

1-1 Autumn-Winter 2006

SamMasich.com ❖ Little Productions

STRANGE HORSE

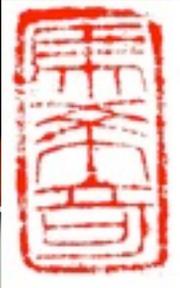
Schedule ❖ News ❖ Articles ❖ Updates

Whats new:

- ❖ **Strange Horse** returns!
- ❖ **Autumn/Winter 2006** SamSchedule
- ❖ **Tai Chi in Performance** & the 3 month intensive
- ❖ **Diamond Space** Michael Friedman CD co-written with Sam
- ❖ **Book Review:** *The Tai Chi Classics:* by Barbara Davis



'Tai Chi in Performance'
From now until the end of 2006 you can buy this incredible DVD for \$25* (reg. \$50) (VIDEO NEWS below)



WELCOME TO THE NEW STRANGE HORSE

After a three year hiatus, **Strange Horse** is back with a new online format. Get info on Sam's workshop-concert schedule, instructional vids, music, articles, book reviews, SamMasich.com updates and special offers.

STRANGE HORSE RIDES AGAIN!

The last *Strange Horse* came out in the spring of 2003 and was mailed out to over 1200 people. At that time we had just finished the 3 month Yang style *Taiji Intensive* and the 4 month, 29,000 km 'Tai Chi People' road-trip.

In the new paperless *Strange Horse* you can keep up-to-date with Sam's latest 'Little Productions' and find videos articles, book reviews, special offers, music, schedule info and more.

In *Video News* you can find out about this edition's special offer, *Tai Chi in Performance*.

In *Music News* we look at Michael Friedman's latest album, *Diamond Space*, co-written and produced by Sam. On the final page see a review for Barbara Davis' book *The Taijiquan Classics*.

Sam's schedule for the Fall & Winter of 2006 can be found on pages 3 & 4.

SamMasich.com improvements
Registered users benefits, purchase-online capability, discussion group & schedule updates. Coming in 2007!

FEATURE TEACHER

A short reminisce on the *Yang Intensive* 4 years later with Jan Parker.

Looking back on my experience of the 2001-02 *Yang Style Full Curriculum Intensive*, I knew then, and I know



now, how very much the training would—and continues to—influence my life and my study of Tai Chi. After 20 years, Tai Chi is still the back-beat of almost all I do.

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VIDEO NEWS:

THE VIDEO CLASSICS COLLECTION

In 1986 Sam was one of the very first Tai Chi instructors to produce an instructional home video. Since then his programs been studied by over ten thousand students world-wide.

The 'young Sam' collection includes all previously released programs from the 1980s & 90's, plus three 'New-Classic' titles; the *Push Hands Video Manual vol. 2*, *Chen Style 5 Section Taijiquan* and *Zheng Manqing Taijiquan* featuring *Marek Ostapkowicz*. (These are due to be completed by the end of 2006)

The Video Classics Collection includes:

- 5 Section Yang Style Taijiquan vol. 1
- 5 Section Taijiquan (2 person) vol. 2
- 5 Section Taijijian (solo sword) vol. 3
- 5 Section Taijijian (2 person sword) vol. 4
- 5 Section Chen Style Taijiquan vol. 5
- 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



All Little Productions titles are now available as single DVDs!

Info on how to order the *Sam Masich Video Classics Collection* or individual titles on DVD and VHS is available at: SamMasich.com
\$375 on DVD (\$350 on VHS)

SPECIAL VIDEO OFFER:

TAI CHI IN PERFORMANCE DVD

This Strange Horse edition's *Special video offer* is 'Tai Chi in Performance' Price \$30. (Reg. \$50) Until end of the year. SamMasich.com for details & order info.

This DVD goes far beyond being a simple Tai Chi or martial arts demo. Shot in February 2002, The film captures the graduates' performance at the completion of the three month, 35 hour a week *Yang Style Taijiquan Full Curriculum Intensive*.



Art Baner & Jim Madras demo 'Dalu' in 'Tai Chi in Performance'

The 11 hard working individuals not only completed a vast curriculum of material, they went on to present one of the best Taijiquan demonstrations ever captured on film. Accompanied live by three tremendous musicians (*cello, saxophone & percussion*), the class dazzled its audience!

In this performance the the *entire* traditional Yang Style Taijiquan curriculum is presented in a very watch-able way, making it not only an excellent reference tool for clubs and individual practitioners, but an entertaining film to show anyone with interest in the art.

Tai Chi in Performance demos by:

Art Baner, Peter Branson, Cage Campbell, Leslie Farrella, Lois Harle, Jayeson Hendyrson, Mary Lynn Lewis, Jim Madras, Sam Masich, Anna Michael, Paul Nicollazo, Jan Parker



Three month Yang Intensive grads with certificates (Feb. 2002)

IN THE WORKS:

SAM MASICH: BEST OF DEMOS

Currently in the editing room, this first Little Productions 'Best of' program features Sam's hottest demos in North America & China with some of the top internal martial arts performers of our time. Plenty of inspiring, unseen footage.

Highlights include Sam with *Liang Shouyu*, *Yang Jwing Ming* and *Chang Chung-jen* as well as ground breaking *Neijia* improvisations. DVD Special Features include: 'Commentary On', extra demos & competition clips.



Dr. Yang Jwing Ming & Sam demo San Cai Jian sword sparring 1993 from *Sam Masich: Best of Demos*

MUSIC NEWS:

Michael Friedman's new CD **Diamond Space** is out and it sounds great!



Michael and Sam have co-written for about eight years. *Diamond Space* is the second album featuring their collaborations and includes the songs *Young Soldier*, *Bridge of Jesica*, *Junkie* and *Golden Rose*.

About Michael Friedman:

Raised in a family of musicians & artists, Michael began studying piano at age four. In his twenties he studied guitar in Berlin's Hanns Eisler Conservatory of Music.

He lives in Vancouver, keeping a busy schedule writing music scores for T.V. & Film, & teaching guitar. Michael has released two other critically acclaimed solo albums, one of which, **Angst Ridden Writer** (1998), also features co-writes with Sam. Michael tours in Canada, USA & Europe and is a member of **FFM** along with Sam and **Mark James Fortin**.

Diamond Space available through **SamMasich.com**

Check out Michael's website: **MichaelFriedman.ca**

SAMINAR SCHEDULE FALL & WINTER 2006

Madrid, España

Viernes 20 - Domingo 22 Octubre
(Fri. Oct 20 - Sun Oct 22)

Tai Chi con Sam Masich:

Espada, Empuje de manos, Repaso
(forma de parejas de 5 secciones)

Más información en:

<http://www.aprendetaichi.com>

Milton, Ont. Canada

Fri Nov 3 (6:30-9:30)

Tai Chi: 'Finding Centre'

In this short and swift journey to the centre, Sam shares practical and provocative ways of finding and clarifying the elusive concept of 'centre' so important in Taijiquan practice & theory.

Location: *Studio Harmonia* 410

Bronte Street South, Suite 201, Milton

Cost: \$35.00 for the evening (\$30 for seniors 60+) Pre-reg preferred

Contact/preregister:

Ed Cooper - 905-878-8647

ed@oyaproductions.com

Campbellville, Ont.

Sat/Sun Nov 4-5

(10am-5:30pm)

Taijiquan 25 Energies Series:

Sticking, Listening, Understanding, Receiving & Neutralizing Energies

Tai Chi Push Hands skill requires an understanding of various kinetic energies (jin). For the past many years Sam has worked with the progression of 25 basic energies in his *Annual Vancouver Summer Push Hands Camp*. This November we will begin the study of these energies as the first in a series of workshops with Sam to explore this profound topic.

Location: *Campbellville Lions Hall* 42 Guelph Line, Campbellville

Cost: \$220 Full Weekend (Early Bird special \$200 before Oct. 15)

Contact/preregister:

Ed Cooper 905-878-8647

[<ed@oyaproductions.com>](mailto:ed@oyaproductions.com)

Milton, Ont. Canada

Mon Nov 6 (6:30-9:30)

24 Movement Taijiquan Refinement & Review

24 Movement Taijiquan is also known as *Simplified Taijiquan*. It provides a stepping stone between novice and more advanced traditional forms.

Tonight we will focus on details of the form, look at difficult movements and common problems.

Location: Milton Senior's Activity Centre, 500 Childs Drive, Milton

Cost: \$35 (\$30 for seniors 60+)

Contact/preregister: Ed Cooper
905-878-8647

[<ed@oyaproductions.com>](mailto:ed@oyaproductions.com)

FEATURE TEACHER

Jan Parker continued:

On the first day of the intensive, we talked about Indra's Net and how each individual part is reflected in the whole. This set a tone for me.

Although this was a Taijiquan workshop, participating in the intensive was my way of getting a broader education. We really did study history, geography, philosophy, language, physical education—even math, all through the vehicle of this wonderful art.

The intensive wasn't always easy or fun, but it sure was worth it. I also made life long friends and training partners during this time. If I could do it all again, I would.



A self described 'die-hard Yang Stylist' Jan teaches Tai Chi & Qigong in Vancouver and on Bowen Island BC and

London, ON
Fri Nov 10 (6:30-9:30)

Tai Chi Core Principles

Tai Chi is known for its graceful and eloquent physicality. Tonight we will focus on practical elements, such as footwork and alignment, and connect these with more subtle, energetic aspects.

Cost: \$40

Location and time: St. James Westminster Church, 115 Askin St.

Contact/preregister:

Gloria Jenner 519-439-8875

London, ON
Sat/Sun Nov 11-12

Yang Tai Chi Sabre

Study of the *Yang Style Taijijiao (Tai Chi Sabre)* enables practitioners to develop a clear and sound understanding of body and blade positioning used in traditional short weapon training. It provides an excellent foundation for sword work. In these two days we will learn the entire Yang Sabre form.

Note times: Sat 9:30am-3pm / Sun 1pm-6pm)

Cost: \$225 (Early Bird special \$200 before Oct. 20)

Location: St. James Westminster Church, 115 Askin St.

Contact/preregister:

Kevin Heckendorn 519-434-6832

kheckendorn@rogers.com

billeting possible with advanced notice



Peterborough, ON,
Tues Nov 14 (6:30-9:30)
Yang Style 108: Review
Thurs Nov 16 (6:30-9:30)

Dalu

Cost: Mid-week workshops are \$40 (\$30 for PTCA Members)

Location: Peterborough Tai Chi Assn. (PTCA) 385 1/2 George Street N., Peterborough, ON **Contact/preregister:** *Jean Kirk 705-750-1756*

jkirk@trentu.ca

Improve Fast!

Sam can sometimes be booked for private and semi-private lessons while he is on tour.

He will be available for lessons in the Vancouver studio Jan/Feb/Mar 2007

Gatineau (Hull), Que

Vendredi-Dimanche

17-19 novembre

(Fri-Sun Nov 17-19)

Épée, forme de 5 sections

5 Section Tai Chi Sword

Tai Chi sword solo practice takes the postural and energetic work of Tai Chi a step further as we extend the mind from the centre of the body to the tip of the blade. Study of the 5 Section Tai Chi Sword enables practitioners to develop a clear and sound understanding of body and blade positioning used in traditional sword weapon training. It provides an excellent foundation for more advanced practices.

Vendredi (Fri) 7-10pm Samedi/

Dimanche (Sat/Sun) 10am-5pm

Cost: \$250 (\$275 non-members)

note: cost is higher as space is limited

Location: Centre de Tai Chi Gilles-Vaillant 109 rue Wright, Gatineau

Contact/preregister:

André Couture 819-777-1527

ACCDTCGV@hotmail.com

Ottawa, ON
Yang Style 108:
The 'Kick Section'

Mon Nov 20 (Fri 7-10pm)

This workshop will focus on the always challenging 'Kick Section' from the Yang Style Taijiquan 108 long form. Learn to distinguish & strengthen your 'Parting', 'Rising' & 'Thumping' kicks!

Cost: \$40 students (\$50 for non-students: ask Marc who qualifies)

Location: Michael Babin Tai Chi School: 195A Bank St. Ottawa

Contact/preregister: Marc Seguin 613-822-3453

taichicenter@rogers.com

2007 5 Section Taijiquan Teacher's Certification

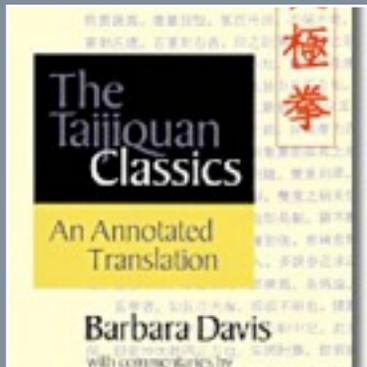
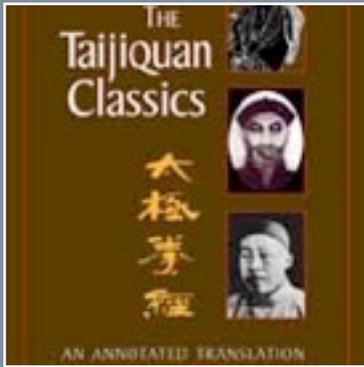
Select invitations are going out for a six week teacher's certification intensive based on the 5 Section Taijiquan curriculum.

The workshop, to be held in Vancouver, BC, Canada between Nov. 9 and Dec. 17, 2007, has strict eligibility requirements.

Contact Sam if this course might be of interest to you.



SamMasich.com



The Taijiquan Classics

You can find Barbara Davis' book with either of these covers at Amazon.com

In the future SamMasich.com will feature a book and music recommendation service which link directly to Amazon and other sellers.

Special thanks to:

Jan Parker, the Full Circle group, Yang Intensive grads, Ed & Marsha Cooper, Jean Kirk, Peterborough Tai Chi Assn., Javier Arnanz Sotelo, Paloma, Maribel, André Couture, Réal & Diane Kevin Heckendorn, Gloria Jenner, Marc Seguin, Michael Babin, Gary Armstrong, Hansoo Kim, John Zietlow, Paul Pitzel, Michael Blackburn, Barbara Davis, Liang Shouyu, Yang Jwing Ming, Michael Friedman

BOOK REVIEW:

The Taijiquan Classics: An Annotated Translation by Barbara Davis

Barbara Davis adds an important piece of reference material to the growing body of excellent English language Taijiquan texts with the second of her Chen Wei-ming translations: *The Taijiquan Classics*.

In this three-part volume, Davis lucidly presents the five 'core classics', basing her work in turn on Chen's 1920s publication, *The Art of Taijiquan* which included the classics as Chen received them from the Yang family. She presents the material with great respect and little lean toward the fantastical, delving into issues around history of the art, dating of the classics, historical lineage and origin theories.

Devoting full chapters to each the: *history; language and ideas* of the Taijiquan Classics, she prepares her reader for a fresh ponder of these time honoured writings, wisely including the original Chinese text in an appendix. The book, laid out as it is, does much of the tedious but necessary conceptual organization that so many serious Taijiquan practitioners lack time and expertise for, but can clearly benefit from.



Barbara Davis follows clearly in the tradition of Douglas Wile whose *Lost Tai-chi Classics of the Late Ch'ing Dynasty* has become something of a classic in its own right. Both authors support their clean, scholarly translations with insightful historical observation and useful original thinking. Where Davis might have the edge however, is in the accessibility of her language—and no wonder: along with a Master's degree in East Asian Studies, she teaches regular Taijiquan classes in Minneapolis, MN and has, for several years, been the driving force behind the Taijiquan Journal (currently on hiatus), all which have coalesced to give her the ability to speak to Tai Chi enthusiasts in an informed yet down-to-earth voice.

Approaches to the art of Taijiquan can diverge greatly, and the Taijiquan Classics are thus subject to a wide variety of interpretations but, regardless of individual leanings, this is an excellent and useful translation and deserves to find its place in the libraries of many practitioners.

Davis, Barbara.
The Taijiquan Classics: An Annotated Translation Including a Commentary by Chen Wei-ming. Berkeley, California: North America Books, 2004. 212 pages. ISBN 1556434316

Review by Sam Masich



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