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MONDAY, MAY 21 9:30

Taiwan

ALL THE KING'S MEN

Director: King Hu

Screenwriter: King Hu, Hsiao Yeh, Wu Nien-chen

Cinematographer: Cou Yeh-hsing

Editor: King Hu

Cast: T'ien Feng, T'ang Pao-yun, Ts'ui T'ai-ching, Cheng P'ei-p'ei

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1983 99 minutes

King Hu's back and Seattle's got him! This time our transcendental master of gravity-defying martial arts (A Touch of Zen, Raining in the Mountains) returns to the ku-chuang genre with another quirky story set in dazzling period detail. As the ailing epileptic emperor lies dying in the capital threatened by warring tribes at his borders, the prime minister is dispatched on a secret mission to bring back the only doctor who can cure his ills. On this simple structure, Hu builds layer upon layer of Chinese-box complications, climaxing in a memorable finale played out at a court performance of exotic Tunhuang dancing.

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