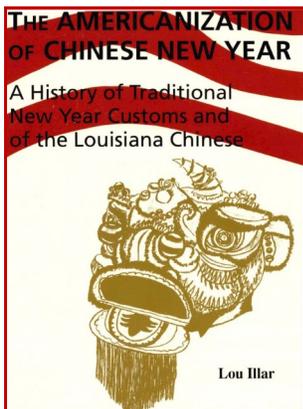


**PROFESSOR LOU ILLAR**  
**NOTED AUTHOR ON ASIAN CULTURE**  
**AND COMMUNICATION**  
**FEATURE FILM WRITER & PRODUCER**

Since 1972, Professor Lou Illar has been culturally diversifying the perspectives of children and enabling young minds by challenging them to appreciate international customs and entertainment. In his text *The Americanization of Chinese New Year—A History of Traditional New Year Customs and of the Louisiana Chinese*, Professor Illar indicates that the Chinese calendar dates back over 4,000 years to the very beginning of Chinese culture.

The idea of a formal New Year's ceremony did not begin until seven generations later, in 2255 B.C.

The Yellow Emperor's reign was the beginning of recorded civilization in China. The entire evolution of what we now term "Chinese New Year" is not merely a history of the struggle against tyranny in China but rather is a revelation of the power of peaceful resilience in the emergence of an Americanization of Chinese culture.



**PROGRAM DIRECTOR**  
**PROFESSOR LOU ILLAR**

*Chief Instructor Sifu Lou Illar* has over 40 years experience in Kung Fu studies.

Professor of Communication Arts and author of the only text on the history of Chinese in Louisiana, Mr. Illar is a liaison for Chinese Arts for the Republic of China and was twice entered into *Inside Kung Fu Magazine's* "Hall of Fame". He also is the author and producer of the 1993 international feature film *Sidekicks*.

Professor Illar demonstrated his Kung Fu skills on television in Taiwan and was internationally recognized for his Kung Fu forms and fighting. His instruction has managed not only to develop internationally recognized champions, and to teach famous entertainers, actors and professionals of all types, but throughout the United States, his Kung Fu has serviced children with disabilities, the elderly and Chinese Culture.

In addition to his doctoral studies in Cross-Cultural Communications at Ohio University, Mr. Illar possesses a B.S. Degree in Education from California State College, a M.A. Degree in Communication from West Virginia University, and M.A. Degree in Cross-Cultural History from Southeastern Louisiana University.



**CHINESE LION DANCING &**  
**ASIAN CULTURAL EXPOSITION**

Traditionally, Lion Dancing is a celebratory cross-cultural event staged at Chinese New Year, the Lantern Festival, the Spring Festival and other special events and celebrations such as Inaugural and Mardi Gras Balls, theoretical performances, political events, weddings, business promotional events, schools and graduations.



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 SINCE 1972

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**SCHEDULE YOUR LION DANCE**

## LOUISIANA HISTORY

On January 21, 1890, the New Orleans *Times -Democrat* made its first report on Chinese New Year in Louisiana.

Since the 1970's, the White Crane Studio has performed traditional **Lion and Dragon Dances** for Governor's Inaugural Balls, Diplomats from Taiwan and Hong Kong.

The White Crane Studio has performed for Louisiana and Texas businesses, schools, the 1984 World's Fair, the New Orleans' Jazz & Heritage Festival, Children's Hospital in New Orleans, fundraisers in five other states, and for the international feature film *Sidekicks* (see the film at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vKuUKjFP3v0>).



The **Chinese Lantern Festival** has been part of Chinese New Year celebrations since the Han Dynasty (206 BC- 221 AD). Usually held on the 15th day of the first month of the lunar calendar, it marks the end of New Year festivities.

## LION DANCING & KUNG FU

Lion Dancing is the very basis of traditional Chinese Kung Fu and is practiced by those capable of refining and applying it to humor and functional life lessons.

Lion Dancing requires years of Kung Fu training and is based on traditional stories about life. Each powerful, acrobatic and graceful movement is purposefully executed moving from one Kung Fu stance to another and is performed by students that have studied directly from one who has mastered Kung Fu.

Lion Dancing applies a practical skill test to the Kung Fu practitioner's devoted preparation.

Since the 1970's children have marveled at the fun and entertainment that these live performances have offered each year.



## The Chinese Lantern Festival



Source: <http://www.chinagaze.com/2013/07/02/the-legend-of-the-chinese-lantern-and-the-chinese-lantern-festival/>

## WHITE CRANE KUNG FU STUDIO

The White Crane Studio was established in 1972 and has since offered entertainment and award-winning cultural expositions for public schools, colleges, and challenged individuals in seven states. **As performers, White Crane students have appeared on national television and on the screens of movie theaters across the U.S.** Their performances have raised more than \$300,000 for individuals with disabilities.

The White Crane Studio has serviced the Baton Rouge and New Orleans community with instructional classes in self-defense and with a method of developing functional exercises and skills, which energizes the body and engages the mind.



Professor Illar's 1993 international feature film *Sidekicks* offers a unique cultural perspective of the success of martial arts in providing challenged individuals a better place in our schools and in our society.

His next project is the making of *Sidekicks II*, which because of its humor and rich cultural themes has recently attracted the interest of **Mr. Steven Seagal**.