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up for his April 26 "Oriental World of Self Defense," an event that will feature martial arts masters testing their respective disciplines in full contact competition in the

"There is nothing more stimulating than being involved," he said.

Challengers from across the globe—United States, Africa, Japan, China, Korea will all do

Over a billion spectators have seen this event, which Banks debuted in New York City in 1967. "On television, in movies, what you see is staged...they're hoaxes,"

past, World Wrestling Federation owner and part-time wrestler Vince McMahon "used to sit in the front row...and take notes."

Its goal, Banks says, is to entertain as well as educate the public about the dedication that is necessary to become a student of the

Elmalem, whose powerful hands and elbows have landed him into the Guinness Book of World Records, as well as worldwide acclaim.

Elmalem has participated in over 500 championships throughout the world, accumulating 47 gold medals

sheets of glass with one downward elbow strike.

Also featured in the event will be Brooklyn's own bare-knuckle champion Carl Albright. Now a Park Slope resident, Albright first began learning kung fu from his father, who learned the art while serving in the army. He was four years old at the time, and growing up in Bedford-Stuyvesant.

"The martial arts have kept me on the straight and narrow," Albright said. "I could have ended up in a gang or gotten in other types of trouble. But the martial arts has given me direction, discipline and respect for others."

In the show, Albright will bend steel bars with his throat and fight five armed assailants at the same time, blindfolded.

"We all try to be unique in our own way," he said.

Albright runs a martial arts school at 250 5th Avenue in Park Slope, passing along the art to young enthusiasts for some 20 years at that location.

Other notables will be world champion breaker Master John Drames, Grand Master Rick Lenchus, and Grand Master Bill Louie, who will perform a one-act tribute to martial arts legend Bruce Lee. Regarding Louie/Lee, Banks promises, "you won't know the difference."

The Oriental World of Self Defense 2000 will be held on Wednesday, April 26 at 7:30 p.m. in Madison Square Garden, in the theater, located at 7th Avenue and 32nd Street. Tickets, ranging in price from \$15, \$20, \$25, and \$50, are available through Ticketmaster, 212-307-7171. For more information, call 718-896-0456.

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Carl Albright gives his opponent a handful.



Martial Arts Extravaganza...12



Watch high-flying martial artists at the 32nd Annual "Oriental World of Martial Arts," April 26th at Madison Square Garden.