

## Lu Yu

Taiwan: actor, teaching artist, airline steward

Object: Monkey King crown

*America is a country of immigrants, and it's what makes this country beautiful. That is what I believe.*

Before I left Taiwan, I signed a six-year contract with a movie company in Hong Kong as my sponsor. My family was very happy I'd have the opportunity to leave the country and start a career as a professional actor in the movies. The actors were under contract to make six movies a year, so the company just threw any script at us and we had to make it. Later I traveled around the Pacific and to America and then back to Hong Kong. I did another movie where the famous actor and martial artist Jackie Chan was my stuntman. But then I decided to leave because they weren't giving me good roles. I was busy doing voice over recordings, and I also worked for the Voice of America. I produced radio shows because that's what I know, what I'm good at.

So then I came back to New York to visit, but fate had other plans for me. Mary Scherbatskoy, who started Arts Inc., told me, "I'd love someone who has your experience with a theater and movie background, who can teach kids." So she hired me, and I got my Green Card, and that was when I started teaching in a public school. It is gratifying watching children grow. When I see one kid who has transformed, or another tells me that they want to become an artist or an actor, that really makes me feel good. Watching them shine on stage with joy on their faces, that's when I know what I'm doing. I believe that we have a mission to change what people think. I really think that I should put in my one penny of thought, to keep educating people's minds, to keep America beautiful. Let 100 flowers bloom. That's what I bring.



### Bio:

A graduate of the National Academy of Arts in Taiwan in drama and cinema, Lu Yu is also trained in ballet and classical Chinese dance. He has appeared in more than thirty Mandarin films and numerous television series and films in the United States. Lu Yu's acting and choreography credits include the Four Seas Players of New York, the Downtown Music Theater, the Berkshire Theater Festival, and Woody Allen's Hollywood Ending. He holds a MS degree in Education from Long Island University, speaks five Chinese dialects, and has worked as a teaching artist in the NYC public schools for over thirty years. He works professionally as an international flight attendant on weekends, and as a teaching artist for City Lore and other non-profits during weekdays, and an actor in the evenings.