

FILMKO FILM CO., LTD

PRESENTS

a SOI CHEANG film

THE MONKEY KING 2

STARRING

AARON KWOK GONG LI WILLIAM FENG
XIAO SHEN YANG KRIS PHILLIPS HIM LAW

SPECIAL APPEARANCE

KELLY CHEN BRENDA LI

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

WONG HOIFUNG

PRODUCER

KIEFER LIU

Zhu Yu Ming

Han Zhan Yu

Angie Lam

SCREENWRITER

RAN PING RAN JIANAN

ELVIS MAN YIN YIYI

MUSIC BY
CHRISTOPHER YOUNG

SPECIAL MAKE-UP EFFECT BY
SHAUN SMITH

STEREOSCOPIC DESIGN & LEAD STEREOGRAPHER
SEAN KELLY

VFX SUPERVISOR
JACQUES STROWEIS

DIRECTORS OF PHOTOGRAPHY
YANG TAO

PRODUCTION DESIGNER
DANIEL FU

COSTUME DIRECTOR
KENNETH CHUNG-MAN YEE

EDITOR
ANGIE LAM

ACTION DIRECTOR
SAMMO HUNG

DIRECTED BY

SOI CHEANG

Synopsis

500 years after the havoc in heaven, Xuanzang, the Tang Priest, is appointed by the Buddha to go to the West to fetch the Buddhist scriptures. By accident, when he hides into the crack of a mountain for dodging a tiger, Xuanzang undoes the Buddha's spell on Sun Wukong, the Monkey King. After he's released, Wukong refuses to obey Xuanzang at first, but is later brought under control by a gold hoop given by the Mercy Goddess. Wukong has no choice but to accept the mission to escort Xuanzang to the West. Despite his reluctance, Wukong cuts paths all the way and dutifully helps to subdue Bajie and Sha. But the hoop on this head, effective with his master's restrictive incantation, always remains a vexation for Wukong.

Meanwhile, Lady White Bone Spirit from the White Tiger Ridge aims to kill and eat Xuanzang's golden body for evading her doom of reincarnation from a demon to any other creature. After dealing with the four, White Bone spirit has an insight into the barrier between Wukong and Xuanzang. So she designs traps in disguise several times to foment discord between them. Humiliated mistakenly, Wukong still fights on with both strength and wit. But Xuanzang can't see through the real identity of White Bone, and their relationship is thus broken off as she planned.

While Xuanzang is at risk, Wukong is enlightened by the Goddess and finally understands the meaning of his mission. He puts away his conceit to turn back to rescue Xuanzang, and eventually achieves his self-growth and self-redemption from the mighty and defiant Great Sage Equaling Heaven to a combatant pathfinder and demon-queller in this mortal world.



The Story

During the reign of Emperor Taizong of Tang Dynasty, Xuanzang, the Tang Priest, is appointed by the Buddha to go to the West to fetch the scriptures for mass enlightenment. When he passes by the Five Elements Mountain, Xuanzang accidentally undoes a 500-year spell and releases the long imprisoned Sun Wukong, the Monkey King.

Nonetheless, Wukong is still restricted by a gold hoop given by the Mercy Goddess to Xuanzang. Whenever the Priest recites the incantation, Wukong suffers from a splitting headache. Hence, the once arrogant Wukong has to accept from the Goddess the mission to escort Xuanzang on his journey.

Cutting paths all the way to the West, Wukong helps to subdue and incorporate Bajie and Sha. But he holds a different opinion from Xuanzang's on telling the right from the wrong. Wukong only believes what he sees in his Fiery Eyes, while Xuanzang believes in goodwill with everyone in the world and no killing is allowed. As the internal conflict develops between them, it exactly fits in with the scheme of Lady White Bone Spirit, a 1000-year-old demon from the Moon Waters Cave.

In order to evade her reincarnation and remain a monster forever, Lady White Bone must obtain Xuanzang's perfect golden body at all costs. Making use of the barrier between Wukong and Xuanzang, she turns herself into an elderly woman and pushes Wukong to take the life of her disguise in front of Xuanzang. Unable to see things through, Xuanzang can barely contain his anger, so he punishes Wukong with the incantation...

After that, to reconcile the conflicts, Xuanzang promises not to restrict Wukong's freedom with the incantation as long as he won't kill anyone innocent again. But White Bone Spirit, knowing Wukong's weakness so well, is mulling over how to sow discord between them until she gets the results she wants.

In another peril, when the four pass through the Kingdom of Cloud, Xuanzang is nearly killed by the malicious king. Though Wukong has saved his life, Xuanzang learns from the incident that Wukong's killing desire with skepticism is the biggest handicap for his own practice. Before they're able to leave peacefully, White Bone Spirit approaches them again with the same old trick, in the disguise of a kid and a young woman, posing the threat to Xuanzang for obliging Wukong to kill. In dilemma, Wukong has to finish off her disguises once more, only to get expelled by the irritated and determined Xuanzang.

When the team of four gets busted, White Bone Spirit seizes the chance to kidnap Xuanzang. At the critical moment, on the way back home, Wukong gives up his adamancy and learns his duty he must carry on as a hero as well as the meaning of this journey to the West. Shortly after, on the ridge of White Bone's cave, Wukong lands from the sky with forceful momentum for a final duel with the Spirit.

For the Monkey King, the problem is never with the hoop on his head, but the hoop in his heart.

CAST

AARON KWOK (*The Stormriders, Cold War, Empire of Silver*)
Best Leading Actor of Golden Horse Award 2005 and 2006
as SUN WUKONG, THE MONKEY KING



Aaron Kwok Fu-shing is a Hong Kong singer, dancer, and actor. He has been active since the 1980s and to the present. He is considered one of the "Four Heavenly Kings" of Hong Kong. Kwok's onstage dancing and displays are influenced by Michael Jackson. While most of his songs are in the dance-pop genre, he has experimented numerous times with rock and roll, ballad, rock, R&B, soul, electronica and traditional Chinese music. He also starred in various movies. At the Taiwan's 42nd Golden Horse Awards ceremony on 13 November 2005, Kwok was the surprise winner of Best Leading Actor award for his role in the film *Divergence*. It was Kwok's first Golden Horse nomination and beat veteran Hong Kong star Tony Leung Ka-fai to win the honour. He won the Best Actor Award again at the 43rd Golden Horse Awards on 24 November 2006 for his role in the film *After This Our Exile*.

GONG LI (*2046, Hannibal Rising, Miami Vice, The City of Golden Armor, Raise the Red Lantern*)
as LADY WHITE BONE



Born in Shenyang, Gong Li grew up in Jinan, the daughter of an economics professor. She loved music from childhood, and dreamed of a singing career. After failing to gain entrance to China's top music school in 1985, she applied for and was admitted to the Central Drama Academy in Beijing, from which she graduated in 1989. While still a student, she was cast as the female lead in "*Red Sorghum*" (1987), the initial directing effort by Zhang Yimou. China's best-known actress in the West, she was named Best Actress at the 49th Venice International Film Festival for her role in "*The Story of Qiu Ju*" (1992). She has made a series of successful films with Zhang Yimou, a collaboration that apparently ended with the breakup of their relationship in 1995 and Gong's subsequent marriage to a tobacco company executive. After several years of enjoying family life declining many film projects including *Wu Xia* and *The Grandmaster* etc., 2013 marks her return to her film career with film *Coming Home* directed by Zhang Yimou.

WILLIAM FENG (*Wolf Totem, The Golden Era, Painted Skin: The Resurrection, Young Detective Dee: Rise of the Sea Dragon*)
as **XUANZANG**



Feng was born in Shanghai, China. He displayed his interests in acting and performance from a young age. Feng later entered and graduated from the Shanghai Theater Academy in 2002, and worked as a television actor for ten years before rising to fame overnight with his performance in a period drama, "The Palace" in 2011. Feng then turned his focus to film-acting. In his first appearance, the *White Vengeance* (2011), he played a famous historic hero, Xiang Yu, and received positive reviews. He soon

becomes one of the leading actors of his generation by keeping a balance between commercial hits, e.g., *Detective Dee: Rise of the Sea Dragon* (2013), and artistic films like *The Golden Era* (2014). He starred the Chinese-French collaboration *Wolf Totem* (2015). "Wolf Totem" is adapted from Chinese writer Jia Rong's renowned best-seller, which has sold twenty million copies worldwide.

XIAO SHEN YANG (*A Simple Noodle Story, The Grandmaster*)
as **BAJIE**



Shen He, better known by his stage name Xiao Shen Yang, is a Chinese actor. He was a student of Zhao Benshan and was an errenzhuan performer before joining the film and television industry. His teacher, Zhao Benshan, is a widely recognized comedian. Zhao's company, Benshan Media, strives to promote and preserve the art of Errenzhuan, a traditional form of Chinese entertainment. Xiao Shen Yang became famous immediately in China after the 2009 CCTV New Year's Gala. He also showed off his considerable

vocal prowess. He continued to attend the CCTV New Year's Gala during the following three years. Xiao Shen Yang has acted in Zhao Benshan's television series *Rural Love 2* and *Rural Love Stories* and in Zhang Yimou's *A Simple Noodle Story*, as well as *The Grandmaster* and *Detective Chinatown*.

Him Law (*The Seventh Lie, Hong Kong Ghost Stories, The Monkey King*)
as **SHA WUJING**



Law Chung-him, known as Him Law, is a Hong Kong film and television actor. Law began his acting career by starring as supporting characters in several well-known films, most notably in *Mob Sister* (2005), which was also Law's debut film. He later began filming for several internet and television dramas, later receiving a Best Supporting Actor nomination at the TVB Anniversary Awards in 2008 for his performance in the sports drama "Your Class or Mine".

DIRECTOR



SOI CHEANG (Director of *Motorway*, *The Monkey King*, *SPL II: A Time for Consequences*)

Won Action Asia Award 2007 for Dog Bite Dog
Won HKFCS Award 2013 for Motorway

The young Hong Kong flick powerhouse is best known for his brutal storytelling and onscreen violence that often expose the weakness of the human psyche. A veteran filmmaker who started as Johnnie To's assistant director in the early 90s, his directorial debut *Diamond Hill* cemented his signature style of twisted visuals and cynical characters. After a string of commercially successful horror films in the domestic market, he earned his first international reputation for *Dog Bite Dog* in 2006, which marks a change for him as a director, previously known for light horror outings such as "Home Sweet Home" and "The Death Curse".

As the first film of the franchise, *The Monkey King* (2014) was a major box office hit. The film had the highest-grossing opening day in China with RMB121 million (US\$20.0 million), surpassing *Iron Man 3*. In addition, it also broke three more records in China including the highest single day box office, the first Chinese film to break RMB100 million on its first day and the fastest Chinese film to reach RMB100 million. During its opening, it was the highest grossing film at the global box office grossing RMB216 million (US\$35.4 million). It grossed RMB389.97 million (US\$64.35 million) in the first four days. With this, the film also set the record as the fastest film to reach RMB300 million in China box office. In China, *The Monkey King* grossed a total of RMB1,028,688,003 (US\$167,840,000) and becoming only the third Chinese film to earn more than a billion yuan at the Chinese box office. The film grossed a total of US\$181,900,000 internationally.

ABOUT THE FILM

SOI, DIRECTOR: *This is one of the best-known classic chapters of The Journey to the West, Three Strikes on White Bone Spirit. The Monkey King 2 is definitely an escalation based on the original story. It's more complete and more breathtaking.*



RAN PING, SCREENWRITER: *In the sense of this film, the first strike is about martial violence. The second strike is a battle of wits...*

GONG LI: *For the third strike, it's an impossible mission.*

THE MONKEY KING

DIRECTOR: *To my surprise, our Monkey King is leveled up. I want to show the audience a mature super hero.*



AARON: *I have never been in a film with so many fighting scenes.*

LADY WHITE BONE

DIRECTOR: *She's the empress of demons. The first sight of her in the scene took my breath away. Her greatest attraction lies in that you would fear her but cannot help staring at her.*



GONG LI: *She has her own life experience and motives. No one can simply judge her good or evil.*

XUANZANG

DIRECTOR: *He is a man who has just begun his journey. He has to face many demons and monsters, as well as his 3 disciples. He just meets the real world for the first time and has to advance step by step until he becomes a genuine holy monk.*



WILLIAM: *A man has to undergo sufferings when he grows up. He gives you a travel-stained feeling. But he has a little bit humor inside.*

BAJIE

DIRECTOR: *I gave this character the freedom of interpretation. Whenever there's a chance, he'll turn himself into a handsome guy, quietly standing behind you.*



XIAO SHEN YANG: *I didn't dare to accept this challenge at first. Later Mr. Ma Dehua (the actor as Bajie in the Journey to the West [1986 TV drama], the best acclaimed version) encouraged me, "You will be okay. Be bold to work it out."*

SHA WUJING

DIRECTOR: *It's a version of Monk Sha Wujing you've never seen before. His makeup is the most strenuous work in filming. In the team of four, only one person has never doubted Xuanzang, and it is him.*



SAMMO HUNG: *(though Him Law is not experienced in fight scenes) ... he's rather tough in action.*