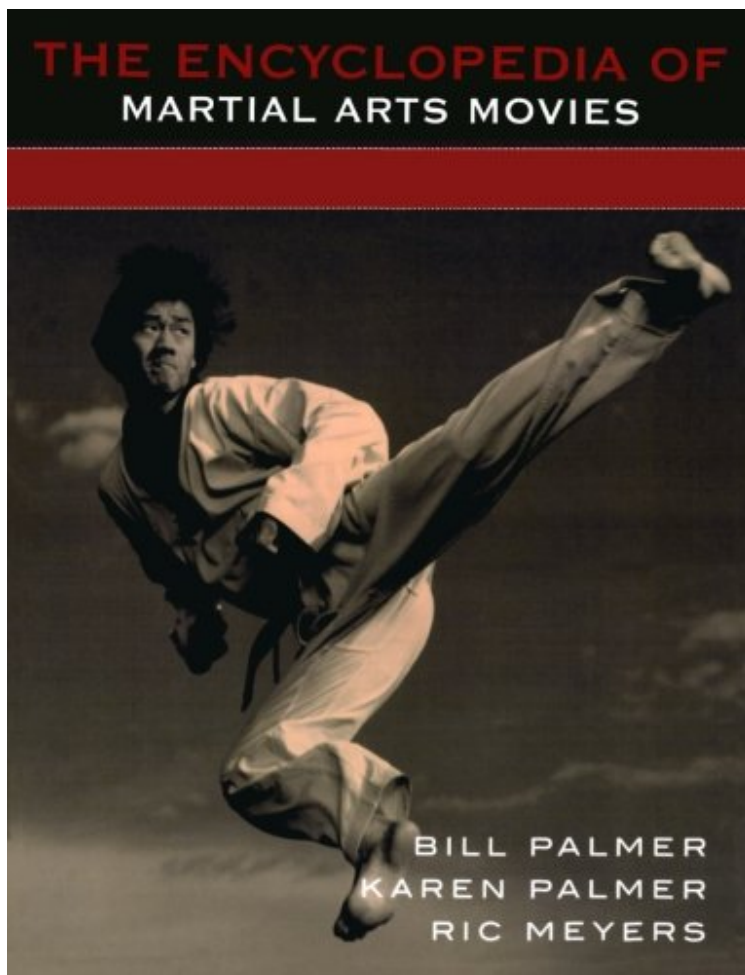


## The Encyclopedia of Martial Arts Movies

*Bill Palmer, Karen Palmer, Ric Meyers*  
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**Bill Palmer, Karen Palmer, Ric Meyers : The Encyclopedia of Martial Arts Movies** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Encyclopedia of Martial Arts Movies:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Riddled with errors, but still good By Film Buff First, the good points: this is easily the single most exhaustive resource I have ever seen on the subject. Most of the books, at least the ones I have read, devoted to the topic of martial arts films either deal with just the films starring the big names, such as Bruce Lee, Jackie Chan, Jet Li, Donnie Yen, etc. or the reviews are confined to more recent releases. This book has entries for films that are 90+ years old, and it seems even the most obscure titles, movies 99% of readers will never, ever come across, are listed in this book. The very comprehensive nature of this book makes it very useful for tracking down movies that you may have seen yet you can't quite remember their titles. I had numerous "ah ha, I've found it" moments regarding movies for which I had been looking for years, but was unable to find for that very reason. Another big plus is the inclusion of a fairly exhaustive index and an alternate-name list. Those familiar with these

films, particularly made-in-Hong Kong kung fu films of the 70s and 80s, are aware that many of the stars of those films are referred to by more than one name; this list will help you determine who is who. Now onto the not-so-good points, and in that regard, my complaints are similar to other reviewers on this topic. With a great many of the entries in this book, not enough of the description of the film is devoted to a critical review of the film. However, this book is marketed as an encyclopedia, rather than a video review guide, so it is hard to fault the authors too much for this. Another complaint that I have is one that I didn't find addressed in any of the other reviews: the number of errors that appear in the descriptions of these movies. I have been watching martial arts movies, particularly old school kung fu movies produced in 70s and early 80s, for 30+ years, so I know quite a lot about them. Consequently, I was able to spot many errors in the encyclopedia. These mistakes most often involve naming the wrong actor when describing who played a particular role. For instance, in one particular entry, the authors claimed a certain role was played by Kao Fei, then stated another character, in the same film, was portrayed by Philip Ko; Philip Ko and Kao Fei are the same person. Given that Ric Meyers, a man notorious for the errors he makes in his DVD commentaries, is involved with this project, such errors really come as no surprise. However, for an encyclopedia, particularly one this pricey, such errors, especially when they occur as often as they do, are quite disappointing. But my biggest gripe, by far, is that quite a few entries simply read "Viewed on Video Cassette" or "Available on Video Cassette". Such entries, as another reviewer pointed out, are less than helpful. Given the exhaustive nature of this encyclopedia, and its many fine points, I was able to overlook its shortcomings. I would recommend this book to anyone interested in martial arts movies. For those who collect these movies, this book is a very valuable reference, and I guarantee it will help you find titles for which you may have been searching for years.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. very useful with limitations  
By J. Cole  
This reference book has proved invaluable, however it does have it's limitations. For instance on many entries all there is is the name of the film with little or no other useful information such as year of production, cast or synopsis. He downgrades all films that use wirework, which I happen to enjoy as a standard aspect of many martial arts movies, but which he uniformly dislikes. I was able to use this book, however, to find out the true names of falsely titled bootleg versions of movies, which I greatly enjoyed. Overall a very useful reference. How about an updated version?

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Ultimate Reference Guide  
By K. Huneycutt  
Definitely the ultimate reference work on the martial arts movie genre. It's not perfect but it's still a must have for genre buffs.

Now in Paperback! Early in 1971, *Five Fingers of Death* premiered in a New York movie theater. This was America's first look at a Chinese martial arts movie. In Chicago that same year, *Duel of the Iron Fist* debuted. With the release of Bruce Lee's films, the market exploded. And thus began America's love affair with what is one of the most misunderstood and maligned film genres. The Encyclopedia covers the genre from 1920 to 1994. The genre, however, can be very confusing: films often have several titles, and many of the stars have more than one pseudonym. In an effort to clarify some of the confusion, the authors have included all the information available to them on almost 3,300 films. Each entry includes a listing of the production company, the cast and crew, distributors, running times, reviews with star ratings whenever possible, and alternate film titles. A list of film series and one of the stars' pseudonyms, in addition to a 7,900 name index, are also included. Illustrated.

...a fascinating collection of film listings...a unique reference work that achieves the difficult and neglected task of providing an exhaustive filmography for a popular genre. (American Reference Books Annual)...offers an incredible resource, listing virtually every major and minor karate movie made in the United States and overseas. ...contains interesting tidbits on many titles. (Intelligencer-Record)

About the Author  
Bill and Karen Palmer have been film reviewers for the Madison Square Garden Network TV show, *Martial Arts World*, since 1985. Ric Meyers, movie columnist for *Inside Kung Fu* magazine, created the fanzine, *Martial Arts Movie Associates (MAMA)*.