Who Is the Real Tycoon?

真假大亨
(Zhen Jia Da Heng)
Taiwan, 1980, 88', color, Mandarin, Digibeta PAL
Dir: Kevin Chu
Scr: Lu Wei Shang, Ph: Wu Guo Xiao, Ed: Jiang Huang Xiong, Music: Fu Li, Exec Prod: Wong Cheuk-hon (Huang Zhuo Han), Prod: Jia Pei Chun, Wu Pin-hwa, First Organization Ltd. (Di Yi Ying Ye Ji Gou)
Cast: Hsu Pu-liao (Qian Duo Duo, Du Jin Shan), Sun Yueh (Wu Long), Wang Ay-dih (Sai Jin Hua), Wang Shun Ying aka Wu La Yun (father), Yao Hou De (Bao Ling Guang)
Source: First Distributors Ltd., HK

Country bumpkin Duo Duo bids farewell to daddy and takes the train to metropolitan Taipei for better job and life prospects. While looking for childhood friend Ling Guang at a luxurious hotel, Duo Duo is mistaken for a VIP guest: Filipino-Chinese business tycoon Du Jin Shan. A dead ringer for the tycoon, Duo Duo is brought to the penthouse suite and showered with exclusive treats and special perks including a seductive lady escort, Sai Jin Hua.

In the meantime, tycoon Du Jin Shan is fleeing from the deadly pursuit of clumsy assassin Wu Long and finds refuge in the hotel basement where he meets Ling Guang who mistakes him for Duo Duo. This results in the panic-stricken tycoon being whisked away to the hospital for evaluation and treatment. Tirelessly continuing his blood hunt for Du Jin Shan, Wu Long unknowingly chases after Duo Duo but fails to inflict any harm on this jolly fellow. With every attempt to kill him, Wu Long only ends up hurting himself more. He goes to the hospital to receive care and there runs into Du Jin Shan and starts a wild chase that leads both back to the hotel, where the tycoon finally meets Duo Duo, and learns from the visiting daddy that the two are in fact twin brothers who had been separated at birth. Together they overpower Wu Long who eventually apologizes and gives up on his murder plot.

Although Kevin Chu has forgotten much about this film due to his overwhelming workload after The Clown (Xiao Cho, 1980), nonetheless Who Is the Real Tycoon? serves as a distinctive manifestation of the Chu and Hsu phenomenon that swept the Taiwanese audience off their feet laughing in the early 1980s. A hilarious and straightforward slapstick comedy packed with numer-
ous physical routines and outrageous cat-and-mouse set-ups. *Who Is the Real Tycoon?* features the legendary comedian Hsu Pu-liao in his prime playing two brothers of opposite social classes. The mélange of famous tunes in the soundtrack, such as the James Bond theme, although effective in provoking laughter, reminds viewers of the common practice in the local film industry prior to the existence of stricter anti-piracy regulations. Mandarin-speaking audiences giggled at the amusing double-entendres in character names: Qian Duo Duo (lots of money), Du Jin Shan (crossing gold mountain), Wu Long (stupid and messy), Bao Ling Guang (yes can-do), and Sai Jin Hua (prettier than golden flower). Also worth noting is the brief cameo of the 29-year-old Chu himself playing a needle-wielding doctor.

George Chun Han Wang

Kevin Chu (Chu Yen-ping, Zhu Yan-ping) was born in Anhui, China, in 1950. He grew up in Taiwan and attended Taipei’s Soochow University as an English major. Under the mentorship of director Tsai Yang-ming, Chu made his directorial debut in 1980 with *The Clown*, a milestone hit that launched the superstardom of Hsu Pu-liao (1951-1985). Since then, Chu has consistently delivered comedy blockbusters such as *Kung Fu Kids* (*Hao Xiao Zi*, 1985), *New Recruits* (*Da Tou Bing*, 1987), and *Messy Temple* (*Xin Wu Long Yuan*, 1994), thus earning the reputation as Taiwan’s king of comedy. His latest martial arts comedy *Just Call Me Nobody* (*Da Xiao Jiang Hu*) was one of the highest-grossing domestic features in mainland China in the year end season of 2010.