

**Does image of Japanese
martial arts in Euro-American
pop-culture
fits true budo?
Cinematography examples**

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Joachim, Put It in the Machine (1974)



Martial arts cinema in different cultures

- **Film** (an piece of art) and **movie** (commercial entertainment)
- Most known martial arts movies genres:
 - Japanese jidaigeki and chanbara
 - Kung-fu movies (Hong Kong movies)
 - Western action movies (Hollywood)
 - Indian cinema (desi, or Bollywood films)

Kung-fu movies



Western action movies



Indian cinema



Sword in Japanese popculture: jidaigeki films

- Japanese „period drama“ often set to Edo period
- Showing lives of samurai, craftsmen, farmer, and merchant
- Using dramatic conventions:
 - characteristics of heroes and villains
 - using a high degree of formality and frequent archaisms in the language together with catch phrases
 - ritualised sword fight, little blood, and often do not even cut through clothing

Sword in Japanese popculture: chanbara

- Sword fighting movies similar to western cowboy, swashbuckler, or sword and sandals movies
- Violence is stylized
- Lot of blood (geysers and buckets of blood)
- Dismemberment and decapitation

Western movies influenced by chanbara

- **Western remakes of Japanese movies**
- Yojimbo (1961) – Fistful of dollars (1964)
- Seven Samurai (1954, Shichinin no samurai) – The Magnificent Seven (1966)
- Rashomon (1950) – The Outrage (1964)
- Steel Edge of Revenge (1969, Goyokin) – The Master Gunfighter (1975)
- Zatoichi – Blind Fury (1989)
- **Using the basic ideas**
- The hidden fortress (1958, Kakushitoride no sanakunin) – Key inspiration for Star Wars (1977)
- **Reverse remakes**
- Unforgiven (1992) – Unforgiven (2013, Yurusarezaru mono)

Yojimbo (1961) – Fistful of dollars (1964)



Seven Samurai (1954, Shichinin no samurai) – The Magnificent Seven (1966)



Rashomon (1950) – The Outrage (1964)



Steel Edge of Revenge (1969, Goyokin) – The Master Gunfighter (1975)



Zatoichi – Blind Fury (1989)



Unforgiven (1992) – Unforgiven (2013, Yurusarezaru mono)



Budo movies

- Karate, the Hand of Death (1961)
- The Challenge (1982)
- The Karate Kid (1984)
- No Retreat, No Surrender (1986)
- DOA: Dead or Alive (2006)
- The Sensei (2008)
- Kickin' It (2011, TV Series)

- Lot of movies played by martial artists

Budoka as an actor

- Some claimed to be skilled in various martial arts: Chuck Norris, Bill „Superfoot“ Wallace, Benny „the Jet“ Urquides, Cynthia Rothrock
- Steven Seagal (aikido)
- Dolph Lundgren (kyoukushin karate)
- Jean Claude van Damme (shotokan karate)
- Wesley Snipes (shotokan karate)
- Michael Jay White (shotokan and goju ryu karate, kobudo)
- Matt Mullins (shorei ryu karate)
- Scott Adkins (judo, karate, and others)
- Richard Norton (Goju kai karate)
- Jeff Speakman (goju ryu karate)
- Jim Kelly (shorin ryu karate)

Fourfold model of acculturation

- **Assimilation.** Adoption the cultural norms of a dominant or host culture, over their original culture. (El Mariachi, Star Wars, Kill Bill)
- **Separation.** Rejection the dominant or host culture in favor of preserving culture of origin. (Showdown in Little Tokyo, The Last Samurai, Red Sun, James Bond)
- **Integration.** Ability to adopt the cultural norms of the dominant or host culture while maintaining culture of origin. Seven Samurai (The Magnificent Seven), Yojimbo (A Fistful of Dollars)
- **Marginalization.** Rejection both the culture of origin and the dominant host culture. (Peaceful Warrior)

Definition of budo

(The Japanese Budo Association)

Budō is a form of Japanese physical culture that has its origins in the ancient tradition of bushidō – literally, “the way of the warrior.” Practitioners of budō develop technical martial skills while striving to unify of mind, technique and body; to develop their character; to enhance their sense of morality; and to cultivate a respectful and courteous demeanour. Thus, budō serves as a path to self-perfection. Budō as a general term refers to the modern Japanese martial arts disciplines comprised of **jūdō, kendō, kyūdo, sumō, karatedō, aikidō, shōrinji kempō, naginata, and jūkendō.**

Can we see budo in movies?

- Stylized fight: technics and tactics used in (The Sensei, 2008)
- Using weapons and fighting skills as a symbol describing characters
- Characteristics of hero and anti-hero
- The goal of the training and using martial skills

What can audience take from martial arts movies?

- Knowledge about martial arts
 - Motivation to start studying budo
 - Learn a bit about Japanese culture
 - Popularize budo
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- Movies are for entertainment
 - Budo is to be practised

Thank you for attention

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