

# Lady SAMURAI

## Long Synopsis

**L**ady Samurai follows the journey and determination of one western woman as she faces a unique challenge in the eastern world. Against all odds she flies to Japan to try and attain the high grade of 7th Dan in the art of Iaido (Way of the Samurai Sword) – the only western woman to attempt such a feat.

This unique documentary explores the synergy between two cultures, and reveals how we can empower ourselves to reach beyond our perceived goals by learning from the ancient traditions of others. How the beauty of the sword, bound by layers of quality steel, also binds together as one the mind, body and spirit of the modern day Samurai warrior.

Is the pen mightier than the sword? A difficult question for Fay, who is also an author, poet and music composer. Such accomplishments would not be unusual for the Master Samurai of ancient Japan, who were well versed in theatre, poetry, painting and writing.

Softly spoken but with the cutting edge of the sword Fay shows her determination in 'Lady Samurai'.

Fascinated by the orient since an early age, Fay's first encounter with Japan was in playing with a box of geisha make-up brought back from Korea by her father. Sometimes it's hard to believe Fay is of English blood - many people believe Fay carries the Bushido spirit of the Samurai and is often referred to as a 'Lady Samurai' by the Martial Arts fraternity, as she cuts through injustice and strives for peace and harmony in her daily teachings to people from all walks of life.

Her many accomplishments include author of the best-selling "Ultimate Book of Martial Arts". This femme fatale ultimately believes in the values of the Hakama - a garment worn by the ancient Samurai. Five pleats adorn the front of this garment, with each pleat representing a virtue, namely Justice, Loyalty, Honour, Humility and Respect. One pleat to the rear of the Hakama represents the five virtues coming together as one.

As we follow Fay on her grading journey to Japan, our western eyes gain a deeper insight into the culture of the east. Fay has won many battles in her life - from the business boardroom to government red tape.

As she learns the Japanese language and strives to fight her way through a male-dominated world of business and Martial Arts, she still encapsulates her femininity. Lady Samurai shows what a person can achieve against all the odds, and that height, size and gender are no barrier to success with a strong mind and a true heart.

Fay uses her new sword, based on her original 16th century live Samurai blade, made in Kaga, Japan, by Fujishma Tomoshiga in 1544. The spirit of this sword, bound by layers of quality steel, also binds together as one the mind, body and spirit of the modern day Samurai warrior.

Daily rigorous training by the Samurai Masters is interspersed with lighter moments of dojo floor cleaning, visiting historic shrines and sampling the nightlife of Tokyo. Her journey has a few surprises in store with an unexpected opportunity to interview the 24th direct descendent of Masamune – undoubtedly the greatest swordsmith Japan has produced.

Fay also finds herself in the middle of 'Children's Day', a national celebration of young boys and girls who are attired in stunning traditional costume.

After six years of hard, dedicated training, and flying half way around the world, Fay has just six minutes to prove to the judges she is worthy of achieving her 7th Dan. Will she succeed?