages to portray the protagonist's delicate emotional connection with his horse.

"I spent two months with the horse, talking to it and feeding it to build trust," Chan said with a grin. "It was an interesting experience, although the horse used to bite me and step on my feet a lot of times."