

## East Goes West – Chinese Filmmakers in the United States

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#### “King Hu and America”

King Hu immigrated to the United States in 1984. He left behind an apparently deteriorating yet well-respected film career in Hong Kong and Taiwan in hope to fulfill his enduring aspiration to break into Hollywood. During his American years, Hu conceived and/or continuously developed several English-language projects including *Matteo Ricci and Paul Hsu*, *Monkey King*, *Peace and War Under Deep Ocean* and *Poison*. When he passed away in 1997, on the verge of being made was *The Battle of Ono*, Hu's most ambitious project illustrating struggles of early Chinese immigrants in the late nineteenth-century American West. Had Hu lived to see it to completion, he would have accomplished his much-anticipated career comeback two decades in the making. Instead, he departed with many unfulfilled dreams and a unique American experience which until now have not been sufficiently studied and considered. Drawing on exclusive archival documentation, this article explores King Hu's unfinished English-language projects with regard to research activities and developmental phases. Building on existing biographical narratives and personal accounts across different stages of his life, my article further examines King Hu's itinerant and solitary early life experiences in relations to his lifelong affinity for America.