Interview of Jackie Chan (“C” in the transcript) by George Stroumboulopoulos (“S” in the transcript). The transcript below captures the start of this video, up to the time of around 16:00: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2qbi4wNefo0.

S: (???) Please welcome to the program--- Jackie Chan!

S: How are you man

C: Good

S: Nice to see you

C: Hi, hi, hi, hi, hi, hi, hi

S: Good. Welcome

C: Thank you

S: How are things?

C: Everything’s good. Fine. Good.

S: Congratulations on this new movie. I like the subject matter. I mean, the idea of like taking art and repatriating art too.

C: Yeah. That’s my basic idea. And it’s give all the--- You know two days ago there was a hundred fifty thousand people writing they want the Mona Lisa back to Italy?

S: Yeah

C: Based on this kind of story. And the whole movie is about… I was a thief--- good thief--- and treasure hunting all uh--- you know, the art piece then I got a buyer, suppose I want to sell it, to make money. Then at the end, somebody taught me about how to be a good human being.

S: Mm Hm. Right

C: Then at the end, I take all the paintings. All the jewelry.

S: Right

C: Back to India, Cambodia, Vietnam, China
S: You didn’t just spoil the ending, did you?
C: No, no.
S: OK. So, there’s more.
C: And, at the end, is a happy ending, you know.
S: Yeah.
C: Yeah.
S: Do you still do the stunts, too?
C: Yes.
S: Yeah?
C: That’s my last---- I just tell the audience, that’s my last big action movie.
S: How come?
C: Why, be--- I’m not young anymore!
S: Oh.
C: I’m not.
S: (????) You’re 58? 51. So you’re 40… You’re 12. Tell me what you--- tell me what the right answer is.
C: The worst thing is that I don’t have to cover my age. Every year, April 7, the whole world: “Jackie, 58! 59! And then 60….”
S: Yeah.
C: Yeah. I’m 58.
S: Yeah?
C: Yeah.
S: And then sixt—How do you feel about getting older? Are you OK with it?
C: Yeah, getting--- I’m--- Especially at the morning, get up. You know, on the knees. Angle… the shoulder. You have to move like a few hours. Yes, it makes me feel good. Otherwise, it’s just very stiff. Yeah.
S: Well, I mean for you--- you’ve beaten yourself up.
C: One day, you’ll know.
S: No, I know now.
C: You know now.
S: No, I know now. I’m 40 and I know now. It’s like oh, this is too much. But emotionally, do you feel OK with getting older? When people get older, people start to get scared, they think that---
C: No, no, no. I’m happy. You know I’m happy I’m getting old, really.
S: Yeah.
C: Not many people can get- get- can get old.
S: Right.
C: Right? Everybody can be young. But old people, not-not many—Like, I just went to the Yekong Hospital, because I helped them--- for the last 20 years, I helped them to donate money, to build a big hospital. Now I see all the old people. 114 years old, 100 years old, 90 years old. I said we should respect these kinds of people. When they’re young, I believe they do a lot of things for the community, for society, but now forget who they are.
S: If you’re sore at 58, how sore are you going to be at 114?
C: So, you keep training.
S: You keep training.
C: Yeah.
C: So, you keep training.
S: You keep training.
C: Yeah.
S: You know-um I want to go back to--- maybe I think I know why your shoulder might be sore.
C: Alright.
S: Let’s go back, I’m gonna play this old classic footage of you with a --- with a certain star.
C: Oh
S: Right, right? Yeah, here it comes.
C: Seems so happy, beat by Bruce Lee.
S: (Laughs) That’s amazing.
C: Yeah.
S: That’s amazing.
C: Yeah, and all-- and you see all day, it’s--- it’s different. All day, it’s actually, it’s more comfortable.
S: Yeah
C: It’s--- you know, you can see bit by bit. Bah bah bah s’bah, boom, bah! This day…
S: Yeah.
C:…Tough.
S: Really?
C: Habbah habbah habbah chapah!
S: OK.
C: You know--- nonstop, non-non- nonstop. (3:40 to 3:57)
S: I want you to notice I didn’t flinch once.
C: (Reaches to fake-punch S.)
S: (Laughs.) (????) So, yeah, back then, it was like that, right?
C: Yes.
S: Um that—I assume that was you in the scene. (laughs) With Bruce.
C: Yes—Yeah, it is me, it is me.
S: You were a stunt guy, obviously in the very… for a long… (???)
C: I’ve been doing stunts for- for all my life.
S: Right
C: Yeah.
S: But stunts with Bruce Lee, “Enter the Dragon” is…
C: “Enter the Dragon”… Eh, I did two movies with Bruce Lee.
S: What was he like?
C: Oh he’s…
S: He was quiet?
C: Ummm… Tough guy

S: Yeah?

C: Yeah. I was a low class stuntman at that time, I was way behind. Wherever Bruce Lee goes, there’s a ton of stuntmen around him. (4:31 to 4:43)

S: Yeah?

C: Yeah, I just watching, watching. ‘Wow, that’s Bruce Lee, yeah….’

S: Yeah (laughs). To be really good at this though, you have to go through an incredible amount of practice and you have to do this---

C: Yeah.

S: ---- Repetition. And when you were young and you were going through this, is it possible to be good at this and not be abused at-on-some level. When you’re young, you know like it’s so much—it’s so tough.

C: You got to go through this kind of…. The, the, the, the, the----

S: The process?

C: The process.

S: Yeah.

C: Yeah, but these days— So this why when I see some Olympic champion, I really admire them. You know, not like uh, our old day--- We don’t want the training every day, but the teacher, 5 o’clock you know they just kept… the stick. ‘Run!’ Bah bah bah. You know, until they hit you. (5:04 to 5:22)

S: Really?

C: These days… ‘You hit? I sue you!’

S: Yeah.

C: Even the mom, you cannot hit the children! ‘I gonna sue you!’

S: Yeah (laughs)

C: In the old day, the teacher just PYAH, you know. We-we-We sit there, nothing to do, the teacher--- ‘Good morning teacher.’ ‘Hey look at me come…’ Then I walk. Pyah! ‘No, go back.’ You know they-- they just— no reason— hit for you— no reason. (5:29 to 5:44)

S: Wait, is that good?

C: Good.
S: Yeah?

C: Of course! Of course! For- For the Western- Western, it's not good.

S: Mm hmm.

C: But my personal, I like this kind of training, because, my teacher--- so tough! So this why, Sammo Hung, Yuan Bao, me? We all- the team? We so disciplined.

S: Yeah

C: You get--- I get---- I can go home, put my shoes, like this. I take off my-- my clothes, I can fold them. Even in the hotel, um, I mess something, I will clean it up. (5:54 to 6:17)

S: Yeah.

C: My son, OK? I never see the shoes put like this.

S: Yeah.

C: One on the floor, one in the dining room.

S: Yeah, yeah.

C: Wearing the white shoes, running around.

S: Yeah.

C: Because he don't wash his own shoes--- uh--- socks.

S: But do you---do you give him a shot?

C: No, I can’t!

S: No?

C: He sue me!

C: When I see the old people we--- like this. We get up.

S: Yeah.

C: We bow… Why. ‘You like the chair? Come.’ My son! You know… like this (slouches). Yeah. Then I--- I just come. I--- I uh, after film, six months, nine months, I filming--- After filming I go home, I open the door and--- Hi, Dad, how are ya? (6:36-7:01)

S: Yeah. (Laughs)

C: When I see my dad I get up!

S: Yeah.
C: You know—
S: Right.
C: Bow. Take the tea. Like this.
S: Right.
C: That—- that’s a---
S: Your dad was a tough guy, wasn’t he?
C: Yes.
S: Yeah.
C: That’s a traditional Chinese culture. You know.
S: And you see value in that.
C: Because my son was at school in the U.S.
S: Right.
C: Yeah.
S: And that’s why he’s-
C: Yeah. I said stay! Don’t jump! Talk to me! Yeah. Yes. How are you. Yeah. I like that movie. Yes.
S: (Laughs)
C: You know that--- stop! Then he cannot talk.
S: Right.
C: Can--- when he not move, he cannot talk.
S: (Laughs) That’s amazing. Um… Well--- OK, that’s your son. Tell me about your father. Tell me what your father was like.
C: My father was a spy.
S: Yeah, that’s amazing right? How did you--- when did you find that out?
C: Oh, one day I was driving back to my office. Suddenly my father turn around. He was, uh-- almost 80. Then he turn around. Son, I have something to talk to you. There’s a secret I want to tell you. I said, OK! So wait, wait, wait, wait. Then I pick up the camera and all the lighting. Because all those years, I hear a little bit… I’m not Chan.
S: Right.

C: My original name is not Chan.

S: No?

C: Because everybody call me Jackie Chan for like a…

S: Right.

C: --- 40 years! But now my father says your name is not Chan. Is it Fung.

S: Hm.

C: I said “what”? Then I put down— I-- I call my-- my friend is a documentary director who put up the camera then--- I--- now I said father you can talk.

S: Really. Were you---

C: Then his beginning--- bah bah bah bah, I am the spy, you are not--we are not Chan, using Fong, and you have two more brothers, and—ah- your mom has two sister. I said what? What? Look- gets me confused.

S: Were you close with them? When you were growing up?

C: No.

S: No?

C: No. I-- I never see them! I never met them! Until my mom get sick in Australia.

S: Right.

C: Two sister went to Australia to help my mom. But the two brother, still cannot see--- never see-- met them.

S: Were you close with your parents?

C: Yes, very close. Yeah.

S: And so as you get older do you--- are you more like your father and mother than you thought you would be?

C: I think I’m more like my father, happy go lucky.

S: Yeah.

C: You know?

S: The spy was happy-go-lucky.
C: Yes. I like to be a spy.
S: Yeah?
C: I’m so proud of my father. I always like to be a spy. Or special force. Or army. Or…. or pilot.
S: Well, you do that in every movie, so in a way you are.
C: Yeah.
S: Right. In a way you are.
C: My dream--- I cannot. Ever--- Anything I cannot success in my real life---
S: Yeah.
C: I write the script,
S: Yeah.
C: Becoming a spy.
S: What did they think---
C: Like Police Story, Drunken Master, this kind of movie.
S: What--- But—but what does that kind of man--- your father think of a stuntman, when you-- when you were starting out?
C: Mmmm. Of course he don’t like it. Yeah, I remember when I was in… and that time after Bruce Lee die, no--- there’s so many action movie. They make--- There’s so many terrible action movie in that time.
S: Yeah.
C: So the audience get tired. Because there’s so many… Bruce Lee, Bruce Table, Bruce Chair, Bruce-- everybody named Bruce.
S: Yeah.
C: And uh--- all--- everybody do the same thing.
S: Even a movie called “They Call Me Bruce.”
C: Yeah.
S: Right? (laughs)
C: Everybody do the same thing. “Ah, you are--- “ “I die!” The audience getting tired.
S: Yeah.
C: So boom! Suddenly… action movie--- boom! Nobody see it. Then becoming--- a mus---
  musical coming!

S: Yeah.

C: Then I-- I’m out of work. Then I-- back to Australia. Then I sit there, nothing to do… I was
  like, uh, seventeen. My father was cooking. Turn around… (Sigh) Son. Then I --- what. I’m 60
  years old. I still can cook. What- what- what about you’re 60. What happen when you’re 60. I
  said… Yeah, what happen when I 60?

S: Yeah.

C: Then I go to school in that time.

S: Yeah.

C: And I went to school. But too difficult, you know… Not young anymore. I go to the private
  school… They speak so fast. And also in that time in Australia. The English, so… It’s different,
  it’s not, like--- it’s not A, B, C, like Ai, Bi, Ci, Di….

S: Yeah.

C: And… Yeah. It’s right?

S: Right.

C: (Laughs) This is--- just… Ah… I said… what?

S: But when you--- But when you were in Australia, did you ever experience racism?

C: No

S: No, never?

C: No, no, no. I --- I…. I, I got a lot of help. Y’know, I don’t have a like a perfect running
  clothing.

S: Yeah.

C: I just wearing uh… jeans, and kind of like this, jogging on the street…

S: Yeah.

C: ---The car just keep stopping. “You OK?”

S: Yeah.

C: “Do you miss the road, you wanna---“ No, no, no. I’m exercise.

S: Yeah.
C: Yeah. And I’m walking, the car… “Boop boop, you wanna join?” No, because in Australia at that time, only what? 13 Million people.

S: Yeah.

C: 13 million people, that’s all.

S: Small.

C: No, I…. Especially in Canberra.

S: Did you ever wish somebody would mess with you, just so you could get the old Bruce Lee tricks back on from when you were young? Did anybody ever accidentally mess with you?

C: Yes. When I was young, yes.

S: Yeah?

C: Yeah.

S: And did you--- you got into it?

C: Yes. Terrible, terrible experience.

S: For them.

C: Uh… for myself too.

S: Yeah…. Yeah?

C: You know. We three of us, we walking on the streets. Suddenly, we see seven people with the bicycle.

S: Yeah.

C: I just pointed. I said, “Ah, one day, I’m going to get a bicycle.” They turn around, they say some dirty words, “What the---”

S: Yeah

C: Looking. Then I said, “Huh? Nothing.”

S: Yeah.

C: Th--- “Nothing.” Then… “Ah ah ah,” they say something. Suddenly, my friend--- one kick-- seven motorcycle, bududududududoom. And drop. And after drop, I standing there, then suddenly… mmm…. One-- two of my f.. brothers--- shhhhh-- run in, just fight.

S: Yeah.

C: Then I just--- but I’m standing here.
C: OK--- BOOM! We just go in. Bah bah bah bah bah! Just… I- I don’t know how long. You just—chi ji bah bah ga bah bah gah bah bah!

S: (Laughs)

C: Boom! They’re all down! They all down! We all martial artists.

S: Yeah?

C: A bah bah bah bah! Well, we run. We run…. We fight on here. That’s a Hilton--- that’s a Hilton hotel.

S: Yeah.

C: We fight. After fight, we run.

S: Yeah.

C: Then my shoe says chicka chicka chish--- I --- I look, all the blood….

S: Oh….

C: In my shoes. Then I went to the store, buy a--- buy a jeans.

S: Yeah.

C: After--- Then go back to Hiltons--- Hilton just standing there--- Watch the--- see a huge people surround it. Ambulance coming. Ah, what’s shaking? Do I kill somebody?

S: Yeah.

C: My hand get hurt, my swallow my hand.

S: Yeah.

C: Then--- “Le-- Let’s go home, let’s go home!” Then I go home, my hand swallowed, I see my bone, looks the white thing’s coming out.

S: Oh, wo—

C: So….

S: Yeah, yeah.

C: Like here. Then I push, it hurt. What can I do? Should I go to the hospital? No, not go to the hos--- you just cannot sleep. Did I, did I k- kill somebody? Watch the news….

S: (Laughs)

C: It’s intense news. At that time the news, it’s--- it’s not like a today, you know, so… just--
S: All the time.
C: Yeah. The next day I said--- watched the newspaper. I hope I didn’t kill anybody. And somehow two days later, my-- my hand... stink. You know?
S: Yeah.
C: Then I push. That’s a --- some water with blood comes out. The I see the white things. Click! Comes out! I look! It’s somebody’s tooth! Still in my hand.
S: Yeah, yeah, yeah, I can see it.
C: Yeah.
S: Unbelievable, unbelievable.
C: I think by the… is it by the punch.
S: Yeah.
C: You know. You’re --- POW! And still in. So—ew, it’s not a good experience. And you g--- left me shaking, s--- really scared.
S: I’m assuming nobody died, or we don’t know?
C: Uh, I don’t know.
S: You don’t know.
S: No, no, no. Keeps the mystery. I like that. The um—but with your films, what’s interesting, as much as there’s a lot of action, and there is violence in it, there is very little swearing if any…
C: Yeah.
S: And even—gr--gratuitous sex, which you see in a lot of action movies. So that’s something that you intentionally keep out of the stuff you do?
C: I--- very dilemma. I like action, but I hate violence.
S: Yeah.
C: So I try t--- all those years, I try to put a lot of comedy, natural comedy, situation comedy, with all action. So I hope---
S: Is that a--- is that---
C: --The audience see the action is bah bah bah like a dancing. “Ha ha ha,” forget. Forget all the violent things.
S: Is that a business decision, f-- to be more family friendly, or is that like part of morality, something you deal with?

C: In the--- in the old day when I start the action movies, I uh… I just make audience laughing, you know do the--- all the funny things, you know “Ah” like… “Oooh” like this---

S: Yeah.

C: …And kick the ball, and uh…

S: Yeah?

C: Should I say it?

S: Yeah, you can say it, yeah

C: Oh, really?

S: Yeah, yeah.

C: No, but slowly, slowly from the audience--- from the audience, from--- from the media

S: Yeah.

C: Especially from the fans, they write the letter, “Oh now I have a baby, so sad I cannot see the movie, because the dirty words---“

S: Right.

C: Because the dirty action, because this. F--- All those years, I change, change, change, change, change. Without all the dirty things, still can make audience laughing.

S: Right.

C: That’s a difficult. It’s the audience, all the fans, all the media, teach me becoming a good filmmaker.