The film stars young actress Liu Haocun and actor Guo Qilin. It also marks Chan's first on-screen collaboration with mainland action star Wu Jing. Both actors reflected on how the rapid development of computer-generated imagery and visual technology in recent times had redefined the work of kung fu stuntmen and women and reduced their personal risks while filming.

Despite such progress in film technology, Chan said he believed the spirit of Chinese stuntmen had never changed and it would be passed on from one generation to the next.

"In short, kung fu stuntmen never say no," he said. "There is a message I hope to share with all the young enthusiasts in the film industry. I used to ask myself if I could be Bruce Lee. The answer is no. Nobody can surpass Lee. I am Jackie Chan. The message is that nothing is impossible and just be yourself."

Chan has been in the film industry for around 60 years thus far. With more than 200 films under his belt, mostly martial arts and action-comedy films, he has helped spread the charms of Chinese kung fu cinema to the world with his signature combination of martial arts prowess and cheeky humor.

In an era when the film industry in Hong Kong lagged far behind Hollywood in terms of technology and equipment, Chan risked his life to present compelling movie scenes, as a means to increase the competitiveness of Hong Kong cinema.

"For Chinese actors, it is important to fight for real in the kung fu genre," Chan said. "In my future works, I will keep fighting and falling for real, and doing my stunts on my own."

Chan added that he has a strong curiosity for life, and he likes to learn. When he shot "Who Am I?" in 1998, he attended an international film festival in Rotterdam, where he was attracted by the Willemswerf Building.

The building later became one of Chan's grandest sets where he filmed a breathtaking, classic scene in which he slid along the slanted glass of its roof. A wonderful set, in his opinion, can help to boost an action film's appeal.

Chan said that his secret to success is innovation. He never stops making changes to the roles in his movies. He said he was very willing to cooperate with the talented director Yang in other film projects and explore new acting possibilities.

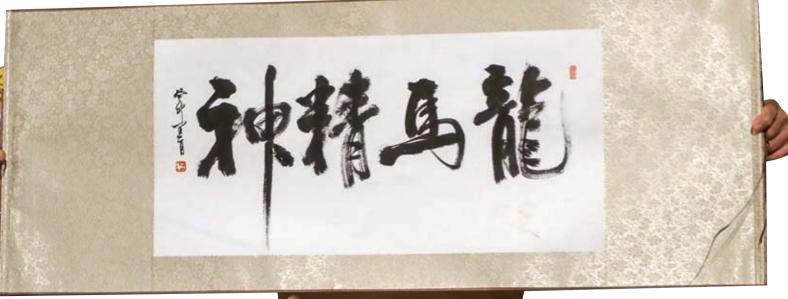
"I am a big fan of Chan," young Czech actress Zina said after a special screening of the film at the Grand Cinema on Wednesday. "The film is an epitome of Chan's legendary life and career. I'm also a stuntwoman. I hope to be a member of Chan's team."

Chan encouraged Zina and invited her to visit his training center in Beijing. He is known for his continued support for kung fu cinema and for young talent who are pursuing their own dreams in the industry.

He said he hoped a lot more young kung fu stuntmen and stars would emerge in China in the future.



The cast of "Ride On" speak with audience members after a special screening of the film at the Grand Cinema in Shanghai last Wednesday. From left: Actors Guo Qilin, Jackie Chan and director Larry Yang. — Dong Jun





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Jackie Chan

Chinese action star



Jackie Chan displays a gift of calligraphy he received from an audience member. — Dong Jun