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Bruce Lee's Cultural Legacies

After four decades of international fame, the enduring fascination with Bruce Lee shows no sign of waning. He is credited as an inspiration for so much: from Parisian *parkour* Free Runners to management and lifestyle self-help gurus, from the eclipse of wuxia pian in Hong Kong cinema by kung fu film to an inspiration for artists, entrepreneurs and innovators, as well as by hip hop, rap, jazz and pop musicians, plus film directors, cinematographers, choreographers, animators and even Olympic athletes. The 'effects' and 'influences' of Bruce Lee extend from fandom to the adoration of his image, from mimicry of his movement and mindset to serious study of his writings on fighting, film, culture and philosophy. Bruce Lee's 'functions' range from ethnic, subcultural and countercultural hero to near perfect global commodity, and from street-fighter to symbol for uniting divided communities. How, then, are we to assess the significance of Bruce Lee?