

Retrospective Hi-yaaaaah!

Much of the fun of watching a Hollywood action film is scrutinizing the special effects, then evaluating the movie by how well the audience was fooled into believing that Arnold/Sly/Keanu was really in danger. Watch a Jackie Chan movie, on the other hand, and you'll *know* he's in danger. He combines physical grace with comic aplomb to pull off one jaw-dropping stunt after another. **"Super Jackie: The Best of Jackie Chan"** at Cinema Village January 27 through February 16 (see "Museums, Societies, Etc.") is a chance to appreciate anew *Police*



Story, *Drunken Master*, and the other classics that have earned him a loyal following here. Once dismissed as "chop-socky" movies fit only for quickie exploitation runs, Hong Kong cinema has garnered increasing critical and popular acclaim, and this is a sweet turn of events for Chan. Little more than

a decade ago, hell-bent on breaking into the U.S. market, he accepted bit parts in *Cannonball Run I* and *II*, and never came close to finding the success he'd had overseas. His Asian fans, in the meantime, had moved on. "I had a very tough time getting back on top," Chan says, "but now I'm there and I'm happy. If American people like my movies, good; that's a bonus." Chan is also happy to see Hong Kong movies finally getting their day in the sun. "Years ago, the movies were just fighting. People would say, 'Why are you looking at me?' and then fight. 'I don't like you.' Fight. But now we care about everything—acting, comedy, drama, motorcycle scenes." And though Hong Kong will come under China's control in 1997, the 40-year-old Chan has no plans to move. "Oh, no no no. I'll still stay in Hong Kong. Even the Chinese government, when it's a Jackie Chan movie, they welcome it."

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