

MASTER MAUL

Ray Park, the actor/stuntman who plays Darth Maul, is a martial arts master. Park studies a form of martial arts called Wushu. He holds a second-degree black belt and has racked up competition championships and medals in Great Britain for his Wushu style. He even earned a fourth place finish in the 1995 World Championships.



Ray Park shows a young fan his Maul moves.



Wushu started in China more than five thousand years ago. It involves acrobatic moves like somersaults and high kicks. Wushu fighters sometimes use swords, spears, and other weapons as well. Some Wushu styles are based on the fighting moves used by animals (including one called "Praying Mantis Fist").

Ray Park began practicing Wushu when he was only seven years old. Bruce Lee, who also used the Wushu style, inspired him. In fact, popular actors/martial artists, Jackie Chan and Jet Li practice Wushu, too.

Many martial artists study more than one fighting style. Park also knows kickboxing and Tae Kwon Do. Often called the "way of hands and feet," Tae Kwon Do began in Korea. It's now one of the most popular forms of martial arts in the world.



Actress/stunt-woman in *Supercop* and *Tomorrow Never Dies*, Michelle Yeoh learned Kendo from Jackie Chan.

KUNG FU (Chinese)

Kung Fu was developed thousands of years ago by Chinese monks to strengthen their bodies. Wushu is a style of Kung Fu.

KICKBOXING (Thai)

This sport may have its origins in the style called Muay Thai. It uses many kicks and knee attacks.



Bruce Lee in *Fist of Fury*

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