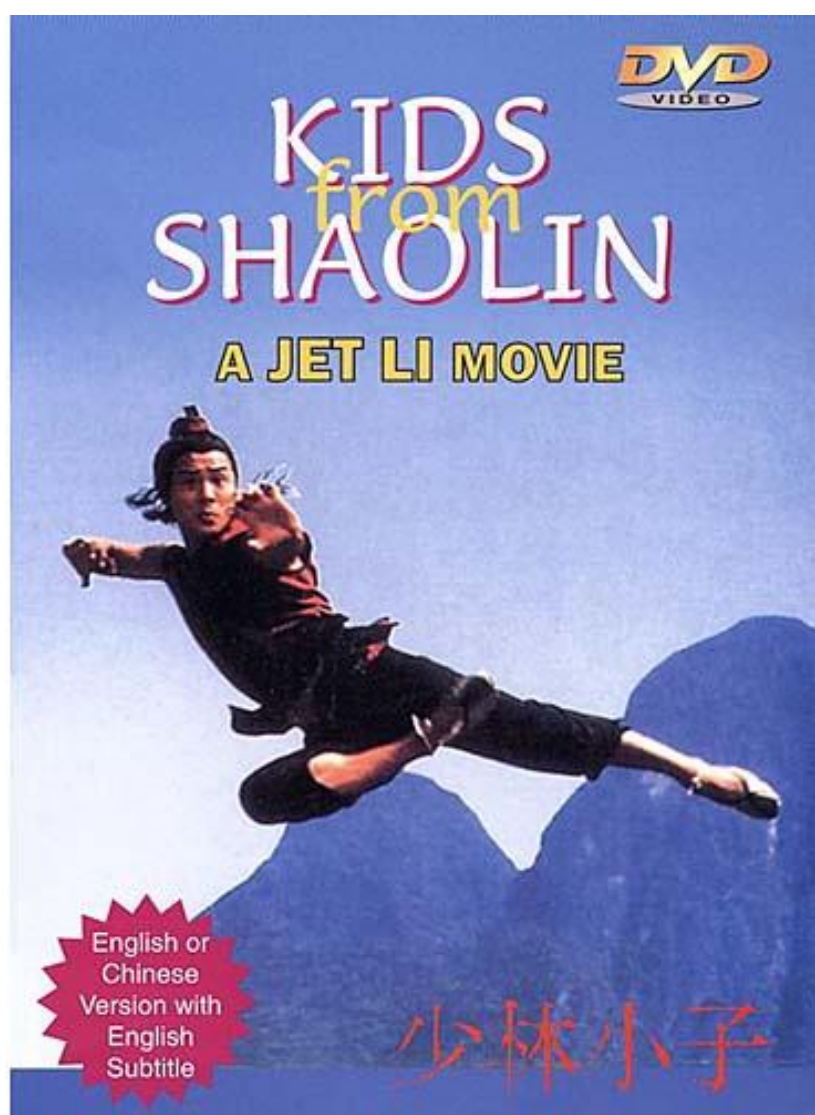


Shaolin Temple 2: Kids from Shaolin

(lit: "Shaolin Kids"; aka: "Kids from Shaolin"; "Shaolin Boys") [Shao Lin xiao zi]
 Hong Kong : 1983 : dir. Cheung Yan Yim : Chung Yuen : 104 min
 prod: Cheung Yan Yim : scr: Hoh Shu Wa & Leung Chi Keung : dir.ph.:

 Jet Li Lian-jie; Wong Chau-Yin; Yu Hai; Yue Hsing Wei; Ding Lan; Gai Chun Wa; San Feng;
 Ka Li

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω 8 ≠ M ☼	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
6148	5.5	12	50+	2,671	- 3 3 - -	No	<i>unseen</i>



The hills are alive, with the sound of Kung Fu... But is he travelling left? Or right?
 Source: Walmart.com website



Best China Shop web review:

“Tin Lung and Yee Lung coming from the Dragon Family with expert Shaolin martial art, they moved to Phoenix Village because of the gang riot. The master of Phoenix Village did not like them for the concern of the outflow of his Kung Fu secret. Mr gang standing in between the two parties seeking for chances to rob the Phoenix Village. Yee Lung and Yee Fung falling in love and put two parties together and using their wile method to push away the gang members. Finally, the master of Phoenix Village realised that there should not be any boundaries between martial art.”¹”



Excalibur Films.com web review:

“When thieves come to town robbing and killing everyone in sight, Jet Li saves seven young boys. It is now up to Li and the boys to save the village chief's kidnapped son and extract revenge [sic] on the murdering thieves.”



Fists of Wine web review:

¹ Now **there's** a mouthwatering synopsis if you like

“I can't believe I bought this movie, regardless, I can't believe I watched the whole thing! This is the worst garabage I have seen in years! The story is stupidly childish, about two kung fu families who live across a river, which their children constantly tease each other from. There are hardly any serious fight scenes or any fight scenes at all! The movie's villains are stupidly goofy and the movie is too long and boring to withstand. Pathetic! * ” – GaraiJAN



HK Film.net web review:

“This movie has the feel of a 1950's Disney film, from the light-hearted atmosphere to the sudden breaks into cheerful tunes to the beautiful landscapes. The plot also has that "warm and fuzzy" feel to it. Jet Li is the elder child of one family and Ding Laam the elder of another. The two families have been feuding with each other for years, but the realisation by Jet that his pops needs to get hitched – and quick – makes him want to bury the hatchet. However, a local governor wants both families' land, so he keeps tricking them into fighting each other. Eventually, as you might guess, the two families team up (and wouldn't you know it? There's a perfect match for every person in both families once they come together) to protect their land.



Overall, this movie was too slow-moving and much, much too happy for me to really enjoy it. I swear if I was diabetic, I would have gone into sugar shock about halfway through it. The only part I really liked was the ending fight, which is pretty good stuff, though the spurting blood may turn off those who were looking for more of a family-friendly picture. **“KIDS FROM SHAOLIN”** is worth a look, especially if you are interested in getting a look at a very young Jet Li in action, but don't

expect anything on the level of his later work like **"FIST OF LEGEND"** or **"ONCE UPON**



Source for above thumbnails: [Kung Fu Cinema.com](http://KungFuCinema.com)

A TIME IN CHINA". Note: this movie is not related to the first **"SHAOLIN TEMPLE"**. 5.5 "

HK Flix.com web review:

"Two rivaling families, one with only sons and the other with only daughters, finally gang up to defeat a band of evil marauders. All the while, the sons are trying desperately to get their father and uncle married off² but are confounded at every step by the daughters' paranoid father."

Jimmy900_UK web review:

"The story revolves around two families, one composed of all boys [*who*] are masters of Shaolin, and the other composed of all girls, [*who*] are masters of the Wu Tang. At first, the families don't have a good relationship, but as the movie goes on, their friendship starts to build up. The story here is nothing extraordinary, it's quite simple, but at the same time, it's quite humorous. There are some fight scenes, [*which*] are not too bad themselves, especially the last part. It's not choreographed as well as the **"OUATIC"** series though. The story is very wholesome, it's not very violent, and at the same time it's fun to watch. I think Jet Li did well here, it's worth a watch. A good sequel to the excellent **"SHAOLIN TEMPLE"** but it lacks excitement at times, although it contains some good humour. 7/10 "

KFC (Kung Fu Cult) Cinema.com web review:

"Tin Lung and Yee Lung are two fighters trained in the Shaolin arts. 10 years ago they saved a group of children from a village that was raided by bandits. After escaping they

relocated to Phoenix village where they lived on the opposing side of the river from a Wu Dong swords master who was master of the village. The Wu Dong master was father of many daughters and was hoping that one day he would have a son who would be his heir. Meanwhile he told his daughters to stay away from the boys of the Shaolin. He feared they would try to steal the secrets of his sword style.

"KIDS FROM SHAOLIN" is a movie the whole family can enjoy. Deadly kung fu is replaced by a more playful use of the martial art. You will find a lot of humour accompanying a very cute story of boys vs girls and love. The story is very simple and you won't get confused.³

The primary characters in the movie are the kids but all the characters are important in this movie. There isn't any real background or character development but for this kind of movie it's not really needed. Everything is kept simple so even children [*sic*] can understand everything. Jet Li is also in this movie but he isn't really a centrepiece. This is more of a movie with Jet Li rather than a Jet Li movie.

The action is [*mainly*] focused on humour during the movie. You also have a great deal [*of*] exhibition of Kung Fu talent. We must say the kids in this movie are pretty incredible, they really do a good show of talent. The movie ends with an extremely long fight scene, about 20 minutes long. You will get to see Jet Li in full action there. This is certainly a pleasant movie with lots of entertaining elements that will make time fly.

² Come again ?

³ That's a load off my mind...



Source: KFC cinema.com

The subtitles are very good on the DVD version, the dialogue is simple and easy to follow. The review of this movie is pretty basic, there is no deep plot to analyse or any innovative content to point out. This movie follows an age-old simple formula of entertainment, it's the type of movie that everyone can enjoy."

Kung Fu Cinema.com review:

"Two families, one trained in Wu Tang swordsmanship is made up of all girls and the other, trained in Shaolin techniques, are all boys. Their playful rivalry turns sour when a band of criminals infiltrate the Wu Tang household in order to get revenge on the Shaolin family.

What happens when you mix a musical with kung fu, a gaggle of talented children and Jet

Li amid surroundings that appear unnaturally picturesque? Well, it's no Chinese **"SOUND OF MUSIC"**, but it is a unique and surprisingly entertaining film.

After the whopping success of **"SHAOLIN TEMPLE"** (1982), Jet Li was surely destined for stardom. But before forging a career in Hong Kong, he headlined this light-hearted adventure about rival schools. Li plays the eldest among a group of eight boys who have all been raised and trained in Shaolin kung fu by Er Long and his brother. Its learned that the two had saved the boys from bandits who attacked their village and killed their parents.

All is well now except for the family across the river, made up of Ah Pao, the stubborn husband, his wife and their ten or so daughters. Er Long wishes to marry the eldest daughter, his brother wants the second daughter and lastly, Li sets his sights on the third and most

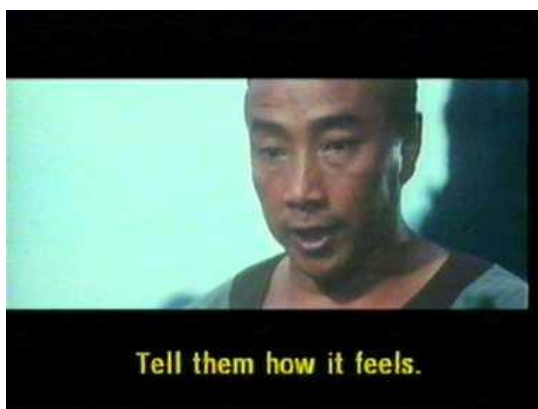
feisty of the young women. Unfortunately, Ah Pao has a low regard for Shaolin kung fu which keeps Er Lung from courting. Also, the Shaolin men are poor and Ah Pao expects payment in cattle for his second daughter's hand. And the third daughter shares her father's stubborn streak and initially looks down upon Li. A lot of silliness ensues as the children interact and constantly get into trouble.

When the bandits learn of Er Long's whereabouts, they begin a plot to use the two groups' rivalry against one another in order to get revenge on Er Long and have their way with the Wu Tang women. Their plans begin to succeed when Er Long's brother is caught running away with Ah Pao's second daughter,

while Li and the third daughter are wrongly accused of sexual indiscretion. When it seems that Er Long and his boys are leaving the valley for good, the bandits besiege Ah Pao's house and it's up to Li and his brothers to save the day.

Initially, this film could easily befuddle the unwary viewer. **"KIDS FROM SHAOLIN"** begins with a Disney-like animation and jumps into what appears to be a musical of sorts. Jet Li even lip-syncs to a tune early on as children from both sides of the river play. Despite the silly nature of the opening scenes, they still pull you in thanks to the absolutely gorgeous outdoor locations and the energetic and skilled





Family fun – Shaolin style. Naughty boys getting their just deserts was once a staple of American family comedy too, and not so very long ago, but that fondness about family discipline has now been consigned to the shredder of political correctness, and a scene like this could only be presented as an outburst of gratuitous male cruelty, not to say criminal assault. Source for sequence: The Movie and TV Spanking Page

physical performances of the younger children. The film follows this harmless plot where Li and Yue Sing Wai, playing Ah Pao's third daughter lead in a friendly rivalry. Even as the bandits infiltrate Ah Pao's household and begin to sow seeds of dissention, they're portrayed as fools. Then, in an odd turn of events, Ah Pao's rigidity becomes unsettling when he agrees to have his own daughter drowned for supposedly messing around with Li. Yet, this incredulous bit passes and all is well in the end.

Jet Li gets to show off his stuff here, especially at the end, but since there are so many characters to follow in the film, his role is not as large as one might hope or expect. Many of the children used in the film are actually quite impressive to watch as they perform their martial arts. Yue Sing Wai is great in the first half of the film as the icy third daughter who thaws after getting to know Li. Yue Hoi returns from **"SHAOLIN TEMPLE"** as Li's mentor in virtually the same role as the tough master who's really an old softy. Virtually all of the performances are quite memorable, spicing up a rather simple story.

While some viewers may be put off by the musical number (there is really only one) and all round silliness, **"KIDS FROM SHAOLIN"** does have a lot to offer. Like a much tamer version of **"FONG SAI YUK"** (1993), Li shows his lighter side and seems quite at ease in the role. Just enough quality fights scattered throughout manage to punctuate a rollicking tale of misunderstandings. This may not be one of Li's better showcase films, but provides a bit of welcome creativity within the genre.

"Monkey boy, where's your chivalry?" "

– Mark Pollard

"Tech Notes: A marginally dim image is boosted by a letterbox format to enhance the film's picturesque camerawork. The audio is presented in Dolby Digital 5.1 Surround. Extras include a short documentary on Jet Li with early footage from his wushu training, a synopsis, cast info, trailers, a chapter index, language selection, and removable English and Chinese subtitles."

Official Jet Li website review:

"Two families living on opposite sides of a river maintain a friendly rivalry based on their different styles of martial arts. One is a family of daughters who practice Wu Tang Sword; the other clan consists of boy orphans (Jet Li plays the eldest) from a brigand-ravaged village who were rescued and raised by a Shaolin disciple. When the father of the Wu Tang family is attacked by evil men, the Shaolin family helps out."

Rotten Tomatoes.com review:

"The second title in Jet Li's **"SHAOLIN TEMPLE"** franchise, featuring the continuing adventures of a vengeance-seeking Shaolin-trained loner, who, in this installment, settles down in a river cottage with his sons. Across the way, there's a family with girls trained in the Wu-Tang tradition – this situation inevitably leads to a feud and a star-crossed love story."

Yahoo Movies.com web review:

"A group of thieves comes to a town, robs and kills everyone in sight. Tian Lung, an expert of Shaolin, saves seven young boys' lives and then teaches them Shaolin Kung Fu. Lung's family lives next to the chief of the village who has eight daughters, but is eager for a son to carry on his family name. When the chief finally has a son, thieves steal the child, and Lung and the boys fight back. In the final battle they must wipe out the thieves using their Shaolin Kung Fu."

Unidentified website review:

"I recommend this movie to all Jet Li and hardcore wushu fanatics. **"KIDS FROM SHAOLIN"** is an oldskool movie. Jet Li was like in his late teens when he was making the movie. Practically almost every actor on the film had great wushu. The plot is pretty simple and the movie has lots of funny scenes."

[no listing in "Halliwell's Film Guide", "Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 2001", "Speelfilm Encyclopedie", "Bloomsbury Foreign Film Guide", "The Critics' Film Guide", "The Good Film and Video Guide", "Movies on TV and Videocassette 1988-89", "Radio Times

Guide to Films", "Rating the Movies (1990)", "The Time Out Film Guide", "TV Times Film & Video Guide 1995", "Variety Movie Guide 1993", "Video Movie Guide 1993" or "The Virgin Film Guide"]

No further information currently available. The quality of film reviewing on the web is below par, as you see, but since the published film guides uniformly ignore such titles there is no alternative source of opinion. As described, it sounds uncomfortably like "**The Brady Bunch**" by way of Run-Run Shaw – all-boy family meets all-girl family and, after initial rivalries are honourably settled, everyone lives happily ever after. Perhaps the blood-letting in the final – twenty minute?? – showdown is less of an impediment to family viewing in the orient, because the film seems calculated to please a family audience (bafoonish villains are a real giveaway) and disappoint hard-core chop socky fans. The name Jet Li is completely unfamiliar to me, but he's a strikingly handsome lead for this particular genre.

None of the actual children pictured can be named, but since the cast names are rendered in three or four different forms on the websites I consulted, sorting one from the other would be futile. Whether this title is more entertaining than its US variant – the "**3 NINJAS**" films for example – is a question of taste, but perhaps the kung fu skills on display will seem more authentic, at least. And it's nice to see boys and girls at war for a change, even for comic effect, when we're so inundated with endless tales of pre-pubertal romance, and a boy can scarce set foot on the screen before he is catapulted in the direction of the nearest Juliet.

See subject index under **ASIA, KIDNAPPING, LARGE BROODS, MARTIAL ARTS, ORPHANS / ADOPTION** and **CORPORAL PUNISHMENT**, although it's a long while since mass family beatings were played for comedy in the west (and longer still since a boy implored his dad to give him another spanking for good measure).