

Lady SAMURAI



Fay Goodman – The Director and Producer

Fay Goodman received critical acclaim for her first documentary entitled 'Thunderfingers - a Tribute to John Entwistle of 'The Who' in 2007. 'Thunderfingers' was chosen as 'Pick of the Week' by the prestigious 'Times' newspaper when it premiered on the UK Biography Channel. 'Lady Samurai' is Fay's second documentary, which has taken three years to bring to the screen. Fay is now working on her first feature film 'Winds of Fire' an Anglo- Indian light comedy 'Bollywood' style film featuring plenty of singing and martial arts!

'Lady Samurai' started as a diary documentary to capture on film Fay's journey to Japan to try and attain the highest ever martial art ranking in laido for a western woman.

Fay Goodman - Questions and Answers

Q Why did you want to film Lady Samurai?

A There were two reasons. Firstly, personal. I wanted to capture the journey to share the experience with my brother Clive, who was also a martial artist. Unfortunately, a life threatening illness precluded him from this journey. We had grown up together sharing our martial arts and music.

Secondly, I wanted to share the experience with other people. What it was like to face a challenge – especially as a woman in a male dominated world of martial arts. The path had not been easy. Whatever the outcome, I believed that the trip would offer a tremendous experience for me. I wanted to deepen my understanding of this art form. I believe martial arts has so much to offer and would like to see various arts taught in schools to encourage discipline, confidence and respect.

Q How did you find filming in Japan?

A I enjoyed filming in Japan very much. We had no problems with security or filming locations. Eve-

ryone was so helpful. We missed a couple of golden opportunities to film funny and unexpected scenes. One such scene was talking to the captain and flight crew of our plane on the 'human conveyor belt'. What caught their attention was my plethora of weapons around me. I was so engrossed in explaining my WMDs that I did not realize we had reached the end of the conveyor belt. My bags and weapons went flying and, surprise, I fell over! After explaining subjects such as posture, mental discipline and awareness, my sprawling frame hardly embodied these attributes. Shame the camera was still in the bag!

On a more serious note, there are so many beautiful places to film in Japan, which capture the culture of the country, from the fast pace of Tokyo, to the serene shrines, gardens, and villages in Kyoto and Osaka.

Q Why did you decide to direct this yourself?

A I had no budget at that time to take on a Director to Japan and also find someone who had knowledge of laido and/or any other similar martial art. Taking the project on myself offered me that opportunity to learn and develop my own understanding of directing and producing

Q What were your favourite moments?

A There were many 'favourite moments' but in particular I enjoyed my time with Oshita Sensei and his teaching. We also had a lovely evening out with Oshita Sensei and his wife at a traditional restaurant. The etiquettes, service and decorum were wonderful to experience. Another special memory was interviewing the 24th direct descendent of Masamune (the greatest swordsmith Japan has produced) in Kamakura - at the same time witnessing the celebration of Children's day. The colourful kimonos, white doves and calmness of the temples were magical.