Museum of Fine Arts presents
Asian film festival

**SWORDSMAN**
Directed by Tsui Hark and Yau Tak.
Starring Sammo Hung, Hsiao Yen, and Cheung Chao.
**THE RAID**
Directed by Tsui Hark.
Starring Fuay Shek, Jackie Chan, Tony Leung, and Cheung Chao.
At Museum of Fine Arts, June 12.

**HONG KONG FILM FESTIVAL**
At Museum of Fine Arts.
Aug. 17 - Sept. 18.

By Danny Su

**STAFF REPORT**

From Aug. 27 through Sept. 18, the Boston Museum of Fine Arts is showing films from Hong Kong made during the 1980s. The series features some of the best and brightest stars and directors that Hong Kong has to offer. Included in the festival are John Woo's *A Better Tomorrow*, Stanley Kwan's *Rouge*, Johnny Mak's *Long Arm of the Law*, and Tsui Hark's *Chinese Ghost Story*.

*A Better Tomorrow* depicts the glamour and the agony of organized crime in Hong Kong and features the best shooting scenes that you will ever see. Chow Yun-Fat and Ti Lung provide spectacular performances that will last in your memories for a lifetime. Rouge is a compelling love story between two people who live in vastly different environments. Anita Mui's performance cannot be matched. Ka Fung is a beautiful actress. *Long Arm of the Law* may be one of the most violent movies ever made. In the film, a group of illegal immigrants from China begins a reign of terror in Hong Kong because they feel that they have nothing to fear. This is a powerful experience that will take your breath away. *Chinese Ghost Story* will dazzle you with its special effects and capture your heart with its romance. Other films of the series are *Chinese and Dutch Tales*, *Delightful Ritual*, and *The Spooky Kind*. Beat People, Bangkok Blues, God of Gamblers, and *Archer of Cool* are also being shown.

**THEMATIC SERIES**

The Museum of Fine Arts is showing 12 films from Aug. 27 through Sept. 18, at the Asian Film Festival. The theme is 'Making Movies'. The series features some of the best films from Hong Kong, as well as films from other parts of Asia. The festival is being held in the lecture hall/movie theaters of the Museum of Fine Arts. A group of corrupt easterners attempts to recover the scroll and runs into a mysterious swordsman who engages them in a life and death battle for the sacred object. If the story sounds familiar, that is because every kung fu movie from Hong Kong has the same plot. The only thing that separates this film from other cheap and low-budget kung fu movies is its stars.

**COOL WORLD**

Directed by Ralph Bakshi.
Written by Michael Cray and Mark Victor.
Starring Kim Basinger, Gary Oldman, and Brad Pitt.
Now playing at Loew's Harvard Square.

By Deborah A. Levinson

**CONTRIBUTING EDITOR**

Like *Heavy Metal*, that other teenage male animated masturbation fantasy, *Cool World* seems destined for a long, long life in the lecture hall/movie theaters of schools like MIT and Caltech. It's got the exact combination of sex and technology that drives the needs of the young. Unfortunately, it is also an irredeemably stupid film that expects the audience to accept its wonderful animation as a substitute for character development, plot, and dialogue.

Visually, *Cool World* is stunning. Bakshi's animated grotesques are the real stars of the film, not Gary Oldman, Gary Oldman, or Kim Basinger, all of whom look lost and out of place. You can't really blame them — it's not as though they were given anything to work with. For example, Brad Pitt's most clever line in the film is "Keep your legs crossed." The writers must have really strained themselves coming up with that one.

The "doodles" fare much better. These animated creeps and critters are the dark side of Robert Zemeckis' "happy, fuzzy" "Who Framed Roger Rabbit?" Toons smile a lot — they are not going to attack you, and drop safes on each other because it's fun. Doodles have toothless grins and try to chop each other into little bits because they enjoy killing.

*Cool World*, the parallel universe they inhabit, is just as evil as its citizens. Townswans are bright and sunny, with "Smile, Dain Ya, Smile" as its anthem; *Cool World* is dark and brooding, and the closest thing it has to a theme song is the industrial pop of "Sex on Wheels." My Life with the Thrill Kill Kult. With its ever-blinking lights and seedy atmosphere, *Cool World* is analogous to Las Vegas (where the "free" action of the movie takes place), but whether the Las Vegas in which it is based is the present one or the 500-night nightmare of Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas is never entirely clear.

Once you get past what there is to look at in *Cool World*, however, there isn't much left. The plot, such as it is, concerns Jack Deeks (Gabriel Byrne), a cartoonist and convicted murderer just out on parole. Deeks is the creation of *Cool World*, a popular underground comic book series ... well, actually, he's not the creator, since Cool World is analogous to Las Vegas (where the "free" action of the movie takes place), but whether the Las Vegas in which it is based is the present one or the 500-night nightmare of Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas is never entirely clear.

Follow the two noids in the real world. Deeks, probably like most of the adolescent males reading the *Cool World* comic books, is obsessed with his blond sexpot character, Holliwood. (Kim Basinger). The doodle Holli is all about him, always there for Deeks, and when he fails, to go back to the real world. If Deeks gets (Kim Basinger). The doodle Holli is all about him, always there for Deeks, and when he fails, to go back to the real world. If Deeks, probably like most of the adolescent males reading the *Cool World* comic books, is obsessed with his blond sexpot character, Holliwood (Kim Basinger). The doodle Holli is all about him, always there for Deeks, and when he fails, to go back to the real world. If Deeks, probably like most of the adolescent males reading the *Cool World* comic books, is obsessed with his blond sexpot character, Holliwood (Kim Basinger). The doodle Holli is all about him, always there for Deeks, and when he fails, to go back to the real world. If Deeks, probably like most of the adolescent males reading the *Cool World* comic books, is obsessed with his blond sexpot character, Holli...