1-3 Spring-Summer 2008

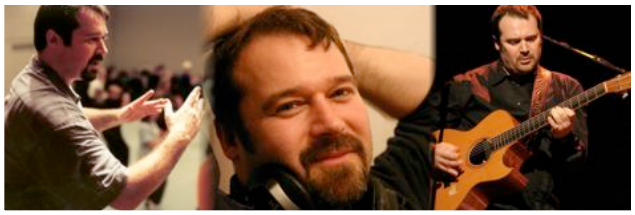
SamMasich.com ❖ Little Productions

STRANGE HORSE

Schedule ❖ News ❖ Reviews ❖ DVD/Music

What's new:

- **Spring/Summer 2008** SamSchedule
- **Javier Arnanz**
- **Sam Masich Video Classics Collection** SPECIAL! (DVD News)
- **CD special!**
- **Book Review:** Yang Secret Transmissions & Lost Classics of the Late Ch'ing Dynasty
- New links



WELCOME TO STRANGE HORSE

Strange Horse is also online as a downloadable .pdf file at SamMasich.com. Find out about Sam's workshop/concert schedule, instructional DVDs, music, articles, book reviews & special offers.

STRANGE HORSE NEWS

Welcome to the first ever **hyperlink-enabled** Strange Horse. As you read through, you can click directly to pages on the website for more info.

I'm spending more time in Europe these days and am embarking on a tour in February which will cover *Germany, Spain* and *England*. I'll be in Madrid again in August for the 2nd Annual 4 Day *Madrid Push Hands Camp*.

This summer will see the resurgence of the *Vancouver Push Hands Camp* and I'm looking forward to seeing many of you again and sharing some new soup from the old pot!

In **Video News** you can find links to the 4 newest DVDs and info on the *Sam Masich Video Classics Collection* which is specially priced for a limited time!

In **Music News** you'll find excerpts from a nice review of *Cow!* on a Dutch folk and alternative music site. Currently there's a special also on SamSongs music through the website.

This edition's **Book Review** feature's Douglas Wile's *'Yang Family Secret Transmissions'* & *'Lost T'ai-chi Classics from the Late Ch'ing Dynasty'*.

SamMasich.com

Now you can get Sam's **instructional DVDs** and **music CDs** online through **PayPal!**

FEATURE TEACHER: JAVIER ARNANZ

Because of my studies in sport psychology I had always felt that something was missing in my taiji teaching curriculum when it came to pedagogic coherence.

When I started training with Sam and working with the 5 Section program three years ago, I started to see in it a possible solution to my problems.

But I wasn't able yet to see the whole picture...

continued page 2

announcing:

the 2009 Yang-style Taijiquan Full Curriculum Intensive

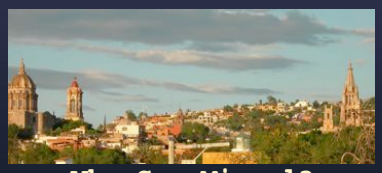
San Miguel de Allende, Mexico

Jan. 12 through Mar. 28 2009

揚式太極拳

An intensive course designed for **serious students** of **Yang-style Taijiquan** who wish to complete the entire syllabus of the art as taught by Sam Masich.

To be eligible for the course, students will have studied about **70% of the material** prior to the start date of the class.



Why San Miguel?

The intensive still has a couple available spaces. **Contact Sam** if this might be **of interest to you.**

Deadline for application: April 15 2008

DVD News:

*** FREEBIE! ***

Email for a FREE DVD:
20 Years of Internal Arts Programs
with Sam Masich & friends

The ***Push Hands Video Manual vol. 2: 'Da Lu'*** is the sequel to Sam's first ever instructional video. This tape is packed with detail and possibly the only such program ever made to cover the complex subject of *Da Lu* in such an accessible way.

The ***5 Section Chen Taijiquan*** DVD will be a great help for those looking for an entry into the study of Chen style Tai Chi or wishing to master the entire *5 Section Taijiquan* program.

Zheng Manqing (*Cheng Man Ch'ing*) ***Taijiquan*** with *Marek Ashika Ostapkowicz* & narrated by Sam, provides an insight into various aspects of the style including Zheng's unique Push Hands.

Yang 54 Sword DVD
Also to come in April is Vol. 2 of the ***Little Productions Official Bootleg Series:*** **The Yang Style 54 Taiji Sword**. This reference program will nicely compliment vol. 1 which features the Yang 108 barehand form.

Click for ***YouTube*** and ***GoogleVideo*** clips of Sam in workshops, behind-the-scenes, playing music & Tai Chi'ing on (& *in*) large steel span structures!

TidBits:

- Bruce Fontaine and I are in discussion about an exciting resurgence of the ***Pacific Elite Tai Chi & Internal Arts Friendship Meet*** for 2008. No guarantees yet but stay tuned.
- **Private Lessons:** Interested in putting your Taiji progress on a faster track? Check the private lesson page on the website.

A great six weeks! the 2007 5 Section Taijiquan instructor certification

Congratulations to the 14 hardworking individuals that completed the program.

David Amador, Adriaan Blaauw, Ed Cooper, Michelle Livaja, Erica Anderson, André Couture, Karin Collins, Susan Dubois, Réal Lalande, Robert Kaplan, Jill Heath, Matthew Case, Javier Arnanz, Trude De Jong

Vancouver Nov. 7-Dec. 17

Feature Teacher

Javier Arnanz continued:

After six weeks in Vancouver in a truly intense intensive, I returned home with a teaching weapon I couldn't have even imagined before.

Once all the technical elements ('Core Principles', the five '5 Section Taijiquan' forms and 'Ju-shou') were fused together with the pedagogical instruction Sam gave us during the sessions, the whole become bigger than the sum of all its parts!

Perhaps the best part of the whole *5 Section instructor certification* was my classmates. I couldn't imagine better hands to support, arms to rest in on and swords to cross with. Fun, laughs and much hard work were shared by everyone on this taiji adventure. For sure I'll do it again if I can.

Javier Arnanz teaches Taijiquan forms, push-hands and weapons in Madrid, Spain. He recently completed the 5 Section Taijiquan instructor training in Vancouver. Javier is the creator and webmaster of **aprendeTaiChi.com** and can be reached through the site.

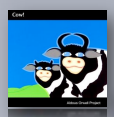
The Sam Masich Video Classics Collection

Wow!
From now until the end of May 2008:
'Classics Collection'
14 DVDs for **$325**
reg. $375
$700 if purchased individually

The Video Classics Collection includes:

- 5 Section Yang Style Taijiquan
- 5 Section Taijiquan (2 person)
- 5 Section Taijijian (solo sword)
- 5 Section Taijijian (2 person sword)
- 5 Section Chen Style Taijiquan
- 24 Simplified Taijiquan
- Push Hands Video Manual vol. 1
- Push Hands Video Manual vol. 2
- Balancing the Heart Qigong
- Tai Chi for 50+
- Vital Xingyiquan vol. 1
- Vital Xingyiquan vol. 2
- Tai Chi Reference Video Series
- Zheng Manqing Taijiquan

MUSIC NEWS:



Cow!
Cinematic
Diamond Space
Blue Manifesto
Why It Happens
Different Standards

Check out Sam's Discography

SamMasich.com

UPDATE ON THE WEBSITE

- Phase 3 of the website will include a *'Friends & Associates'* section listing: *teaching associates, colleagues, master instructors, publications and events.*
- **You can still pay by cheque for DVDs and CDs.** Some folks have trouble with using *PayPal* or ordering with a credit card online. You can mail or email your order and send a cheque or money order to:

Little Productions **5111 Station Main, Vancouver, B.C. Canada V6B 4A9**

'SamSongs'
All Sam's music is currently special priced!
Click here!

Cow!

Excerpts of a review by:
Johanna J. Boyde (Holland)
New Insurgent Country

Everybody & everything is present: *Richard Nixon, JFK, the CIA, God and the Devil, Baghdad, the American Dream, World War 3, Hitler, Stalin, Ghandi*—but it all makes sense and never ends up in ranting.

Sam himself has a slightly hoarse, throaty voice, that I like a lot. His emphatic delivery of the lyrics is impressive and urges one to listen; he also plays various guitars. Every track has a completely different sound—from just an acoustic guitar to accompaniments of percussion & piano, a waltz with violin, an uptempo piece ending on something Cuban, the cynical version of a marching band, folk-noire with piano, electric guitar in sturdy folk-rock to world-jazz and folk-jazz, the wonderful backing vocals of Glenda Rae, all ending with a hidden track of improvised jazz.

Like I said, "Cow!" is for the advanced listeners, who will put the disc in heavy rotation—moooo...

Book Review:

'Yang Family Secret Transmissions' & 'Lost T'ai-chi Classics from the Late Ch'ing Dynasty'

Douglas Wile

Recommendation by Sam Masich

I spent many of my formative taiji years riding bikes and buses around Vancouver with a dog-eared copy of Douglas Wile's 'Yang Family Secret Transmissions' in my packsack. In a publishing genre mainly dominated by books devoted to the presentation of their authors' forms, but little to history, theory and principle, these two of Wile's books have been taiji intellectual vitamins.

Like Richard Wilhelm's insightful and spirited commentaries of the Yijing, Professor Wile's translations of compiled taiji texts are all the more brought to life by his observations about the original verses, the times in which they were written and the people who brought them to the public. He shies away from drawing conclusions, instead articulating important questions to be asked, perhaps by future generations of practitioners and researches.

I've gone through several copies of each of these books and those who know my work well have probably seen the near brutal condition of my 'Lost Classics' research volume: this book in particular sent me deeply in search the cultural context and history of the art.

I have no idea what the quality of Mr. Wile's own footwork is, but it is clear that mine has improved for his efforts. Meaning can be found in these pages.

T'ai-chi Touchstones: Yang Family Secret Transmissions
Sweet Ch'i Press, 159 pages
ISBN 0-912059-01-X (paperback)
Lost T'ai-chi Classics from the Late Ch'ing Dynasty
State University of New York Press, Albany 233 pages.
ISBN 0-7914-2654-8 (paperback)

Sam's Schedule
Spring & Summer 2008

For detailed descriptions and contact info on the following events go to the **calendar** at **SamMasich.com**
Stay tuned for new event listings.

February: Europe Tour:

Hanover, Germany
Sat Feb 9 - Wed Feb 13
International Push Hands Meeting
contact: Nils Klug

Madrid, Spain
Fri Feb 15 - Sun Feb 17
Espada de 5 Secciones en parejas • 5 Section Taijijian
Más información en:
Javier Arnanz (+34)647697952
aprendeTaiChi.com

Brighton, England
Sat Feb 23 - Sun Feb 24
Taijiquan Core Principles
contact: Simon Robins

Prince George, BC, Canada
Sat April 19 - Sun April 20
Push-hands in 3 Dimensions
contact: Jim Cryderman
250-562-7800

SamMasich & Little Productions

Click to see these new web pages!

Theatre, Film, TV
Sam Discography
Yang-style Taijiquan
Special Intensives
2009 Yang Intensive
5 Section Taiji Program
5 Section demo clips
5 Section Taiji Intensive
Private Lessons • 2008
Meetings with Yang masters

May: Ontario/Quebec tour

Milton/Campbellville, Ont.
Fri May 9 - Sun May 11
2 Tai Chi Seminars: 'Moving Energy'; Taijiquan 25 Energies Series (#4)
Contact: Mary Hansell
905-854-0314

Peterborough, ON, Canada
Fri May 16 - Mon May 19
Yang Style Taiji Sanshou
88 Sparring Form
contact/preregister: Jean Kirk
705-750-1756

Gatineau, PQ, Canada
Fri May 23 - Sun May 25
Le pousse-mains du Tai chi en 3 dimensions
(Push-hands in 3 Dimensions)
Contact/preregister:
Réal Lalande 819-778-0147

August: Sam in Spain

Madrid, España
Agosto. Viernes 15–Lunes 18
Campamento de 4 dias de Empuje de Manos:
Serie de 25 Energías
Pegarse, Escuchar, Comprender, Recibir y Neutralizar
(English)
Madrid Push Hands Camp
25 Energies Series:
Sticking through to Neutralizing
Sat Aug. 15-Tue Aug. 18
Más information en (Contact):
Javier (+34) 647 69 79 52
aprendetaichi.com

Lalita, Spain
International Taichichuan Festival in Spain
August 26-31, 2008
Workshop topics to be announced at SamMasich.com
Contact: Enrique Alario or Lalita

July/August 2008:

17th Annual Vancouver Push Hands Camps

Vancouver, BC, Canada
Fri July 25 - Mon July 28
Camp 1:
'Form-Formless-Form'

Vancouver, BC, Canada
Fri Aug 1 - Mon Aug 4
Camp 2:
'Applied Energetics'

to register contact: Sam

Stirling, Scotland
Tai Chi Caledonia
Fri July 11 - Fri July 18
Taijiquan Core Principles +
Location: Stirling Univ. Campus
Cost: see website for details:
www.taichicaledonia.com
Contact: Ronnie Robertson

Special thanks to:

Mary & Roger, Jean Kirk, Réal & Diane, ARKIOM, Ronnie Robertson, Paul Pitzel, Bobby Kapp, Javier, Nils Klug, Enrique Alario, Simon & Cher, Jim C., Julia & Karl, Jan Parker, the 5 Section class, Douglas Wile

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