

# DO YOU KNOW BRUCE?

## DO YOU KNOW BRUCE WAS KNOWN BY MANY NAMES?

*“The key to immortality is living a life worth remembering.”—Bruce Lee*

To have one English name and one name in your family’s mother tongue is common for second and third generation Asian Americans. Bruce Lee had two names as well as a number of nicknames he earned throughout his life. His Chinese name was given to him by his parents at birth, while it is said that a nurse at the hospital in San Francisco where he was born gave him his English name. While the world knows him primarily as Bruce Lee, he was born Lee Jun Fan on November 27, 1940.

Bruce Lee’s mother gave birth to him in the Year of the Dragon during the Hour of the Dragon. His Chinese given name reflected her hope that Bruce would return to and be successful in the United States one day. The name “Lee Jun Fan” not only embodied his parents’ hopes and dreams for their son, but also for a prosperous China in the modern world. Many Chinese wanted to show that China, in the twilight of its empire and picked apart by colonial powers, would rise and become prosperous again.

“Jun” means “to arouse to an active state.” “Fan” can be defined as “to make prosperous” and symbolizes a hope for Chinese prosperity in foreign lands. (Fan was also a nod to the city of San Francisco.) And “Lee” was, of course, his family’s surname. Bruce had much to live up to given such an important task. And it was a task he chose to fulfill, for as foretold, “to arise and make prosperous in the United States” is exactly what he did!

As a child, Bruce Lee had a number of nicknames and a stage name! His nicknames included “Sai Fon” (Little Peacock) and “Mo Si Ting” (Never Sits Still). Peacock, because he was a bit cocky; Never Sits Still, because he simply wouldn’t sit still.

Having been in 20 films in Hong Kong before he was 18 years old, Bruce also had a stage name, which he used later in life as well. As a child actor, he performed under the name “Lee Siu Loong,” which translates to “Little Dragon Lee.” By the time he returned to the Hong Kong film industry as an adult in 1971, Bruce had many more names: “Little Dragon,” “Dragon Lee” and simply “The Dragon.”

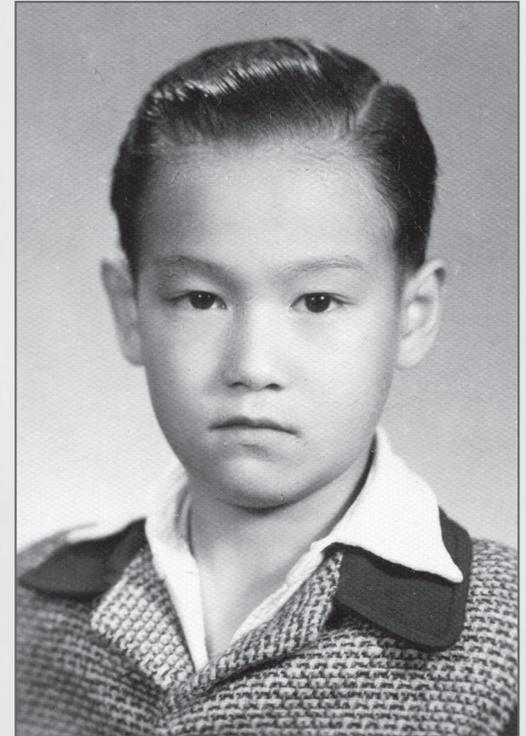
In Hong Kong, Bruce was a student of Wing Chun Gung Fu as a teen. As he matured, Bruce came to realize he no longer accepted the orthodoxy and limitations of one school of thought. In time he would develop Jeet Kune Do, an unorthodox approach to martial arts that emphasized not only the physical but the philosophical.

Bruce began teaching and started his first school here in Seattle, on Weller Street, and then moved it to its more prominent location in the University District. From Seattle he went on to open schools in Oakland and Los Angeles, earning him the respectful title of “Sifu” by his many students which included the likes of Steve McQueen, James Coburn, Kareem Abdul Jabbar, Chuck Norris and James Garner, to name just a few.

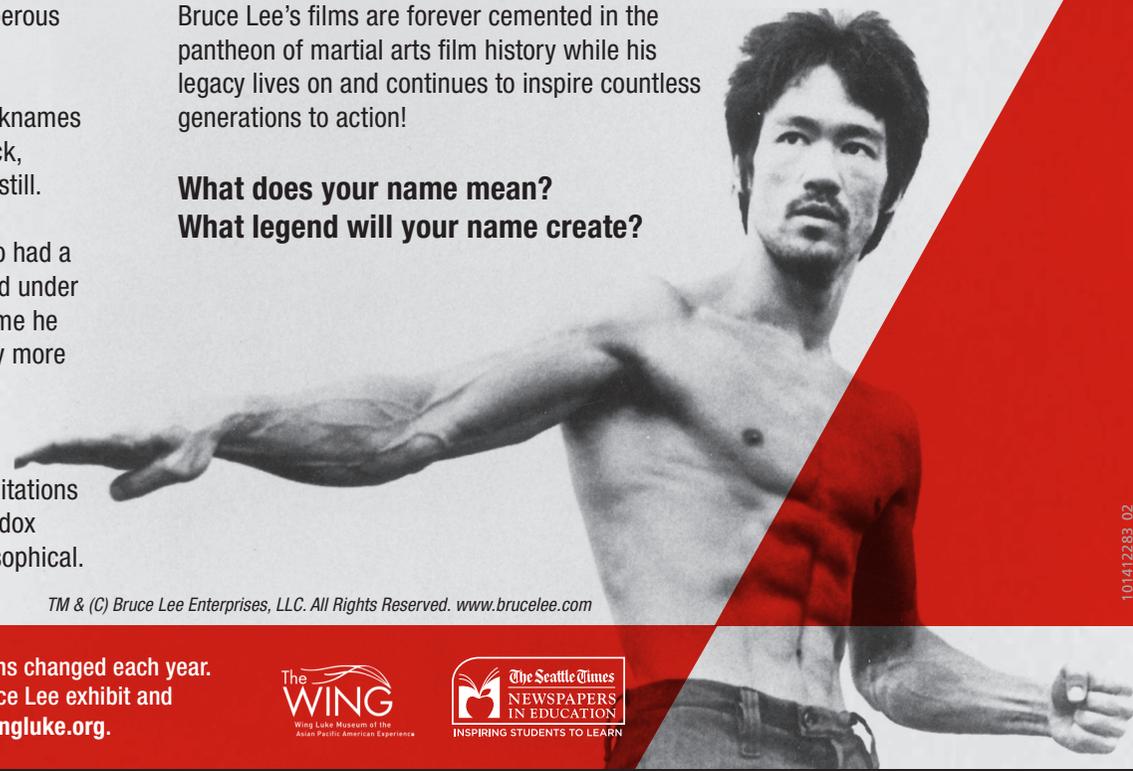
With the success of his movies *Big Boss*, *The Chinese Connection* and *Fist of Fury*, Bruce was tapped by Hollywood to star in the film *Enter the Dragon* for Warner Brothers, which was, sadly, released after his death.

Bruce Lee’s films are forever cemented in the pantheon of martial arts film history while his legacy lives on and continues to inspire countless generations to action!

**What does your name mean?  
What legend will your name create?**



Young Bruce Lee  
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*Do You Know Bruce?* exhibit will run for three years with a new theme and select items changed each year. Bruce Lee Neighborhood tours are available daily, and private/school tours of the Bruce Lee exhibit and neighborhood tours can be booked by contacting 206.623.5124 ext. 125 or [tours@wingluke.org](mailto:tours@wingluke.org).