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Presents

CJ7

Written & Directed by and Starring Stephen Chow

(99 mins, Hong Kong, 2008)

Distribution

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Short Synopsis:

From Stephen Chow, the director and star of *Kung Fu Hustle*, comes CJ7, a new comedy featuring Chow's trademark slapstick antics. Ti (Stephen Chow) is a poor father who works all day, everyday at a construction site to make sure his son Dicky Chow (Xu Jian) can attend an elite private school. Despite his father's good intentions to give his son the opportunities he never had, Dicky, with his dirty and tattered clothes and none of the "cool" toys stands out from his schoolmates like a sore thumb.

Ti can't afford to buy Dicky any expensive toys and goes to the best place he knows to get new stuff for Dicky – the junk yard! While out "shopping" for a new toy for his son, Ti finds a mysterious orb and brings it home for Dicky to play with. To his surprise and disbelief, the orb reveals itself to Dicky as a bizarre "pet" with extraordinary powers. Armed with his "CJ7" Dicky seizes this chance to overcome his poor background and shabby clothes and impress his fellow schoolmates for the first time in his life. But CJ7 has other ideas and when Dicky brings it to class chaos ensues.

About the Production

CJ7 is the latest comedy feature from director and star Stephen Chow following his worldwide hit, “Kung Fu Hustle.” “Kung Fu Hustle,” the second highest grossing film in Hong Kong history after “Titanic”, was nominated for a Golden Globe, and won a total of 5 awards, including Best Film and Best Director, at Asia’s equivalent of the Oscars, the Golden Horse Awards. CJ7 marks the second collaboration between Sony Pictures Entertainment and Chow’s Star Overseas, following “Kung Fu Hustle”.

Featuring the trademark Chow slapstick humor, CJ7 is a comedy about a poor laborer father, Ti, played by Stephen Chow, and his young son, Dicky. When a fascinating and strange new pet enters their lives, Dicky, an elementary school student, sees a chance to overcome his poor background and shabby clothes and impress his fellow students for the first time in his life. The “pet” however has other ideas and when Dicky brings it to class, comedic chaos erupts including a showdown with the terrifying school bully, Storm Dragon!

Chow’s inspiration for the story started over twenty years ago when as a young man he saw Steven Spielberg’s “E.T.” at the theatre. “I went back to see “E.T.” over and over again,” Stephen Chow reveals, “and was amazed that science fiction could be filmed like this! I knew then that I wanted to make a movie like that. Steven Spielberg’s work inspired me to become a director.” Always an original, Chow admits that CJ7 is a slight departure from his previous comedies: “This type of story is new to Chinese movies but I hope audiences will like it.”

Finding “Dicky Chow”...

Also a new first for Stephen Chow is having a child actor as his main co-star. Newcomer, 9 year-old actress Xu Jiao plays Dicky Chow. Stephen Chow elaborated on the concept of casting a child actor in a main role: “I have had a lot of experience working with children throughout my career, since my early days as the host of a children’s television program, and there is not much difference between casting a child or an adult. It all comes down to talent and whether or not they can capture the character. The most important thing for me was to find “Dicky Chow.”

The character of Dicky Chow is a high spirited elementary school student with a mischievous streak. Although from a poor family, Dicky is proud of his background and the values that his father has instilled in him. Wanting the best for his son, Ti, works overtime to pay for the expensive tuition at Dicky’s exclusive academy, but he earns little with his laborer’s wages and is in debt after borrowing money from his Boss. Rough around the edges, Ti is however extremely dedicated to Dicky’s upbringing, often reminding Dicky to be proud of his poor background. He desperately wants Dicky to grow up to make something

of his life, rather than have to do menial labor work like himself. His father reminds him often that: "...we may be poor, but we don't lie, and we don't steal..." Director and writer Stephen Chow's own childhood values are echoed in the character of Dicky. "This is what I learned from my own parents," he confirmed.

Stephen Chow elaborated on the casting process: "After I had completed the screenplay, I began to look for the perfect actor who could capture the character in the original story script. When I first saw Xu Jiao, I instantly knew that she was perfect for the part. I was amazed by both her personality and performance. Xu is a natural actor and a genius."

Finding the right person to play Dicky Chow, however, was not easy. In an effort to find a youngster who could carry the role and, most importantly, who had natural comedic flair, the producers scoured the major cities of China including Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou, as well as the smaller towns such as Hangzhou and Ningpo. The casting search started in February of 2005 and went on until August of 2006 right up to the start of production. Associate Producer Connie Wong described the search: "Once we had a draft of the script for CJ7, we started looking all over China. We searched regular schools, martial arts schools, acting schools and schools with special talent programs in search of a strong actor to play the character of Dicky Chow. Ultimately, we auditioned almost 10,000 kids."

Xu Jiao stands out...

Connie Wong continued: "While we were in Ningpo, we heard from the AD that a young girl, named Xu Jiao, had done an outstanding audition for the role of Dicky. We really thought that Xu Jiao's performance matched Dicky Chow's mature personality. On top of that's she's not at all timid and her acting is so natural, so we decided to cast her in the role." On casting a girl in the role of the young boy, Connie Wong elaborated: "Thousands of boys auditioned, but we couldn't find one that came close to Dicky Chow's personality. While we were auditioning the girls for some of the other characters, we found that they were more natural than the boys and so that gave us the idea of having a girl play Dicky. Xu Jiao ultimately brought the character to life with her performance."

Young Xu Jiao, then only 8 years-old, won the part of Dicky Chow. She describes the character of Dicky Chow in her own words as "very lovable, a little mischievous, but kindhearted and real." Although she had done one commercial, Xu Jiao had never acted in a film before. "I only found out about my character on the first day of shooting," she confided. "The character of Dicky was incredible but I initially thought that it was going to be a small role. I couldn't believe that Director Chow would trust me, as a first-time actress, with such an important character in the film. I never imagined having an experience like this."

Becoming the character of “Dicky Chow” had its challenges for the novice actress. “As a girl it wasn’t easy to play a rough and rambunctious boy,” Xu Jiao admitted. Also, unlike her character, Dicky, Xu Jiao is a very good student and her Class President in real life, but she admits there are some similarities between her and her character: “I can be a bit mischievous too, like Dicky!” Also like Dicky, Xu Jiao sometimes wishes she had “special powers.” “If there is something I can’t do, no matter how hard I try, I wish I had magical powers that would allow me to do what I wanted in the blink of an eye!”

Playing the part of Dicky also meant one major sacrifice in her transformation to the character of a boy: “I was very sad when I had to cut off my long hair – I wasn’t prepared for that!” Xu Jiao admitted.

On set, the young Xu Jiao had some unforgettable moments in scenes involving the trademark slapstick comedy that are the hallmark of Stephen Chow films. “The most memorable experience for me was when I had to be sprayed down with the high pressure hoses. The weather was quite cold and the water was absolutely freezing!” Xu Jiao also had a lot of fun on set and described her favorite part of the shoot. “It was the scene where I am in the closet beating against the door - that was the most fun for me.” The young actress’ natural comedic ability shone through as she held her own opposite her co-star Stephen Chow, considered Asia’s number one comedy star.

Working with director Stephen Chow made a great impression on the young actress. “I learned a lot from Director Chow during the production. It was his determination and commitment to his work, as well as his sense of responsibility that most impressed me,” said Xu Jiao.

After her film debut in CJ7, Xu Jiao stated: “I definitely want to continue to act and I am very grateful to Director Chow for giving me such a wonderful opportunity.”

Teacher’s pet....

Dicky Chow is constantly being bullied by the other kids at the academy for having worn out clothes and shoes, in addition to being picked on by his own teacher, Mr. Cao. But Dicky has one champion at the academy and that is the beautiful and kind-hearted Miss Yuen, played by newcomer Kitty Zhang, who takes Dicky under her wing.

Kitty Zhang describes the character of Miss Yuen in her own words: “Compared to the other characters in the film, she is really quite ordinary, not at all pretentious or dramatic in any way. She cares greatly for her students and treats them all equally, whether they are rich or poor. She has a good heart and is the ideal teacher but underneath is still a sensitive and outgoing young woman.”

Kitty was able to find some common ground with her character. She explained: “I was attracted to the role by her very good heart. Some people might think that’s too idealistic but I believe everyone is born with a good heart, some people just hide it rather well or aren’t even aware of it themselves. I was also attracted to the noble side of her character. She thinks the best in others can be brought out by believing the best of them, as with Dicky.”

Being a young actress herself, Kitty Zhang didn’t have to look back very far to her own schooling to find examples of teachers she could draw on for the character. “I didn’t need to do much preparation for the part as I was lucky enough to have known many excellent teachers when I was at school so I just closed my eyes and visualized how they behaved and what they did for the students.” She adds modestly, “I think everyone knows how to play a good teacher.”

On working with her fellow child actors, she commented. “I don’t think I am the only one who enjoys spending time with a group of children. This is the first time that I have worked with kids and it was the most relaxing job I have ever had!” She continued, “It’s mainly because they are so easy to get along with. Kids are really simple, if you are nice to them and I mean really nice, because they know the difference, then they will include you in their group and you can play with them. They made our crew members feel at least 20 years younger!”

On working with the director and her fellow co-star, Stephen Chow, for the first time, Kitty Zhang commented: “It was delightful working with Mr. Chow. He runs a very relaxed set. Sometimes we didn’t even feel we were on a shoot. It almost felt like there was no camera on us. We would just chat happily about the kids.”

Kitty Zhang describes her hopes on how the audience will feel when they see the film: “...that we weren’t acting but that it’s us in real life...in fact, it’s really a universal story.”

I have never let my schooling interfere with my education...Mark Twain

Not all the teachers at the academy, however, appreciate Dicky’s special charms. *Mr. Cao*, the acrimonious disciplinarian of the academy is hated by the students and not liked much better by the other teachers. Determined to protect the school’s image of exclusivity, he is highly critical of the students’ appearance and particularly picks on Dicky for his shabby clothes and poor background.

Lee Sheung Ching, who plays Mr. Cao, describes his character in his own words “Mr. Cao is an intellectual who believes in elitist education. He despises students who have poor grades, are unclean, and don’t have any talent. He is however, a very straightforward person who makes his feelings and displeasure known, unfortunately mostly to Dicky Chow.”

Lee Sheung Ching described how he approached the role of Mr. Cao: “I tried to imagine what goes through the mind of a teacher and how he feels towards the

students in the classroom. Of course, sometimes if a teacher is stressed out with the coursework, he/she may not have a chance to express themselves. Mr. Cao is actually very sensitive and when it comes to his students, he has a lot of feelings, opinions, and prejudices. In other words, he really does care in his own way.”

Playing the role of the teacher meant Lee Sheung Ching had to work primarily with his child co-stars. “This was a very interesting experience, because I saw how the children were able to get into their roles so easily. It seemed to be a much simpler process for them to “be” in character, and act naturally. Perhaps it is because children have not yet developed a strong sense of “self.” I learned something from this experience. When you’re acting, you cannot think of yourself as an actor, you just have to become your character.”

As Mr. Cao, Lee Sheung Ching faced some unusual challenges...“The hardest scene for me was the scene where I had to pick my nose. At first, I was full of confidence with my nose-picking skills, but after talking with the director, I discovered that he had taken the act of nose-picking to a whole other level. This act turns social status and identity upside down, then you add in a bit of fantasy mixed with special effects, and you have an instant classic!” jokes Lee Sheung Ching.

Lee Sheung Ching hopes that audiences will take a positive message away from the film, “...that life is full of hope, and if you truly experience life, you’ll find that it’s often much more interesting than in the movies!”

The Boss...

Regular Stephen Chow collaborator, Lam Tze Chung who previously starred as the sidekick to Stephen Chow’s character, Sing, in “King Fu Hustle”, plays the “Boss” in CJ7. From the same hometown as Ti (Stephen Chow), the Boss is a tough guy with a loud voice, which he uses to yell mostly at Ti.

Lam Tze Chung describes his character in his own words: “The Boss is someone we see a lot in real life. He may not have an education or manners, but he has a good heart and ultimately he stands up for what is right.”

Having never personally experienced working in a labor job, Lam Tze Chung prepared for the role by observing people at work. “When I was in China, I studied people who were similar to my character. Once, in Shanghai, I saw a man fixing his bicycle on the side of the road, and I watched him for a whole day. He was very similar to the character of the Boss.”

Playing the character was not as simple as it first appeared. “It’s not that easy to play the Boss,” Lam Tze Chung explains, “because how he behaves and the way he feels is ultimately very different so it took quite a lot of skill to bring him to life and show both sides of his character.”

Lam Tze Chung who is also a director in his own right discussed how working on CJ7 with Stephen Chow differed from his previous experience working with the director and his close friend. “The main difference was that this time I was only responsible for acting and joking around with Stephen!” he laughed. “Actually, I didn’t have to do a lot of thinking or mulling over the script so I just focused on my character.”

Visual FX

Another trademark of a Stephen Chow film is the cutting edge visual effects. For CJ7, Stephen Chow selected the leading Hong Kong based visual effects company, Menfond Electronic Arts, to create the visual effects. Visual fx supervisor, Eddy Wong from Menfond Electronic Arts, described the process of bringing Stephen Chow’s artist vision to the screen. “We met Mr. Chow after he saw our work on the live action feature “Initial D” and “A Chinese Tall Story”” Eddy Wong continued: “Our job was to employ the latest technology available to translate Mr. Chow’s vision to the screen. This involved many meetings with him to discuss his vision, and then we created preliminary sketches so we could help visualize the images that he had described to us.” Over a period of two years Eddy Wong and his team worked to develop the visual effects and character design with the director. “We provided more than 1000 color sketches during this process,” Eddy Wong explained. “The most challenging part was obviously creating the creature itself. For this, we developed what we call the “Fur system.” With the help of a foreign fur expert, our in-house R&D team developed this state-of-the-art system specifically for CJ7.”

About the crew:

STEPHEN CHOW Director, Producer, Writer

CJ7 is the fifth feature directed by Stephen Chow, Asia's number one comedy star and one of the region's most beloved entertainers. His previous feature "Kung Fu Hustle" was the second highest grossing film in Hong Kong history after "Titanic". Chow made his directorial debut with "God of Cookery" in 1996, followed by "King of Comedy" in 1999, both of which he also wrote and starred in. In 2001 Chow directed, wrote, and starred in "Shaolin Soccer", the fourth highest grossing film of all time at the Hong Kong box office which also broke box office records across Asia. "Shaolin Soccer" went on to win seven major awards at the Hong Kong Film Awards, including Best Actor, Best Picture, Best Director, Best Supporting Actor, Best Sound Design and Best Visual Effects.

Stephen Chow has starred in more than 50 films, but it was the success of 2001's "Shaolin Soccer" that lifted him to a level of stardom occupied by only a handful of others in the region. Like "Kung Fu Hustle," Chow also wrote, directed and starred in "Shaolin Soccer." Though a Hong Kong-produced film, "Shaolin Soccer" broke box office records across Asia, including the non-Chinese speaking countries such as Japan and South Korea.

A native of Hong Kong, Stephen Chow was one of three children in what he describes as a "very poor family." He grew up as a Bruce Lee fan and a martial arts fanatic, but he remembers that as a child his own kung fu training had to stop after six weeks when his family could no longer afford lessons. Chow started his entertainment career as the host of a TV children's show, "430 Space Shuttle". He quickly made a name for himself with his witty style, but it was not until 1989 that he began acting in films.

In 1989, in the movie "Final Justice", he played a supporting role, which won him the best supporting actor award at the Taipei Golden Horse Awards and established him in the Hong Kong film world. The key turning point in his career came only a year later, when he had his first starring role in the 1990 Chow Yun-Fat spoof "All for the Winner". In this movie, Chow's unique and hilarious onscreen persona – playing his first in a series of lovable underdogs – made him an overnight sensation in Hong Kong and throughout Asia. Asian film observers also say that in that film Chow gave birth to the "Mo Lei Tau" ("nonsense") comedy style, now considered a fully established genre of Hong Kong comedy.

Since "All for the Winner," Chow has gradually but firmly established himself as Hong Kong's comedy king. Among his 50 some movies, "Justice My Foot" won him the best actor award at the 1992 Asian Pacific Film Awards, and "A Chinese Odyssey" won him the best actor award at the 1996 Hong Kong Critics Society Awards as well as at the Hong Kong Golden Bauhinia Film Awards.

With “God of Cookery” in 1996, his first directorial effort, which he also wrote and produced, in addition to starring, Chow entered a new era of his film career, in which his full talents as a filmmaker began to blossom. After the huge success of “God of Cookery,” he made “King of Comedy” in 1999, which he also wrote, starred in, and directed. A charming story about a movie extra meeting the star of his dreams, “King of Comedy” earned Chow lavish praise from American writer-director-actor Quentin Tarantino, who describes Chow as the best actor in Hong Kong.

In 2001 Chow directed, wrote, produced and starred in “Shaolin Soccer,” which brought him to yet another peak in his career. A story combining martial arts, Chow’s lifelong passion, and soccer, one of the most popular sports in the world, “Shaolin Soccer” quickly became the fourth highest-grossing film of all time in Hong Kong. “Shaolin Soccer” won seven major awards at the Hong Kong Film Awards, including Best Actor, Best Picture, Best Director, Best Supporting Actor, Best Sound Design and Best Visual Effects.

Stephen Chow’s Star Overseas recently produced the feature “Jump” starring Kitty Zhang, directed by Stephen Fung, part of a new multi-feature collaboration between Star Overseas and Columbia Pictures Film Production Asia, under which Sony Pictures Releasing International will distribute the features worldwide.

Stephen Chow will next produce the major live-action feature film version of the hugely popular Japanese Manga comic feature “Dragonball.”

CHUI PO CHU Producer

Chui Po Chu is one of the leading producers in Hong Kong and was the producer on Stephen Chow’s previous feature, “Kung Fu Hustle.” Her other feature film credits include: “So Close,” a Columbia Pictures Film Production Asia project, released in the U.S. in 2003. Her other films as producer include “The Blacksheep Affair,” directed by Allen Lam and starring Zhao Wen Zhuo and Shu Qi; “Dr. Wai in ‘The Scripture With No Words,” directed by Ching Siu Tong and starring Jet Li and Rosamund Kwan; and “Fist multiple-of Legend,” from director Gordon Chan, with Jet Li and Nakayama Shinobu. She also served as associate producer on “Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon” the Oscar winning film co-produced by Columbia Pictures Film Production Asia. Chui’s resume as producer includes several collaborations with famed director and action choreographer Cory Yuen, including “So Close”, “Bodyguard from Beijing,” “The New Legend of Shaolin,” and “The Legend of Fong Sai Yuk” I and II. Prior to working as a producer, she was production manager on such well-known Hong Kong productions as “Once Upon A Time In China,” directed by Tsui Hark, and “The Ghost Story 3” from director Ching Siu Tung. In 2006, Chui Po Chu co-produced “Fearless” by director Ronny Yu starring Jet Li.

HAN SAN PING Producer

Han Sanping is the Chairman of the China Film Group, as well as the Beijing Film Studio. He is Vice Chairman of the International Film Producers Association and the Chairman of the China Film Producers Association. Han is also one of China's top directors. His directorial credits include: "The Story of Mao Ze Dong", "Sanctuary", and "Beyond the Horizon." In recent years, he executive produced and produced approximately 360 fiction films such as "Life Show", "Postmen in the Mountains", "The Emperor and the Assassin", "Part A Part B", "Blush", "Together", "Heng Kong is Born", "Red Suit", "Cell Phone", "The Missing Gun", "The Warrior", "Big Shot's Funeral", "The Parking Attendant in July", "The Promise", "Zhang Side", "You and Me", "A Bride from Shangri-La", "Ding Jun Shan", "The Knot", "Crazy Stone", and "Call for Love". He also produced and supervised 120 TV series (3800 episodes), including "Hanwu Tati", "Places as Temple", "The Place Where Dream Starts", "Like Fog, as Rain Like Wind", "Orange Red", "The Bitter Green Flower", "Zhu Yuanzhang", "Zhenguan the Administration", "Qinggon Situation", and "Jiangshan Stormy Situation".

His feature "The Story of Mao Ze Dong" was the winner of the Department of Propaganda's "Five One Project Award" and the Changchun Film Festival's "Outstanding Feature Film Award. Han was a recipient of both a State Council Special Allowance, and the 12th China Film Hua Biao Outstanding Producers Award.

CONNIE WONG Associate Producer

Connie Wong is an experienced media practitioner spanning many areas including advertising, television, film production, public relations, and event organization of large scale concerts. This early hands-on experience armed her with a tremendous background in organization and production. Currently a producer and production manager, Wong has devoted herself to Hong Kong films for more than a decade. Possessing a solid understanding of mainland China's motion picture industry, she has established close relationships with producers throughout China. Connie Wong has worked with many of Hong Kong's top directors over the years including Stanley Kwan, Jackie Chan, Gordon Chan, and Stephen Chow. She has taken part in several major productions which include many box office hits and award winning films. Wong has worked with Stephen Chow since 1995 on his features including the worldwide hit "Kung Fu Hustle", and prior to that on "Shaolin Soccer". Wong's previous film credits also include "Rouge" (1988) for director Stanley Kwan, "Police Story II" (1989) for Jackie Chan, and "Chinese Odyssey" (2002) for director Jeff Lau. She has worked with director Wong Jing on multiple features including "Royal Tramp I," (1990) "Royal Tramp II," (1991), "Last Hero in China," (1993), "The Kung Fu Cult Master" (1994) and "We're No Bad Guys" (1997). Most recently she completed production on the feature "Jump" from director Stephen Fung, produced by Stephen Chow's Star Overseas.

VINCENT KOK Writer, Producer

Vincent Kok Tak Chiu has taken an active part in the Hong Kong film industry for over 15 years now. Since his graduation from Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, Canada majoring in Communications and Economics, he has become a multi-media professional specializing in filmmaking. Besides being a well-known scriptwriter and director, Vincent is a film and television actor, radio show host, producer, creative director, director of TVC, a regular columnist for newspapers as well as a published food critic. During the years 2001-2003, he took up the role of Chief Operating Officer of Golden Harvest Film Productions Ltd, a listed company and a world famous studio. And in 2002, Vincent was also awarded Best Screenplay by the Hong Kong Film Critics for the film "You Shoot, I Shoot." Up till now, Vincent has written more than 30 screenplays, produced 9 feature films and directed 9 feature films, all of them enjoying great success in the box office. The movies he directed, such as "Forbidden City Cop" (1996), "Gorgeous" (1998) and more, have involved international stars including Jackie Chan, Stephen Chow, Tony Leung, and Shu Qi. In recent years, Vincent has continued to succeed in the box office with comedies that cleverly grasp current trends and humor. Vincent's passion for the film industry, as well as his creativity, is reflected in his success and in his achievements across multi-media.

POON HANG SANG Director of Photography

Poon Hang Sang is one of Hong Kong's most distinguished cinematographers. Among his many awards and nominations, he has won the Hong Kong film Award for best cinematographer twice, for 1993's "Center Stage," (the story of 1930's actress Ruan Ling Yu, starring Maggie Cheung and directed by Stanley Kwan) and for the 1986 film "The Island." He also won best cinematographer at Taipei's Golden Horse Awards for the 1991 movie "Red Dust."

Poon was born in Hong Kong and graduated from Hong Kong Baptist University where he majored in film and communications. He started his career as a director of photography in 1982 with Yim Ho's "Homecoming," which won him a nomination for Best Cinematographer at both the Hong Kong Film Awards and the Cannes International Film Festival and established him as a prominent cinematographer in Hong Kong. His major features for top directors include Tsui Hark's "Peking Opera Blues" (1986), Ching Siu Tung's "A Chinese Ghost Story," (1987) John Woos' "Once A Thief" (1990), Johnnie To's "Eastern Three Heroes (aka "The Heroic Trio") (1992), and Jeff Lau's "A Chinese Odyssey" (1995) starring Stephen Chow.

In recent years, his work has been mainly in Hollywood. He was director of photography on "Formula 51" (2002), and "Fearless" (2006), and he also acted as the second unit director on "Freddy vs. Jason" in 2003. Poon Hang Sang was the director of photography on Stephen Chow's previous feature, "Kung Fu Hustle."

OLIVER WONG Production Designer

Oliver Wong is a respected Production Designer and Art Director. Since the 1985 film "Police Story," he has been the Production Designer on most of Jackie Chan's movies, including "Who Am I?," "First Strike," "Rumble In the Bronx," "Super Cop," "Police Story II," "Project Eagle," and most recently "The Accidental Spy" and "The Medallion."

Wong served as production designer on many other well known Hong Kong films, including "Aces Go Places" I, II, and III, "Law With Two Phases" directed by Li Shau Yin, "Magnificent Warriors" from director Chung Chi Man, "Life After Life" directed by Peter Yung, and "San Da" directed by Mak Chi. Wong won the Best Production Design award at the Taipei Golden Horse Awards twice, once for "Life After Life" in 1982 and again for "Police Story II" in 1988. Wong is a graduate of Hong Kong Polytechnic, where he majored in industrial design. He also works as a Production Designer for TV commercials. Oliver Wong was the production designer on Stephen Chow's previous feature "Kung Fu Hustle."

ANGIE LAM Editor

Angie Lam is one of the best known editors in the Chinese-language film industry. She is known for her work on some of the most prominent action films of the past decade and her credits include director Zhang Yimou's "Hero," Yuen Wo Ping's "Iron Monkey" and "Twin Warriors," and other features such as "New Dragon Inn" and "Fong Sai Yuk II." Born and raised in Hong Kong, Angie Lam studied film at the Hong Kong Baptist College. She started her film career as a post production coordinator on the 1987 film "Eastern Condor," directed by Sammo Hung. In 1993, her work on "Twin Warriors" (also known by the English title "The Tai Chi Master") earned her a nomination for Best Editing at the Taipei Golden Horse Awards. At the 2002 Milan International Film Festival, Lam won the best editing award for "Big Head Monster," a horror movie directed by Cheang Soi. Her other award nominations include Best Film Editing at the Hong Kong Film Awards for "Hero," "Full Alert" (1998) from director by Ringo Lam, and for "The Rapist"(1994) directed and produced by Cha Chuen Yee. Angie Lam previously worked with Stephen Chow as the editor on his international hit feature "Kung Fu Hustle."

RAYMOND WONG Composer

Raymond Wong began composing music for film in 1994. Early in his career he collaborated with top Hong Kong directors such as Johnnie To and Tsui Hark. One of his first projects, "Butterfly Lovers" (1994) directed by Tsui Hark, won Best Original Score at the Hong Kong Film Awards. Wong went on to work on memorable films such as Tsui Hark's "The Blade," Johnnie To's "Fireline" and "Running Out of Time" 1 and 2; Yau Nai Hoi's "The Odd One Dies" and "The Longest Nite." Wong is a regular collaborator of Stephen Chow. They first

worked together on Chow's "King of Comedy" in 1999, followed by "Shaolin Soccer" for which he received a nomination for Best Original Score at the Hong Kong Film Awards in 2002. Prior to working together on "CJ7," Raymond Wong composed the score for Chow's multiple award-winning feature, "Kung Fu Hustle."

TSANG KAN CHEONG Writer

Tsang Kan Cheong has written over 15 Hong Kong feature film scripts. His first credit was as a writer of the 1985 movie "It's A Drink! It's a Bomb!" starring Maggie Cheung. His other feature film credits include "In the Line of Duty" and "Magnificent Warriors," both starring Michelle Yeoh; and "My Heart in that Eternal Rose" and "Royal Scoundrel", both starring Tony Leung. Tsang is also well known in Hong Kong for his television writing. Since 1981, he has written more than ten TV series, including "Grand Hong Kong," starring Chow Yun-Fat. Tsang first worked with Stephen Chow in 1996 on the movie "God of Cookery" as a co-writer. Since then, he has been involved in all of Chow's movies, including "King of Comedy," "Shaolin Soccer" and "Kung Fu Hustle." He was nominated for the Best Screenplay award at 2001 Hong Kong Film Awards for "Shaolin Soccer". He also wrote and directed the 1997 movie "Intruder," starring Wu Chien-lien.

SANDY SHAW LAI-KING Writer

Sandy Shaw Lai-King has been writing for film since the 1980's. Her screenwriting credits include: "Sky of Love" (2003) from director Hua-Tao Teng, and "The Losers' Club" (2001) from director: Tat-Chi Yau. (1996). Prior to that she wrote the screenplay for Corey Yuen's "My Father Is A Hero" (1995). Sui has collaborated with director Johnny To on many of his features including "A Moment of Romance III," (1996), Executioners (1993), "The Bare-Footed Kid (1993) and she wrote the screenplay for his two 1993 features: "The Heroic Trio" and "The Mad Monk" in addition to "Justice, My Foot!" (1992). Sandra Sui also wrote the screenplays for "A Roof With a View" in 1993 for director Tony Au, "Project S" (1993) for director Stanley Tong, "The Good, the Bad and the Bandit" (1991) for director Chi Yan Lam, "Gigolo & Whore" (1991) for director Jiming Tang, "Hong Kong Gigolo" (1990) for David Lam and "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star" in 1983 for director Guoming Zhang.

FUNG CHIH CHIANG Writer

Fung Chih Chiang, one of Hong Kong's new generation of screenwriters, first began his career with Stephen Chow's international hit feature "Shaolin Soccer." In recent years, his scripts have been made into eight successful movies, including "Hooked on You" and "2 Become 1," produced by Johnny To. In 1996, Fung's graduation project for the Hong Kong Baptist University (School of Communication, Department of Cinema and Television) was selected to represent the University in the Tapei Golden Horse Awards (Short Films). He

became a full-time screenwriter in 1997, and began scripting many popular TV shows in China.

LAM FUNG Writer

Lam Fung is one of Hong Kong's up and coming writers for both film and television. He has produced a significant body of work since he first started writing in the late 1990's. He most recently worked on the first draft of screenplays for the features: "Undercover Hidden Dragon" starring Ronald Cheng, (2006) and "House of the Invisibles" starring Leila Tang, Wayne Lai, and Suet Lam. His early television credits include "The God of Cookery" television series in 1998 produced by Golden Harvest. In 2002, he was a writer on two television series, "Project Ji Xiang," and "Thunder Cops," which he followed with the television series "Light of Million Hope" in 2003. His first film screenplays were produced in 2004 and included "The White Dragon" starring Francis Ng and Cecilia Cheung, "Hidden Heroes" starring Ronald Cheng and Charlene Choi, and "Three of a Kind." In 2005, he wrote for two television series: "Blind Detective," and "Great Adventures." In 2006, he worked on the television series "Fathers and Sons" starring Bobby Ou Yang, Xia Yu, Tavia Yang and Wong Hei. In 2007 he completed work on the television series "Hong Kong Sisters" starring Xiwen Cao and Cherrie Ying for CCTV1.

DORA NG Costume Designer

Dora Ng entered the Hong Kong film industry after graduating with a fashion and design degree from the Institute of Textiles and Clothing, Hong Kong Polytechnic University. A director of costume and make-up, her work has appeared in over thirty movies in the past decade, and she holds the record for the most nominations for Best Costume and Make-Up design at the Hong Kong Film Awards. Films that she designed for that have won this award include: "Comrades: Almost a Love Story" (1997), "Purple Storm" (2000), and "Going Home." (2002). Ng also had the honor of receiving the Best Make-up & Costume Design Award at the 2003 Taipei Golden Horse Film Festival for her work on the film "Golden Chicken," produced by Peter Chan. In addition to having worked closely with Hong Kong's foremost art director Chung Man Yee, Dora Ng is also the costume and make-up designer for several locally renowned Hong Kong directors. She was the costume and make-up designer on Peter Chan's 2005 film "Perhaps Love" which debuted internationally at the Venice International Film Festival. Ng's previous feature film credits for which she was nominated for awards include: "Endless Love" (1994) for director Tung-Shing Yee, "Peace Hotel" (1995) for director Ka-Fai Wai, "He's A Woman, She's A Man," (1994) for Peter Chan, and the sequel "Who's The Woman, Who's The Man (1994).

MENFOND ELECTRONIC ART

Menfond Electronic Art creates award-winning digital animation and visual effects around the world for feature films including CJ7, “Nightmare Before Christmas 3D”, “Ultraviolet”, “Initial D”, “Fearless & The Battle of Wits”; commercials including Nokia, Canon, Cathay Pacific Airlines; video games including Rise to Honor and Final Fantasy PS2 series; Internet including Adidas, TOKYOPOP, Fox Atomic. The company, which was created in 1990, has grown under the direction of brothers Victor and Eddy Wong to include over two hundred digital artists and visual effects professionals in Hong Kong, China, Japan and Los Angeles. Menfond has won top Visual Effects honors at the Taipei Golden Horse Awards, China Golden Rooster Film Awards, Hong Kong Film Awards, and Japan’s JIAA Awards.

About the cast:

XU JIAO - Dicky Chow

Newcomer, 10 year-old actress Xu Jiao who plays "Dicky Chow," is from Ningpo, a city in the north eastern province of mainland China, where she was first discovered by the producers of CJ7. Xu Jiao was one of 10,000 kids who auditioned for a part in the film from all over China but didn't expect to be cast in the lead role. During auditions in Ningpo, the producers heard that a young girl named Xu Jiao had done an outstanding audition that matched Dicky Chow's mature character. She impressed them with her natural acting and confident personality. Xu Jiao was eight years-old when she won the part and had previously only shot one commercial but had never acted in a feature length film.

Becoming the character of "Dicky Chow" had its challenges for the novice actress. As part of the transformation for the part, Xu Jiao was required to cut off her long hair so she could resemble a young boy. Also, unlike her character, "Dicky," Xu Jiao is a very good student and her Class President in real life, but she admits there are some similarities between her and her character: "I can be a bit mischievous too, like Dicky!"

KITTY ZHANG - Miss Yuen

Following CJ7, Kitty Zhang went into production with the starring role in "Jump", a comedy produced by Star Overseas, and directed by Stephen Fung. Prior to that she shot two feature films: "Midnight Shanghai", a PRC film, in which she guest starred, and the major Japanese feature "Shaolin Girl", scheduled for release in late April 2008, produced by Stephen Chow and Chihiro Kameyama.

In 2005 Ms Zhang has also appeared on the television series "Phoenix on Fire," and "Super Teacher."

LAM TZE - CHUNG Boss

An up-and-coming young actor, Lam Tze Chung, made his first major screen appearance in Stephen Chow's hit "Shaolin Soccer." Since then, he has been a regular Stephen Chow collaborator, starring as the sidekick to Stephen Chow's character, Sing, in "King Fu Hustle." Lam Tze Chung has also appeared in a number of other features including "Dance of a Dream" (2001), starring Andy Lau Tak -Wah and Anita Mui Yim-Fong; and director Raymond Yip Wai-man's "Beauty and the Beast" (2001) and "Women from Mars." He directed a feature film in 2006 "I Will Call You" (2006).

Lam Tze Chung joined Stephen Chow's company Star Overseas in 1999, and holds the title of production manager. He is also a screenwriter, director, and TV host.

Cast

Dicky Chow.....Xu Jiao
Ti.....Stephen Chow
Miss Yuen.....Kitty Zhang
Mr. Cao.....Lee Sheung Ching
P.E. Teacher.....Fun Min Hun
Johnny.....Huang Lei
Storm Dragon.....Yao Wen Xue
Maggie.....Han Yong Wua
Boss.....Lam Tze Chung
Fanny A.....Hu Qian Lin

Crew:

Stephen Chow.....Director, Producer, Writer
Chui Po ChuProducer
Han San Ping..... Producer
Connie Wong.....Associate Producer
Vincent KokWriter/Producer
Tsang Kan Cheong.....Writer
Sandy Shaw Lai-King..... Writer
Fung Chih Chiang.....Writer
Lam Fung.....Writer
Poon Hang Sang.....Director of Photography

Ku Huen Chiu.....Action Choreographer
Yuen Shun Yi.....Action Choreographer
Oliver Wong.....Production Designer
Angie Lam..... Editor
Raymond Wong.....Composer
Dora Ng.....Costume Designer
Menfond Electronic Art & Computer Design Co. Ltd.....Visual Effects