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• SYLVESTER STALLONE • RICHARD NORTON

THE ACTION MOVIE MAGAZINE

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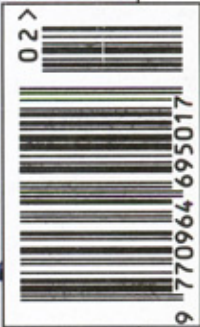
PRESENTS
PERFECT

HIS
NAME IS
MICHAEL
CAINE

IN
BLUE
ICE



UNDER SIEGE



• JEFF SPEAKMAN • TERRY O'NEILL •

TERRY O'NEILL

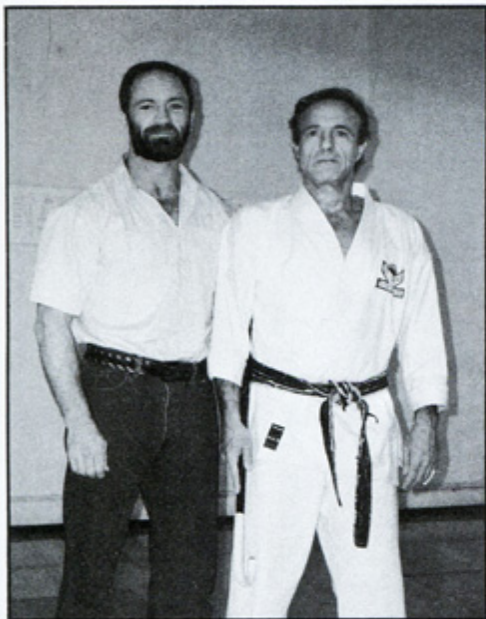
THE INTERVIEW

part 3

Bey Logan meets the actor/martial artist/bodybuilder and editor of *Fighting Arts International*.

This month, in the final segment of our epic interview, Terry tells US about an Arnold stunt that went wrong, about watching *Hard to Kill* with Clint Eastwood, about a close encounter with Van Damme on the *Predator* set, about the aborted *Executioner* film, about stick-fighting master James Caan and about a martial artist's view of martial arts movie stars.

Bey Logan: Terry, you were telling us a little earlier about how you got hit on the head by Grace Jones during the filming of Conan The Destroyer. I understand that Arnold himself didn't escape unscathed from that movie...



Terry in L.A. with actor and martial artist James Caan.

Terry O'Neill: That was in the opening scene, the first thing they filmed. It was a scene with a lot of horses riding in, the scene with the nets. Something went wrong, and Arnold got whipped right up into the air and back down and badly

injured his ribs. It looked like everyone was going to lose their heads over it because it was a multi-million dollar movie and this was the main star. Arnold stood up, went off, got some stitches done and was back on the set an hour later. Nobody got sacked. Everyone likes Arnold on the movie sets. I'm sure he's really tough with the money guys. That's the power game they play in Hollywood and Arnold's number one at it. However, on the set, everyone likes him, from the other actors to the stuntmen to the ladies who make the coffee. Arnold's a charming man. He gets on great with everyone. I've been to L.A. a dozen times, and if he's in town I go and stay with him. He drives around on his own. He has no bodyguards and he doesn't need them, because he doesn't put that image across. He's in control. He always says "The main man's in control now," as a joke. That's the way it is with him.

Bey Logan: I remember reading about an evening you spent in Hollywood that must be the action moviegoer's dream. I mean, I was 'Hulk'-coloured with envy! You were at Arnold's house watching Steven Seagal's new film in the company of Arnold himself and Clint Eastwood...

Terry O'Neill: Oh, yes. Arnold didn't even tell us Clint was coming. The movie had started for a few minutes when he came in, he was just silhouette, but, of course, everyone knew who he was. Arnold and he are great pals. He was someone I'd always wanted to meet. He's

very natural, and a very fit man...

Bey Logan: Something you never mentioned in that article in Fighting Arts, but which I've wondered about ever since, is: What did they think of Hard to Kill?

Terry O'Neill: On a professional basis, as in how the film was put together, they're movie-makers, so I wouldn't quote them on that. As for the action, they enjoyed it, and they later asked me how authentic the martial arts in it were. I thought it was terrific. You know my high opinion of Steven Seagal. I've never met him, but I'd like to. Certainly when I was over in Japan, around 1970 or '73, I was told about this tall, young American guy who was running an Aikido dojo in Kobe or Osaka. The way it was put to me by Andy Adams, the editor of 'Sumo Times', was that this guy had been out 'on the cobbles', accepting challenges from these Aikido guys. He's a very authentic Aikido teacher. There's no doubt about that.

Bey Logan: Your second film with Arnold was Red Sonja. Now, I've seen that film



Terry O'Neill teaching karate to Universal Soldier star Ralf Moeller.

several times and I'm afraid I couldn't spot you as I could in Conan the Destroyer...

Terry O'Neill: I worked on that for about ten days. I never saw myself once in it! I had a helmet on all the time, for some of the riding scenes, storming the castle... I had terrific fun on that set. I was training with Arnold every morning, going horse-riding when we weren't filming... There's a lot of camaraderie on those films. When I was in Mexico for *Predator*, I was offered stuntwork, but that was on the second unit, down in another part of the jungle. I refused it, because I wanted to be up watching Arnold doing the scenes



Bloody but unbowed! Terry and actor Jeremy Isaacs as they appeared in the controversial t.v. series Civvies.

with Carl Weathers and so on. That, to me, is the fun of being on the set of an Arnold movie. From watching him working, from looking at his attention to detail, I was able to remember that when I did my first real acting part in *Civvies*.

Bey Logan: *Weren't you meant to have played a role in Commando, but couldn't because of SAG restrictions?*

Terry O'Neill: What I was going to work on was *The Executioner*, with producer Joel Silver. Arnold wanted me on the set, and Joel said "We'll write a great part in for you". I pestered Arnold, and in one of his letters he said: "If I'm in *Executioner*, so are you. Don't worry about it!" However, it never happened. Stallone looked at it...

Bey Logan: *He was going to have Cyndy Rothrock as his co-star...*

Terry O'Neill: I believe so.

Bey Logan: *Now you were on the Predator location when Jean-Claude Van Damme was there. Maybe you could solve a mystery for us: Is Van Damme ever in the alien outfit, on-screen, during that movie?*

Terry O'Neill: To the best of my knowledge, he is not. There was a big, tall black guy, the late Kevin Peter Hall, playing the role. I don't believe Jean-Claude actually did it. He'd just signed a big deal with Menachem Golan. When I met him, he was full of that. I met him at the airport. I went with Sven-Ole Thorsen and some of the other guys.

Bey Logan: *Wasn't it Carl Weathers who tried to set up a bout between yourself and Van Damme?*

Terry O'Neill: It was Sven-Ole Thorsen, who's a great practical joker. He said: "Oh, you're a Shotokan karate man? Well, why don't you do a bit of training with Terry?" He was egging us on. He was going: "Go on! Spar with him, spar with him..."

Bey Logan: *You also met James Caan when you were in L.A., right?*

Terry O'Neill: Yes. I met James Caan because a friend of mine, a Japanese teacher that I've a lot of respect for, Tak Kubota Sensei...

Bey Logan: *Who's made many films over the years.*

Terry O'Neill: Right, from *The Mechanic* onwards. James Caan is one of his students. I believe he started training with him at about the same time they made *The Killer Elite* for Sam Peckinpah. Since

Bey Logan: *It's interesting to talk to someone who has your unique perspective, Terry. I doubt that most of our readers practise martial arts to any high degree. How does someone in your position view people like Van Damme, Dolph Lundgren, Steven Seagal, and the way they present YOUR art to the public?*

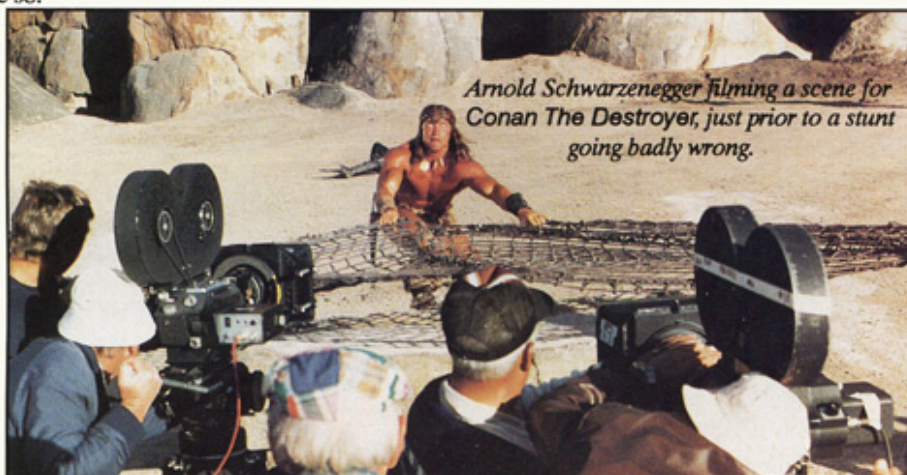
Terry O'Neill: I think that the people you mention do it excellently. People always have the same criticism of any athlete who does movies: They say they can't act. I'd like the word 'acting' defined. If you're talking about someone like Robert DeNiro, then I guess you could say that he's this century's consummate 'actor'. However, if someone is BELIEVABLE, then that makes them an actor. Burt Reynolds came from American Football, as did Carl Weathers. William Smith came from bodybuilding to become a great

heavy. I think that those people you mentioned do the martial arts proud. People say "Martial arts movies don't make money" and so on, but what you're seeing now with, say, Seagal is that they're not 'martial arts movies' per se. They're action movies with martial arts in them. I think, for the parts they play, these people ARE good actors, and they deserve all the credit they get.

Bey Logan: *Terry, thanks for talking to Impact, and good luck with all your different pursuits.*

Terry O'Neill: Bey, it's always a pleasure. Thank you.

(Terry O'Neill can be contacted c/o Fighting Arts International, 329, Brodie Avenue, Merseyside, Liverpool, L19 7NE.)



Arnold Schwarzenegger filming a scene for Conan The Destroyer, just prior to a stunt going badly wrong.

then, James Caan has trained with him, doing karate and also stick-work. He's an expert stick-fighter. In fact, unless he's out on location, James Caan teaches at Tak Kubota's dojo. He did a demonstration at Tak Kubota's last big tournament. A real rugged guy. He goes rodeoing, demolition derby... The scars and injuries he's had, he's a real disaster area!

