



BRUCE
LEE
FOREVER

HK-TVB OPERATION RELIEF SPECIAL

HATE - MEDIA



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Welcome to another Bruce Lee Forever special edition.

In this issue, we remember the day Bruce Lee appeared in front of a live T.V. audience to help raise money for the unfortunate victims that had suffered in the Po Shan road landslide disaster in June of 1972.

The landslides had been caused by waterlogged soil, of which was a result of Typhoon Rose bringing unusually heavy rainfall in August 1971. Heavy rainstorms hit the Hong Kong area the following year, and this in turn caused the already unstable ground above Po Shan rd to collapse.

This led to hundreds of tons of earth, hitting the nearby apartment complex and housing blocks, killing and injured many people in its path.

Within the next 24 hours, local T.V. channels held fund raising shows, and in particular HKTVB producer Robert Chua held the now famous 'Operation Relief' show in which Bruce Lee appeared amongst a galaxy of local celebrities.

Unfortunately, the footage of the show with Bruce Lee has never surfaced since, with the explanation of a former TVB executive wiping any taped shows prior to 1975.

We can only hope that the footage will one day surface to see the Little Dragon along with son Brandon and friend Wu Ngan perform for the studio and viewing audience.

Until then, we have to be content with images from the show, of which this special edition shows mostly for the first time in print.

- Steve Kerridge
- David Tadman



TWENTY FOUR HOUR MARATHON -

On the 24th June, HK-TVB television station broadcast a live fund raising event in aid of the victims of a devastating landslide that occurred the week before on June 18th. The disaster, near Po Shan Road Hong Kong, resulted in sixty seven fatalities, twenty serious injuries and two buildings completely destroyed. This was the result of unstable ground on a hillside following Typhoon Rose eleven months prior to the fatal incident. Operation Relief featured a who's who of the Hong Kong entertainment industry, all giving memorable performances to entice donations from the viewers at home.

"This was the first ever TV charity marathon held in Hong Kong" recalled TVB production manager and executive producer Robert Chua. "It ran for more than twenty four hours and the sum it raised was fantastic. Never was such a huge sum of money raised in Hong Kong over a twenty four hour period." So much so, that the show was to carry on until 7.30am the next morning, with over seven million dollars pledged by that time. "Bruce's appearance was very well received" continued Robert Chua "It helped raise a lot more donations for fulfilling donation requests for his demonstration."

HK-TV
OPERATION RELIEF
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A MUCH AWAITED DISPLAY -

The ensemble of entertainment on the evening of the 24th June read like a who's who of Hong Kong's finest stage and screen talent. As soon as popular Singapore comedian Ya Fung finished his sketch, host Josiah Lau introduced Bruce, Linda and little Brandon to the viewers of Hong Kong.

Joined on stage by fellow hosts Wu Cheong Chu and Tam Bing Man, Bruce asked the viewers to pledge their donations to the worthy cause. With proceedings now underway, the stage was cleared for Bruce and Brandon to give their much awaited display.

LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON -

For the amusement of the viewers and attentive studio onlookers, host Josiah Lau in mock combat position playfully beckoned young Brandon to come at him. Suddenly, to everyone's surprise young Brandon threw a kick towards the startled host as Bruce quickly acted referee between the two. As a hush came over the proceedings, two one inch boards were presented to Bruce as he knelt down in front of his son. Holding out his hand, his beckoned young Brandon to throw a few kicks as a warm up to his display. With silence all around, Bruce held up the boards. Suddenly, the

young man shot forward, executing a rapid side kick that broke the boards clean in half to the excitement of everyone. As the rapturous applause continued, Brandon faced the cameras, smiled and ran off stage to his mother in the wings.

After a brief introduction, close friend and recent newlywed Wu Ngan Jai appeared on stage with kicking shield in hand. It was now the turn of Hong Kong's number one action hero to display the prowess so familiar with his fans. Firmly holding the kicking shield, Ngan Jai braced himself knowing full well the force that was about to be unleashed. Firstly, Bruce threw a few warm up kicks as appreciation started to build from the studio onlookers who were glued to the spectacle in front of them.

Suddenly, BAM, a ferocious roundhouse kick found its target with a solid force that made his student and close friend stumble back off balance. After a few seconds Ngan Jai composed himself as another followed, BAM, then another and another, BAM BAM. The tense look on Ngan Jai's face was equalled by those all around him in the studio. Turning to face the cameras, Bruce gave a broad smile as Josiah Lau returned to the stage.



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ROBERT CHUA

REMEMBERS BRUCE LEE, AND THE NIGHT HE CAPTURED HONG KONG

Robert Chua's career is unmatched in Asian broadcasting circles. He pioneered Hong Kong's first terrestrial TV station in 1967 as one of the first executive producers at Television Broadcasts (TVB), and went on to produce Asia's longest running variety show, as well as the first show to be broadcast live in Hong Kong, 'Enjoy Yourself Tonight.'

Here, Robert gives *Bruce Lee Forever* magazine an exclusive insight into his meetings with Bruce Lee, and how he produced Hong Kong's first ever 'live' TV charity show 'Operation Relief' on 24th June that raised over \$8 million dollars for the victims of the landslide disaster that occurred in Hong Kong in June 1972 in which several apartment complexes and houses were wiped out, and at least 148 people lost their lives.

"I was first aware of Bruce Lee when I saw his performance in 'The Green Hornet' T.V. show. Sometime later, I heard he was returning to Hong Kong, so I arranged to meet him. This was at Kai Tak airport in October 1971."

"Whenever I invited him to appear on our show 'Enjoy Yourself Tonight,' it was always a big event for all of us. The viewers loved him, so he would be the star of the show on those occasions whenever he appeared. The show I remember more than most is the 5th anniversary show we held in 1972, in which Bruce appeared out of the TVB cake as a surprise to our viewers. He was a sport, and agree to surprise the viewers with this act, that is normally reserved for beautiful sexy ladies. Of course the other show that really stands out, and the most important of all, was the charity fund raising show we held to raise money for the victims of the recent landslide disaster in Hong Kong. We had decided to produce a 'live' marathon T.V. broadcast to raise money. All the local superstars were invited to appear on the show, and of course Bruce 'topped' the list. I invited him, and he immediately agreed and was very supportive. He appeared that evening alongside his son Brandon giving an impromptu display of his fighting art. His performance was history!!

The event planning happened so fast, within 24 hours to be exact, and I remember contacting Bruce who didn't know about the show, but he agreed straight away. During the evening he appeared several times, and did interact with the studio audience and viewers at home to support the show with their donations."

"Everyone loved Bruce. His casual western attire was accepted by the Chinese people who were very proud because of his frankness and influence in the western world. His appearance that evening alongside his son Brandon was very good, as it showed the bonding between them - 'father and son'... Brandon was very likeable, and the people in the studio and viewers liked him too."

"The viewers that evening were certainly 'wowed' by him, as he was their superhero, that made the Chinese people proud for him to represent their race. We had felt we were looked down upon by the western world, but along came Bruce Lee and he stood out."

"That evening he was certainly the biggest star of the night. The other stars that appeared were traditional movie and Chinese opera stars, but Bruce represented the modern superstar for the people. The others were mostly veteran stars who had been around for decades."

"His personal donation of \$10,000 that evening, certainly helped give more of an impact, especially to other stars who would normally only donate gifts, like perfume, or goods, but by his 'cash' donation, helped push others to do the same, and was a major factor in our final amount raised of over \$8 million !!. Bruce Lee will always be our hero."





Martial Art Training -

'Mr Lee' asked Lau, 'The viewers enjoy seeing your unchallengeable Kung Fu and strong muscles, so can you take off your vest and let our viewers see your physique?' With the onlookers applauding, a smiling Bruce Lee took off his vest to expose a rippling muscular frame.

'Bruce, the viewers I'm sure would like to see the muscles of your back, would you show it?' Placing his hands on his waist, Bruce turned around, and with a roll of his shoulders expanded his muscles into a 'V' shape. Touching his back, Lau looked at the cameras, 'Its hard like steel ! ...Is there any difference between training for firm muscles and big muscles ?' ...'Yes there is' replied Bruce, 'My muscles are developed from my martial art training, which is completely different from the type of training to acquire big bulging muscles.'

Then the TV host asked, 'Your kicks are well known, how did you learnt them, and what sort of training do you do?'... Bruce looked at the camera before turning to Lau, 'Under normal circumstances, training the legs is more difficult than our hands. This is because we use our hands more frequently in our daily lives.'

'When you punch, you can make use of the power from the waist, thus it consumes less energy. But footwork is much different, as a kick uses far more energy. Also the amplitude of the bones in the leg is greater; therefore we have to bear more difficulties when we train our legs.'

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Bruce continued, 'So many people tend to concentrate on the boxing as opposed to the kicking and training of the legs. If our kicking and footwork is good, then our area of attack will be widened. The attacking power of the legs is greater than the fist. You will know it simply when you compare them, as obviously the legs are a lot bigger than the arms. Although to train the legs is more difficult, if we train earnestly and patiently, the muscles and cartilage will be strengthened and we can use our legs more freely and easily'

Bruce, please tell us in your opinion how the power is developed in the fists' asked Lau. 'The force of our punches must originate from the dynamic power from our waist and back' replied Bruce, 'Of course, the amount of force is determined by the practitioner's weight and muscle strength. For example, if two men of different weights are equal in muscle firmness and ability of technique, then certainly the heavier one is in a more advantageous position.'

A Final Request -

Performing a final demonstration at the request of the many at home who had called to pledge their donations, Ngan Jai with kicking shield in hand prepared once again for the onslaught. Suddenly, with the speed of lightning Bruce hit the shield with a side kick. Unable to withstand the full force, Ngan Jai flew back, landing on a chair especially prepared for him by one of the studio hands. Turning to face the cameras as loud applause filled the studio, Bruce asked the viewers to keep sending in their donations. With a big thank you from Josiah Lau, Bruce and Ngan Jai left the stage to a round of applause. "We finished at around 2am in the morning" recalled Bruce to Fanfare the Singapore newspaper. "We had to wait for around five hours for all the donations to be phoned in."

The operation relief fund which had officially opened three days prior to the show was highly successful. By the time the show officially closed at 7.30am the next morning, over seven million dollars had been received in cash. By July 8th, the fund had officially closed with over eight and a half million Hong Kong Dollars being raised. Bruce and Linda had personally donated \$10,000 HK to the cause.

WAH KIU YAT PO
Newspaper report
- 26th august 1972



TVB'S CHARITY SHOW RAISED OVER 7 MILLION DOLLARS-

Local Chinese opera singers, film stars, singers and artists took part of the fund raising charity show Operation Relief telethon the night before last. The show ended at over 7am yesterday. The show was a big success, with over \$7 million raised overnight which broke all fund raising records in Hong Kong and completely showed Hong Kong's people enthusiasm.

All participants, from performers to crew members, worked their best to the telethon till it ended. Citizens queued up at the entrance of TVB with cash for donation, when donations were collected in various ways, such as through branches of Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation and Hang Seng Bank, at the entrance of TVB, by phone, while people were also making donation on the show. Actors from TVB also made their appearance in nightclubs and restaurants to encourage people donate. A taxi driver drove a kind lady Ms Cheung for free who gave away her shop unit with its loft in Sai Wan Ho, in around a thousand square feet, for auction with a base price of \$130,000. Another donor contributed a piece of a hundred thousand square feet's farm land in Mai Po, New Territories, for auction with a base price of \$70,000. And the holder of the car license plate '90' donated it for auction at \$30,000.

The hosts of the show were Tam Ping-man, Michael Hui Koon-man, Wu Cheong-chiu, Lily Leung Shun-yin, Josiah Lau Ka-kit, Ivan Ho Sau-shun, etc. Most eye-catching was Wu Cheong-chiu who tried very hard but talked too much and made too many mistakes. The TV station was so packed that the air conditioning wasn't even strong enough to keep such a large number of people nice and cool inside. However, the uplift of the amount of the donation made everyone very excited.

There were several performances which managed to make extra donations. They were the Peking opera by Sun Ma Sze Tsang and Li Li-hua, and Cantonese opera by Yam Kim-Fai and Pak Seut-Sin who performed even when she was sick. Bruce Lee and his family donated \$10,000 and gave martial arts demonstration to encourage more donation. Chinese opera singers Mak Ping-wing, Fung Wong-lui, Shek Yin-chi, So Siu-tong, Yu Kai performed Cantonese opera songs while Ivy Ling Po sang her signature Huangmei opera songs. Li Ching donated a set of jewellery for \$5,000, which were bought by Kwan Fai Travel Company who re-donated the jewellery to the show. Film star Connie Chan Po-chu sang a song and cooked a bowl of fried rice for sale at \$10,000. Betty Ting Pei donated \$5,000 while Tina Leung called in and donated \$10,000. John Chiang (David Chiang), Tommy Ti Lung, Chan Koon-tai donated their pay of the month.

