

## FILM 460 Outline: The Search for Kung Fu Knight

By: Nicholas Santamaura

### Beginning Act

- TIMOTHY CHASE (20) runs to class; he believes he is late, but he is actually the first to arrive
  - PROFESSOR (35), who is still setting up, is stunned that someone would be at class so early
- As more people arrive, Timothy tries to save a spot for the girl he likes, VANESSA BARA (20), but when she arrives, she goes to sit with her friends
  - She still said hi to him though, so big win!
- As class begins, Professor asks students to present their assignment proposals to everyone
  - Most of them are crappy (some examples: study of a moshpit, podcast about hockey, wanting to make a film about making a film, public speech about procrastination, etc)
  - Vanessa's idea is the only one that Timothy is interested in
- Professor calls on Timothy to talk about his assignment. Timothy gets up and begins his proposal: his research assignment will be about Lost Media, and how important it is to find lost film, cartoons, etc
  - He will look at how certain films have been lost to time; according to him, "despite living in a digital age, not everything stays around"
- Timothy then gives a personal example surrounding a lost film: when he was a kid, he remembers seeing a bizarre film on TV late one night. It was about a guy in a karate robe wearing a knight helmet (medieval) who beat up a bunch of evil guys in suits. There was also another evil guy, the "Mastermind", as well as a weird villain who wore a green bodysuit, and the mysterious knight jumped into the air at the end of the movie. That's all he remembers.
  - Most of the class laughs at the absurdity, but one Guy just sits in shock and stares at Timothy, who doesn't notice
- Once he is finished, everyone claps. Professor explains how he is unsure of being able to make an entire research assignment around something as trivial as Lost Media, but he looks forward to seeing what Timothy can achieve

- Timothy sits back down, and class continues (No one did the readings, much to Professor's disappointment)
- Once class is over, Timothy happens to walk out at the same time as Vanessa. They walk down the hall together and attempt to make small talk, and end up having a slightly awkward, but still friendly conversation
  - Guy from class follows behind them
- Eventually, Vanessa has to go a different way than Timothy, so they say goodbye. Timothy tries to ask her something, but simply says "Have a great night!!!" or something generic like that. They part ways
- Timothy leaves the building, kicking himself, and makes his way to the bus stop...unaware that the guy from class is still following him
- Before he can cross the street, the guy from class catches up to him and seemingly desperately asks him what he knows about "KUNG FU KNIGHT"
- When Timothy asks him what he's talking about, the guy once again asks what he knows about Kung Fu Knight
- Timothy explains that his bus is about to arrive, so the guy gives him a number and says to text it when he's free, then leaves. Timothy is unsure of what just happened
- Timothy goes home. He makes dinner, cleans dishes, yells to himself about not being able to ask Vanessa out, and does some schoolwork. Once he's finished, he decides to text the number. Almost instantaneously, he gets a response: an address, and the instruction to "Ask for Kyle."
- Timothy leaves his house, and arrives at the address. When he knocks on the door, someone on the other side asks for a password, which he does not know
- Timothy says to this person that Kyle told him to meet here, and when he starts to walk away, the doorman reveals himself to be KYLE MCCALISTER (21), the same guy who met with Timothy earlier! Kyle leads the confused Timothy into the house (base)
- The house is full of people on computers, and having conversations, doing what Kyle calls "research"
- Kyle explains to Timothy the story of The Search for Kung Fu Knight:

- A few years ago, someone posted on a forum asking about a short he saw on TV as a kid. It was about a man in a knight helmet and a robe, and he fought a bunch of guys in suits (just like Timothy described earlier)
- The person remembered it being very violent, but that the memory stuck with him
- After the question was posted, others said that they remembered it too, and more details came to light (Bad Boss man, heart being ripped out, “Firebird”, etc)
- Eventually, it was discovered that something like this WAS shown on TV in the early 90s on a local station, and that it was called “Kung Fu Knight”. However, no traces of any copy have been found
- For the last two years, a few discussions have been had, but the hunt has mostly died down... but Kyle is determined to find it!
- Timothy meets JEREMY PRESUTTI (21) and STACEY WILLIAMS (21): some friends of Kyle who were a couple, but now they fight a lot
- Timothy also meets ARMIN MICHAELS (20), one of Kyle’s most trusted ‘investigators’, who has just gotten back from trying to interview people on campus to find out if anyone has seen the “Kung Fu Knight” short
- Armin apologizes to Kyle, since he wasn’t able to find anyone who remembered it, but Kyle doesn’t mind, since he believes that Timothy can help them
- It turns out that Timothy said something in class that proves one of the theories about Kung Fu Knight: The Firebird!
  - Timothy mentioned how he remembers Kung Fu Knight jumping into the air at the end of the movie, which lines up with one of the more ‘controversial’ claims of the film, that a giant monster called the Firebird (**\*should not be called Firebird yet\***) showed up in the last act, and that Kung Fu Knight defeated it by jumping into the air and punching it into oblivion
- Kyle asks Timothy if will help them find the short film, and Timothy, who realizes that his final project on lost films could benefit from this, agrees to help

#### Middle Act:

- \* Multiple scenes showing the different sides of the investigation (almost like one big montage)

- Kyle shows Timothy “The Wall”: a collection of potential movie stills, costumes, and anything else that might be of use to proving the existence of Kung Fu Knight
  - Timothy notices picture of Kyle with an older woman on a desk. Kyle explains it is his Grandma, and that she is actually the reason they are looking for the film
  - She watched the movie with Kyle as a kid, and told him that she actually starred in the film, and that he wants to find it for her. Kyle says that not a lot of people on the Investigation know about this, and asks Timothy to be quiet
  - Kyle explains to Timothy that he will be sent to help others in the Investigation, starting with Armin
- Next scene: Timothy goes with Armin to ask around on campus
  - As they walk down the street, Timothy gets some insight from Armin on the history of the search for Kung Fu Knight and Kyle’s determination to find it
  - Once they arrive, they start trying to interview people, to no avail
- Next scene: Timothy is with Stacey back at Kyle’s house. They are monitoring message boards to look for any information on Kung Fu Knight. Timothy questions the importance of what they are doing
  - He then finds out that unlike Armin, Stacey and many other despise working for Kyle; according to her, he’s like a “tyrant”
  - Jeremy walks by, he and Stacey have a very passive-aggressive argument before he leaves
  - She confirms to Timothy that she broke up with Jeremy sometime during the Investigation
- As they talk, someone storms out of the house, saying that they have a midterm to study for
- Kyle follows them to the door, trying to reason with them. Once they leave, he wonders why people keep abandoning him
  - Stacey says it is because people have school to worry about, but he doesn’t listen
- Kyle asks if Timothy is going to their class with Professor that is starting soon. Timothy says he is, so Kyle decides to go too.
- Next scene: as the two sit in class listening to Professor ramble on about something, Kyle asks Timothy to come with him to meet one of their contacts, a person who he claims has a poster of the Kung Fu Knight movie

- Timothy agrees, then spots Vanessa sitting on the other side of the room. He looks at her, but when she turns her head towards him, he quickly looks away. Kyle notices this
- On their way to meet, the two talk about Timothy's feelings for Vanessa. When Kyle asks why he hasn't tried asking her out, Timothy explains how he feels like it's pointless; he believes that they are two different kinds of people, and that she is "way out of his league"
- Kyle slaps Timothy when he hears this, and tells him he should just go for it
- They meet with the shifty POSTER MAN (late-twenties/early thirties), who shows them a picture of the poster on his phone. The audience doesn't get a good look at it, but based on their reactions, its glorious
- Poster Man also mentions how the name "Kung Fu Knight" isn't included on the poster anywhere, but that it is in a different language. This excites Kyle, for this could lead them to discovering the true name of the film
- However, Poster Man says he won't give it to them for free - being a super rare old poster, it's value means that its going to be expensive
- Timothy tries to act civil throughout the meeting, but Kyle gets weirdly defensive as it goes on
- Eventually, Poster Man gets mad at Kyle's behaviour and storms off, leaving Timothy and Kyle with nothing
- As they leave, Timothy starts to wonder how stable Kyle really is
- Once they return to the house, Kyle backhandedly makes it seem that Timothy was the one who botched the meeting with Poster Man when he explains what happens to everyone instead of him. Timothy is surprised, but doesn't say anything
- Kyle then announces to the dwindling party that the upcoming weekend will be a big one, and that he wants to find as much information as possible\*
  - Wants everyone will be there
  - **(\*Expand upon, maybe mention earlier in story?\*)**
- Flash forward to Night of the Big Event. Timothy is buying groceries, and runs into Vanessa
- They start talking, catching up on life, etc.
- As they walk, he asks if she wants to go to his house. She agrees!

- Meanwhile, at Kyle's house, things aren't going so good. Not a lot of people have shown up, and people being to argue with themselves about what they believe about happens in the Kung Fu Knight film
- Anytime Kyle tries to determine what they've discovered, someone claims that they have heard something else/they remember the film playing out differently
- Gets really heated between everyone, despite Kyle's and Armin's efforts to calm everyone down
- Someone eventually says something like, "There's more important things in life than hunting down a stupid movie." Kyle does not like that
- Kyle snaps at his teammates, rambling about how important this is to him, and how if no one else feels that way, then they can just leave
- Almost everyone, including Jeremy, get up and leave
- Only Armin, Stacey, and a few background characters remain
- Defeated, Kyle runs outside
- Back at Timothy's house, he and Vanessa are really hitting it off
- Eventually, they are about to kiss, but Kyle bursts through the door
- He accuses Timothy of betraying him and letting him down
- Vanessa decides to leave, making Timothy get mad at Kyle for ruining his one chance at love
- Both yell over each other before they stop. Kyle says nothing and leaves
- Timothy sits down, embarrassed

#### Ending Act

- Timothy arrives to class. As the lecture starts, he notices that neither Vanessa or Kyle are there
- Later, Timothy returns to Kyle's house. Someone asks for a password, but he is annoyed, and just asks them to open the door
- Armin opens the door. Timothy apologizes, and ask what happened to Kyle
- Armin leads him inside. The house is almost empty. Stacey is also there; she and Armin, who spent the night; explain what happened
- Kyle sits on the floor, devastated and hurt

- Timothy apologizes for not being there last night
- The truth is revealed: Kyle's deceased Grandma used to watch the Kung Fu Knight film with him when he was younger
  - This, along with his uncertain future after Uni, is why Kyle is so desperate to find the film: he wants to re-experience the feelings of innocence he felt as a kid and remember his Grandma
- Timothy apologizes, but Kyle doesn't want to hear it, and he leaves for class
- Timothy, Armin, and Stacey agree to try and keep looking for the film for Kyle. Timothy, with his knowledge of lost media from his assignment, decides to take the lead in Kyle's place
- Montage:
  - Stacey spends more time looking on forums (she goes to 4chan) to look for more detailed information on Kung Fu Knight. As she looks, she discovers an old post from 2006 that describes something eerily similar to the description of the film...
  - Armin takes all the stills/info/responses they have on the story and organizes it into a concise timeline with some of the background characters who stayed behind from before
  - Timothy goes back to Poster Man and convinces him to sell the poster to him: he talks to him in the same spot as before, while Jeremy, who has returned to help, sneaks up behind Poster Man and takes the poster. Both run off while Poster Man curses them
  - Timothy returns to the house with the poster, in all its old-fashioned glory, and places it on the wall
- Jeremy explains that he recognizes a symbol on the poster in the bottom-left corner. He explains it is the logo for an old Italian production company (He recognized it from visiting his Grandparents in Italy)
- Not fluent in Italian, Jeremy has trouble figuring out what the poster says, but Google translate helps them figure out it says "The One Who Punches" (Italian: "Colui che dà un Pugno")
- Stacey gets excited, since the film described in the post from 2006 she found was said to be called something similar to that
- They look up the company online, find a list of all the films they've made, including...
- "The One Who Punches" (Italian: "Colui che dà un Pugno")

- AKA: Kung Fu Knight - the name of the dubbed American version that played on TV
- Everyone celebrates that the film has been found
- Timothy gets a text from Vanessa asking if they want to meet
- Later, Kyle is given a copy of the film
- He watches it, and slowly starts to laugh until he loses it (a la Robert Pattinson from *The Lighthouse*)
- Timothy meets with Vanessa. He apologizes to her about the other night, but she doesn't seem to mind
- She wants to show him what she's been doing for her final project (**\*develop this plot line earlier\***)
- They have fun together
- Once they're done hanging out, Timothy is about to ask something (a date), but Armin rushes up to them
- Out of breath, he tells Timothy that something has happened with Kyle
- As Timothy is led away, he says farewell to Vanessa, and that he'll tell her later what he was going to say
  - Vanessa says goodbye, and watches as Armin and Timothy leave
- At Kyle's house, everyone is standing outside Kyle's room; Armin arrives with Timothy and explains how Kyle has locked himself in his room with the film
- Timothy knocks on the door and tells Kyle it's him. Kyle lets him in
- The room has very dark lighting, and the film is being projected onto the wall. Kyle looks very unstable
- He shows Timothy the film, and reveals something huge: his Grandma is nowhere in the film
- Kyle rambles on about how they have only found what he calls an "inferior English dub"
  - Kyle points to a moment in the film, where the 'Mastermind' (who is now revealed to be the same person as the guy in the green jumpsuit) can be heard saying "Your final hours are near, Kung Fu Knight!", and the movement of his mouth clearly does not match with what he is saying

- Kyle believes that the film was dubbed over when it was brought overseas to America, and that they still need to find the original cut, the one that stars his Grandma
- Timothy tries to explain that they still found the version that was aired on television, the version that Kyle intended to find, and that his Grandma must have lied to him (he was a little kid at the time). Kyle snaps, and starts to attack Timothy
- Timothy and Kyle have a little fight, but Timothy manages to overpower him
  - Heavy allusion to fight that is happening in the film between Kung Fu Knight and the Bad Guys in the background
- Kyle is still freaking out, but Timothy tries to talk him out of it
- Kyle looks up at the film and sees Kung Fu Knight on the screen. Realizing that his goal of finding the film is over, he admits defeat
- Others (Armin, Stacey, Jeremy) enter the room, gather to comfort Kyle
- The Search for Kung Fu Knight has ended

#### Wrap-Up

- Timothy and Kyle are walking down a street in the spring
- Kyle says that, despite the few weeks of class that are left, he's going to take a break from school to focus on his wellbeing
- Timothy convinces him to come to their next class, since he will be presenting his final project
- Kyle agrees, and the two part ways
- Cut to: class
- Timothy walks up to the front of class, and begins introducing his topic again: gives some big speech about how dedicated people can be to finding lost films
- He states that while planning for the project, he realized how obsessed some people can get with trying to find something that is unable to be found, and how that can ruin their lives. However, the amount of dedication, as well as never admitting defeat, is something that Timothy says he admires (relates to events of the movie \*SYMBOLISM\*)
- Montage during his speech:

- Kyle standing by a lake in the evening. As he looks out to the lake, he appears calm, since for the first time in his life, he feels free
  - He looks over to his left, and sees Kung Fu Knight in the distance, who gives him a thumbs up and disappears like a Force Ghost. Kyle smiles, and begins to walk away (\*or looks back out at the lake?\*), saying to himself that he should probably see a therapist
- Other montage scenes:
  - Jeremy and Stacey are walking together, laughing about Kyle's incompetence as a leader during the investigation. After a lull in the conversation, Jeremy leans in for a kiss, but Stacey rejects him, saying that it isn't a good idea to get back together. Regretting his choice, Jeremy walks off to his house and says goodbye. Stacey leaves too, looking back at Jeremy as he walks away
  - Armin sits in a room with one of the other members of the Investigation (**\*figure out new character\***) while looking at an old picture of him and Kyle. The other person mentions how the poster for "The One Who Punches" contains the Italian words for "Chapter 1", and wonders if this means that there are actually more movies starring Kung Fu Knight that weren't released in America. Armin gets up and smashes the guy's computer, saying ominously that that is a mystery for another day
- Timothy's speech ends with him thanking Kyle (who did show up) for helping him with his project, and reveals to his class that he has a surprise for them
- Professor asks if he is sure, since they have a lot of presentations to get through, but Timothy assures him that it is worth it
- He hits play on his laptop, and then sits down with the class to watch
- As the 'Mysterious Film' plays, Vanessa is sitting closely beside Timothy. She looks over at him and smiles
- Timothy notices, and smiles back at her, then looks back at the screen as the cheesy opening narration finishes with the words: "You don't mess...with KUNG! FU! KNIGHT!!!"
- Cut to black
- Either "The Most Mysterious Song on the Internet" or "True Survivor" play over the credits

END