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Thursday, September 26, 2002

Hong Kong to Hollywood International star Chan performs his own stunts

his head from a miscalculated leap - "Touch it!," he says, placing my hand on his scalp _ and he may play the affable stooge on screen, but he's nobody's fool when it comes to his appeal. He knows his public wants to see him, not some stunt double, falling from high places, jumping between speeding buses, narrowly avoiding Ninja death blows.

"When I do a stunt there's so many problems now," says Jackie (no one calls him Mr. Chan), in San Francisco to promote The Tuxedo, a secret-agent spoof that opens Friday. "Security guy on the set. Safety captain. Two insurance men. Sometimes I do a stunt; sometimes they use a double and just cover his face.

On DreamWorks' \$70 million The Tuxedo - starring Jackie as a meek chauffeur who gains superpowers when he dons the suit of the title - there were at least seven stunt doubles and lots of razzle-dazzle cutaways and sound effects to make it seem as if the star were taking a punch. Jackie, who once promoted himself as the only action hero to do all his own stunts, is somewhat embarrassed by this. He understands how fans might view this as a cheat.

"But what can I do?" he laments. "I don't have final edit on my stunts. The director and the studio do. That's the American way."

Such is the dilemma when you're the world's reigning action hero, a martial-arts legend who combines the agility of Bruce Lee with the timing of Buster Keaton. He's huge in Asia, especially his native Hong Kong. But since going Hollywood with the Rush Hour buddy comedies, he's had to contend with unions, insurance agencies and increasingly elaborate pyrotechnics and sound effects.

The closest Hollywood has come to making a true Jackie Chan



SAN FRANCISCO (KRT) - Jackie Chan may have a hole in upcoming Shanghai Knights, says Jackie in heavily accented In "On that one, I had almost total control. But on some of the movies I do here, I get really angry. Of course the audience, they know. I say, 'Why you use that angle? That's the wrong angle"

Jackie likes to improvise. His best gags, such as the chairi in First Strike, grow out of the setting and situation. That's when your budget is less than \$3 million. But when it's \$70 lion to \$100 million (the projected budget of Around the Wor 80 Days, his next movie), everything, down to the positioning an ashtray, has to be agreed upon in "meeting, meeting, m meeting ... MEETING!"

"I have two audience - one for Asia, one for American ket," continues Jackie, a still-boyish 48. "They are so prome in Hong Kong. They force me to go to Hollywood Jackie, go!' But they don't like my Hollywood films. There them, but the reviews always bad. They didn't like Rush Too slow. Nobody understand the jokes. That hurts me. But firefighters $\sqrt{1 + 2}$ can I do?'

Jackie's solution: Make two big studio movies, then two er Hong Kong movies. The former pay the bills (he's runor command upward of \$20 million), the latter provide artistic trol. The irony, not lost on the star, is that smaller, often p dubbed movies, feature his best stunts and sight gags in bravura sequence in last year's Hong Kong-produced Accident Spy, he's chased from bathhouse to street market, where here whatever's handy to cover himself. It's funny and charming classic Jackie.

"That's situation comedy - running around with the towe says. "When I see that, I think, 'I'm a genius to create thisk thing.' Sometimes I'm proud of myself for choreographi kind of action. Stunts are easy. Everybody can do. Choreog action is difficult."

The PG-13 The Tuxedo, which is bound to please la young fan base, came about when a project called Noseble delayed for script revisions. He was set to play a window w who foils terrorists at the World Trade Center.

With Nosebleed on hold (it'll be shot next year in China Jackie was free to do The Tuxedo. "Steven Spielberg calledm We had a meeting at DreamWorks. He tell me the idea, then! him feedback. He just sit there laughing - ha-ha-ha - the stands up and says, 'Make this movie a first priority.

Though a lot slicker and more heavily plotted than the aver Jackie vehicle, The Tuxedo does occasionally place the sta harm's way. He battled for the right to slide down a 120-foot and then dangle from a bridge. He wound up with the worst the mid-197 string pull of his career. "I do it by myself. But for the wide me where you don't see my face, they use a stunt double."

Hollywood's favorite leading men - John Wayne and Ca simply not a Gable, among them - often relied on stunt doubles, but they we instructed to lie about it.

"No, no, no - when I do the stunt, I do the stunt. I don's do a stunt if I don't. Why would I lie to my fans?"

And when it comes time to back off from the really imper stuff, he'll be open about it. He's already thinking about ks-t adventures and romantic comedies, maybe even straight dra This is where Around the World in 80 Days, which could Hugh Grant, and a proposed Pink Panther movie come m

Sometimes I watch a movie like Indiana Jones and Is should be the one in this.' When I see James Bond, I say, should be the one who's the Chinese James Bond.

Jackie's dream collaborator? Taiwan's Ang Lee. Jackie out of his way to meet with the director before he did Croud Tiger, Hidden Dragon. "But then he calls me and says, Ithinks better not because this is a woman's movie. I'll think of and movie for you.' It's strange. He wants to do action; I want to drama. Totally opposite."

Jackie can also see himself in something like Spy Ga ing statem ts needn't wor amer vs Kramer and Gladian But pa Jackie won't do R-rated movies. He takes his position as all related to model very seriously and continues to turn down lucrative Police Chie and cigarette endorsements. "No dirty jokes. No dirty words. No gunfire - BOOM! - W the eyeball comes out and blood around. I see this in Ameno movies. I hate this kind of movie. Only positive things in la Chan movies. I do this, I say, 'OK, I've done my job."

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Martial arts star Jackie Chan on the set of his new movie The Tuxedo.

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Diaphragm (with spermicide)	6	18
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Withdrawal	4	18
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MOUNT AIRY, N.C. (AP Andy Griffith is coming back Mount Airy.

The 76-year-old actor, brought fabled Mayberry to on "The Andy Griffith Sho will make a public appeal Oct. 16 for the dedication section of U.S. 52 in his hon

PEOPLE IN THE NEW Highway dedicated

to Andy Griffith

"He is probably one of most recognized people, I recognized actors in the col because he's just got charm," said David Bradley,

president of the Greater Mo Airy Chamber of Comme "This is a great opportunity

Gov. Mike Easley will be keynote speaker, with Gr scheduled to speak afterwar

Griffith's visit comes just t weeks after the 13th an Mayberry Days, a festival sche uled to run Friday thro Sunday that celebrates the d acters and spirit of The A Griffith Show.

