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DARK ANGEL KICKS BUTT ON FOX TV

HOLLYWOOD—Oscar-winning director James Cameron (*Titanic*, *The Terminator*) is producing a new



Jessica Alba stars as Max, a genetically enhanced, martial arts-trained soldier, in *Dark Angel*.

MICHAEL LAVINE PHOTO COURTESY OF FOX BROADCASTING

science-fiction television series titled *Dark Angel*. Set in 2020, the Fox production begins after terrorists use an electromagnetic pulse to destroy most of the high-tech gadgetry in the United States, plummeting the world into a global economic depression.

Jessica Alba portrays the lead character, Max, a 20-year-old genetically enhanced fighting machine who is on the run from the military minds who created her. Working

as a bicycle messenger, Max travels the Pacific Northwest in search of her siblings, frequently relying on her ingrained-since-childhood martial arts techniques and her streetwise upbringing to evade her pursuers. Michael Weatherly co-stars as a cyber-journalist who ultimately persuades Max to rebel against the government. John Savage portrays Lydecker, a military operative who is obsessed with capturing Max and her genetically engineered siblings.

AARON BANKS RESURRECTS MARTIAL ARTS SHOW IN NYC

by Dr. George Kayatta

NEW YORK—On September 13, 2000, Aaron Banks put the martial arts on the marquee at Madison Square Garden for the first time since 1984. The 32nd Annual Oriental World of Self-Defense featured numerous karate veterans and up-and-com-

Maurice Elmalem slashes through glass at Aaron Banks' 32nd Annual Oriental World of Self-Defense.

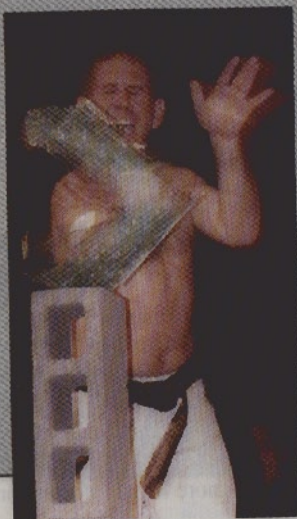


PHOTO COURTESY OF AARON BANKS

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ing stars, but the highlight of the sold-out show was an appearance by film star Chuck Norris.

The guest of honor at the event, Norris was introduced by Banks as an invincible tournament champion and the most popular martial artist on celluloid. Many spectators doubted that Norris, who lives in Texas, would be able to attend the show, but he did—for three full hours. The audience viewed his presence as a gesture of respect for Banks, the martial arts and New York.

Norris began by addressing the audience, pacing the stage like a *ninja* and holding the microphone like a wand as he spoke warmly about New York and the tournaments organized by Banks and S. Henry Cho. The crowd approved when Norris said his toughest opponents had been the fierce fighters from the "Big Apple."

"People ask me, 'What can the martial arts do for me?'" Norris said. "I say what I've been saying for decades: Martial arts is my life. The movie business is my career. And this will always be."

The audience erupted into sustained, thunderous applause as Norris added, "I am here to rekindle my fire for New York and to thank you for supporting Aaron Banks."

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The demonstrations commenced after Norris' introduction. Jonas Nuñez, a weapons champion who has won more than 900 trophies, performed a pole *kata* (form) that was as fast and furious as a samurai dance. Next, Banks brought in Professional Karate Federation super-heavyweight champion Carlos Rodriguez to face Torin Ruth, the No. 1 contender. Ruth fell victim to Rodriguez's spinning back kick. In a match for the super-middleweight title, Maurepaz Auguste used an uppercut and roundhouse to the belly to knock out Saladine Akbar.

Another highlight of the evening was a choreographed self-defense skit performed by Bill Louie and his son and wife. Next, *goju-ryu* karate star Ernest Hyman and his three sons performed a synchronized *kata*. Hyman, who broke a ton of ice with a ridgehand strike in 1984, then smashed 46 boards in less than a minute.

The next demonstration featured praying mantis kung fu stylist Carl Albright, who had two students push copper rods against his neck while another broke a brick on his back. Afterward, Ruben Tores and his Brooklyn commandos performed an acrobatic routine in which

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