

# IMMORTAL COMBAT

## THE CODE



Official Selection  
2020  
URBAN ACTION SHOWCASE  
International Action Film Festival  
UASE

OFFICIAL SELECTION  
SOUTHEAST  
REGIONAL  
2021 FILM FESTIVAL

OFFICIAL  
SELECTION  
TRIFA  
FILM FESTIVAL  
2020

WINNER  
BEST ACTION  
FEATURE FILM  
The Indie Gathering  
Film Festival  
2020

OFFICIAL  
SELECTION  
ACTION ON FILM  
MEGAFEST  
2020

OFFICIAL SELECTION  
Greater Cleveland  
Urban Film  
Festival 2020

OFFICIAL SELECTION  
WIFT-0H MID YEAR  
FEMALE FILM &  
SCRIPT SHOWCASE  
2019

OFFICIAL  
SELECTION  
2020

OFFICIAL PREMIERE  
The Independent  
Cinema Showcase  
Summer 2019

ADVOCATE  
Chinese American  
Museum of Chicago  
Raymond H. & Jean T. Fox Viceroy

OFFICIAL  
SELECTION  
ACTION ON FILM  
MEGAFEST  
2019

OFFICIAL  
SELECTION  
TRIFA  
FILM FESTIVAL  
2019

WIZARDWORLD

MEDIA DESIGN IMAGING PRESENTS A FILM BY JOHNNY K. WU BENJAMIN ZGORECKI CRYSTLE PAYNTER

"IMMORTAL COMBAT THE CODE" KEITH COLLINS II BEN GARTON Y CHAN JERRY SUR MATT KANE LELAND LEGER

LISA WONG WAYNE WONG MUSIC BY ARYAVARTA KUMAR EDITED BY JOHNNY K. WU DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY JASON L. WANG SHAWN ADAMS

WRITTEN BY ANDRAS ZOLD STORY BY JOHNNY K. WU DIRECTED BY JOHNNY K. WU ASSISTANT DIRECTOR TERRY GIANCATERINO EXECUTIVE PRODUCER JOHNNY K. WU

PRODUCED BY JASON L. WANG KEITH COLLINS II ASSOCIATES PRODUCERS RON GEORGE ARYAVARTA KUMAR SCOLLARD REINHARDT TODD METZENDORF





## Synopsis

Immortal Combat The Code (Wu Xia 2 The Code), In OUR future, one simple breath could mean life or death. As we search for a solution, pollution engulfs our world. If we don't find an answer fast, all living things shall perish. We are the Five Elements, we strive to protect humanity... Years ago, many warriors came to us seeking change, joined our way of life. Right after, A Code was discovered that could save the world and was injected into one of us. We even lost one of our clan's mate. Now we must fight for our lives to bring the code - to the world... or die trying. With the MediCan Research Corporation and The FOUR 11 gang on our tails....We must protect the code....AT ALL COSTS.



MEDIA DESIGN IMAGING PRESENTS A FILM BY JOHNNY K. WU BENJAMIN ZGORECKI CRYSTLE PAYNTHOR  
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## Stills





Stills



Stills





## Behind the Scenes



Filming at Menor, Ohio, in September, a raining day



Bar scenes in Parma, Ohio at Shadows Bar.



### Cast:

#### Benjamin X. Zgorecki (Cloud/Neil)



Ben became part of the film industry in 2012, starting off in background acting. Since then, he has been in several Hollywood feature films such as "Fast 8," "Criminal Activities," "Pups United," "Little Evil," and "White Boy Rick". An avid stunt performer, he has done stunt work for television to include McDonald's commercials and a handful of short films including "Casey Jones: Overtime" (In post-production). Ben has a background in martial arts, having a second degree black belt in Tae Kwon Do, kickboxing

experience, and knife throwing skills. It is the combination of acting and martial arts skills that ushered him into a lead role in the 2016 action martial arts short film "Wuxia: A Martial Arts Tango" by MDI. He is also starred as lead for the feature martial arts sci-fi film Wu Xia 2 The Code releasing on August 16, 2019.

When Ben is not on set or training, he is spending time with family and working for the Carpenters Union. He also has experience with building movie sets. Overall, Ben strives to make a career in the film industry. Check out his acting page at <https://mdifilm.com/benz/>





## Crystle Paynther (Water)

Crystle is known for her extensive experience as an actor and producer/director in both theater and independent film. Her most recent films include *This is Not a Dress Rehearsal* (2018), *Hey Mr. Postman* (2017) and *Sterling* (2017) in which she cast and produced. Paynther is a 2015 Best Female Actress Award recipient for her stellar performance in the horror short film *SMILE*, which was presented by the 48 Hour Film Competition in Cleveland, Ohio.



Paynther has taught theater arts and video production to public school students in Akron, Ohio and looks forward to teaching more students around the country. She enjoys working with children and impacting others through visual arts and entertainment. Her modern jazz dance background and Kajukenbo Martial Arts studies in Inglewood, California has equipped her for the lead role of Water in an upcoming feature film *WU XIA 2: THE CODE*. She is honored to work with Director Johnny Wu, Producers Keith Collins II, Jason Wang and the entire cast & crew.



## Keith Collins II (Earth) : Producer / Stunt/Fight Choreographer



Born June 1, 1981, in Chester, PA and raised in Cleveland, Ohio. Keith graduated from Kent State University with a degree in Education. He has been in the martial arts from the age of 3, Keith trained under Sensei and Father, Keith Collins I, in the art of Kenpo.

After receiving his black belt, He'd studied other styles ranging from Krav Maga to Silat believing that all martial art styles have something to offer.

As a filmmaker, Stunt Coordinator and Fight choreographer, Keith has many filmmaking achievements including, The Indie Gathering International film festival's Best Micro Action Film 2012, 2013 & 2015. Best Action Short at Urban Action Showcase 2015 and multiple Film Festival official selections. His award winning Film, *Lions & Wolves*, premiered on the national channel, El Rey Network.

Some of Keith fight choreography are featured in *Contracts: Redemption*, *T.R.A.C.E* a Doctor Who Fan film, *Wu Xia: A Martial Arts Tango*, *Project E.1337* and *Innerself*. He recently released his first feature film, "Maximillian", where Johnny K. Wu sits as the Executive Producer of the film, Maximillian is a martial arts/live action anime film, now signed for distribution.





### Jerry Sur (Wood) : Poster Design and Graphic Designer



Jerry Sur was born in SoCal and started his modeling/acting career in Cleveland, Ohio after serving in the U.S. military. His passion for hand-to-hand combat and acting eventually ushered him into a featured extra role in Jason Wang's feature film "Project E. 1337 Alpha." Shortly after, Jerry was cast as a supporting actor in MDI Film's martial arts action thriller "Wu Xia - A Martial Arts Tango," as well as 3 Digital Rock Studios' martial arts sci-fi action thriller "Project: Die Happy". Upcoming films include "Maximillian The Movie" and "Parker: Spider-verse both due out in 2019.

When not on set, Jerry enjoys spending time with his family, working out, media design and directing. His first directorial feature film "That Night" was released earlier this year on Amazon Video.

### Matt Kane (Fire) : Fight Choreography Assistant



Matt Kane is a Cleveland-based actor, stuntman, and fight choreographer. He started his acting journey at the age of 9 when he joined his elementary school's drama club. That journey has led him to act on stage, in short films and features. Matt has been studying martial arts his whole life and has carried those skills over to the world of stunts and action. He is the founder of the stunt team, Kane Action Team. He works full time as a martial arts instructor at The Academy of Self-Defense and Kent State University. Currently in pre-production for Winter Soldier Fan Film



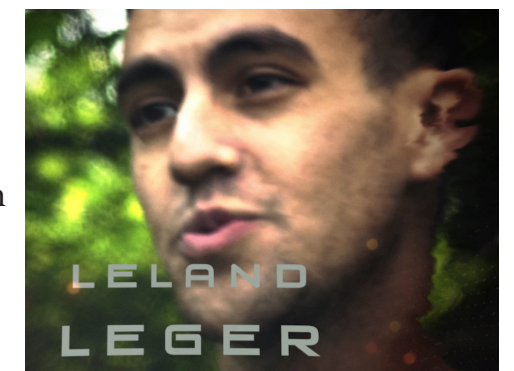
### Ben Garton (Gold)

Ben Garton, also know as Kick Master. Born in November in Indianapolis, Indiana, now in Canton, Ohio. Growing up watching Ninja Turtles, Power Rangers, and admiring Martial Arts action heroes such as Jackie Chan, Bruce Lee, Donnie Yen, and Jet Li. He started training at East Coast Martial Arts when he was 4 years old and he is now a 2nd Dan Black Belt and their Martial Arts Instructor. He's a Blue Belt in their Kickboxing program. He also train in the art of Martial Arts Tricking and Taekwondo, and as my nickname suggests he put an emphasis on the aesthetics of the kicking techniques more over the flipping and twisting. He's living the dream sharing my passion for Martial Arts through film making. Keep kicking!!



### Leland Leger (Marcus)

Leland Leger is elated to work with MDI in his second film after having performed previously in Maximillian. Leland has worked previously with Theatre Columbus State, he continues his work on stage as well as technical directing and working in lighting design while freelancing jobs throughout Ohio. Leland also performed in films with roles in the locally produced films "Mission" and "Cry Baby Bridge", the theatrical and Netflix release of the movie "6", and CinemaSlice's "Soothing". Leland also has worked as a male model performing in the Aveda Earth Jams show walking for Nurtur the Salon, Curve the Runway walking for Ferreyros Coture, and most recently with Manhood Boutique for Fashion Week Columbus. He has attended OSU and is with a focus on completing an MFA in the future. He also hosts his own photography company "L-Squared Shots" and shoots models, actors, as well as other talent around the area. Leland continues acting, designing shows and movies, and photographing today in and around Ohio.







## Y Chan (Dave/Wind)



Y Chan has studied martial arts since early childhood focusing on internal, external, contemporary, and traditional styles of Chinese Martial Arts (CMA) training under some of the world's most renowned martial artists including the legendary Master An Tian Rong during his studies at OSU and the famous Master Chen Ying while living in New York City.

In addition to capturing numerous competition medals, he won back-to-back all-around grand champion at perennial events such as Arnold Schwarzenegger's

International Martial Arts Tournament and back-to-back all-around grand champion at the biggest tournament in NYC, the Karate Tournament of Champions. Y Chan has performed at Madison Square Garden, The Rock N' Roll Hall of Fame, The Taj Mahal, and Chiang Kai Shek Park with celebrities such as Donald Trump. He has lectured, coached, and performed at numerous universities throughout the USA, Canada, and Australia.

Y Chan co-founded one of the largest clubs at OSU, the Dragon Phoenix Wushu Team, and the wildly successful Wushu Kungfu Fitness Centers in Parsippany and Livingston, NJ, with numerous students going on to represent the United States at the World Wushu Championships. He has sat as a head judge at nearly every CMA tournament in the U.S. since 2003, served as an elected U.S. Regional Delegate in the U.S. Wushu Union, moderated and contributed to Jiayo.com for 12 years, and written numerous published articles.



## Lisa Wong (Ms. Swan)



Lisa enjoys working on film projects, both in front of the camera and behind the scenes from the Cleveland 48 Hour Film Project and independent films to Hollywood productions. As an actor, Lisa has appeared in Wu Xia 2: The Code; J-Crew's 48 HFPs No Filer: Overexposed (2018), The Land (2017), No Filter (2017), Sabotage (2015); and Tiffany Laufer's Honor Society (2013). As a background actor, Lisa can be seen in Jenny's Wedding (2015), The Bronze (2015), Draft Day (2014), Foxcatcher (2013), Kings of Summer (2013), Made in Cleveland (2013), The Wind is Watching (2013) Crime Stoppers

Case Files: Southern California - Ohio - Willie Pigram/Herbert Pryor Homicide (2012), and various TV commercials and promos. Lisa has also worked on the set of Giggling Johnny (2019), Innerself - the movie (2018), Project E.1337: ALPHA (2018), J-Crew: Tainted (2016), J-Crew: Catch Them All (2016), The Deprogrammer (2016), Cyclical Phenomenon: Sammi Girl (2015), The Murders of Brandywine Theater (2014), Underdogs (2013), Cyclical Phenomenon: Hi (2013), Crime Stoppers Case Files: Northeast - Amy Mihaljevic Homicide (2012), Promised Land (2012), and Alex Cross (2012). She was Producer and Host of OCA Image TV (2010-2013).

Lisa Wong is the President of OCA Greater Cleveland - Asian Pacific American Advocates, co-founder of the Cleveland Asian Festival, and National Vice President of Communications for the OCA - Asian Pacific American Advocates. Lisa also serves on the board of St Clair Superior Development Corporation, the AsiaTown Community Taskforce, and Census 2020 Complete Count Committees. Lisa is a member of the OCA Dragon Dance team and was honored as one of Cleveland's Most Interesting People by Cleveland Magazine in 2017





### Wayne Wong (Mr. Lee)

Wayne is Chief of the Thermal Energy Conversion Branch, at the NASA Glenn Research Center. He is recipient of the NASA Exceptional Achievement Medal and National Asian American Engineer of the Year Award. He is V.P. of Administration for OCA Asian Pacific American Advocates - Cleveland chapter, leads the OCA Dragon Dance Team, and is on the Board of MidTown Cleveland. He is on the Executive Committee for the annual Cleveland Asian Festival and is the Performance Chair, and Head MC. Wayne is an artist and illustrated comic books and game cards previously as well as other fantasy/superhero artwork.



In the last five years, Wayne has pursued film making having written screenplays for four short films, and acted in or supported over 15 projects. He wrote or co-wrote Kill World, The Land, Catch Them All, and Tainted with a starring role in the first two along with student film Conscious Dimension with smaller roles in the others. He is also featured in or assisted on short films Sabotage, Sammi Girl, Project Die Happy, No Filter, No Filter: Overexposed, and Giggling Johnny. In 2018, Wayne was in three feature films: Jason Wang's Project E.1337: Alpha (extended International Release), Johnny K. Wu's Innerself - the movie, and Keith Collins II's Maximillian The Movie. He is also in short films Parker - Spider-Verse Fan Film (in post production), and Winter Soldier Fan Film (filming). Wu Xia 2 has been Wayne's most gratifying film experience from fight practice sessions, to filming, to serving as BTS photographer, to the extended camaraderie on set



### Johnny K. Wu (The Executioner) : Executive Producer, Director, Editor



A native Clevelander raised in Central America, Johnny Wu is, a veteran award-winning producer with an MBA (from Cleveland State University) specialization in branding. Fluent in Chinese, Spanish and English, Johnny is well known and respected within the Asian Pacific American community in Ohio, he is one of the co-founder of the Cleveland Asian Festival, as well as recognized by ethnic cultural groups as the Producer for Cleveland Cultural Gardens' One World Day since 2015.

Wu is one of the few pioneers in engaging talents/skills in Cleveland's independent filmmakers' industry. In October 2003, he founded the monthly Cleveland IndieClub to provide a voice for local visual artists to showcase their work and visions, IndieClub was a national movement with meet up at numerous cities, Cleveland is now the oldest running group. Owner of Media Design Imaging (mdifilm.com), Johnny has been working in corporates and independent filmmaking community since 1998 with numerous successful feature films that has been distributed worldwide since 2005. He has also given workshops and talk about filmmaking at several conventions including Wizard World Cleveland for the last 4 years, Horror Hotel Film Festival and Convention (since its inception), IndieGathering Film Festival and Convention for over 10 years, 2019 CES in Las Vegas and 2019 NAB Show coming in in April.

Johnny has helped produced many films by other local filmmakers and understand the process from planning to marketing any films. In 2018, his martial arts comedy musical was distributed worldwide to China and Korea, while his current feature film Wu Xia 2 The Code which had a Special Private VIP Screening on August 16, 2019..

Wu currently sits as an executive board member of St. Clair Superior Development Corp, member of the International Task Force for Cleveland Museum of Art, WKYC Community Council Member, City of Cleveland Consumer Affairs Community Board, VP of Organizations Relation for OCA Cleveland Chapter, to name a few. He is an inductee to two Martial Arts Hall of Fames, and an inductee of the International Indie Filmmakers Hall of Fame.



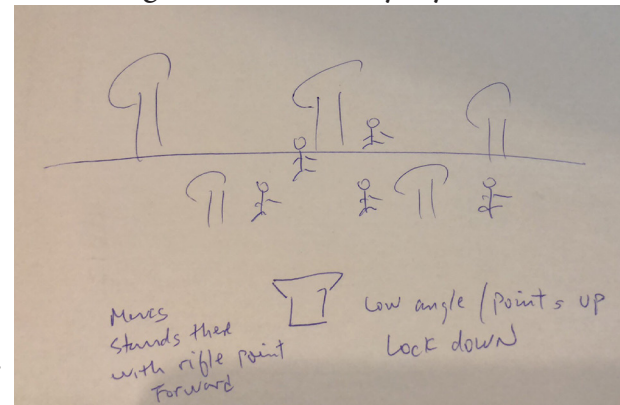


## Anecdotes

Right after we finished filming Keith Collin's II feature film Maximillian (around Jan 2018), I decided to start planning for Wu Xia 2 The Code, originally was going to be a different type of movie but after a bit of thinking, I decided to expand the short film Wu Xia A Martial Tango, to tell the story 5 years later.

I started to think about the concept of the movie, and started to write about the 5 Elements vs FOUR11 vs Mercenarios vs MediCan vs Police... It was a bit more mayhem and hard to put it together to fit 70 minutes of length and still allowing the characters to flow.

So from that, we eliminated the police and have MediCan as a small scene to tell the story and I got the outline made. I met with Andras Zold several time, trying to explain to him the concept, it wasn't easy, due to the complicated 'sub-plot twist'. So after about several meetings, I decided to write an outline in details (a descriptive version of the script), including a list of different locations that I think it will work, and have him expand the description with dialogue into the process.



Stick figure drawing for one of the scene



Ben Zgorecki and myself hanging out with Al Leong in Burbank, CA.

I also reached out to my good friend Keith Collins II and started to give him the different fight scenes concepts. Knowing that he just finished filming his feature and also exhausted in the process, I've suggested to have other cast to help with several fight scenes, that's where Matt Kane, Ben Zgorecki and David Spencer came on board, as well as Jerry Sur and myself helping with some of the scenes as well.

It is always hard writing a fight sequence into the script, so what I did was to explain to them who's fighting who and what's the start punch and how it ends and how long the fight sequence must be, and I would let Keith take leads and

coordinate with everyone. Ben and I then worked on several of the fight sequences ourselves while David coordinating a few at his martial arts schools.

We started training and rehearse with the actor in July and August and started filming a few scenes in September, took a break in October and continued filming in November and December. 15 filming days with 3 of which are half days.

Over 120 cast and 30 crew involved in this production and without them, we would not be able to make it work.

There was one scene that we originally asked Al Leong to be part of it, he was first keen of the idea but later could not do it. It would be cool to have him part of it! We are still good friends and talk once a week.

Unlike many of the films shot locally, I wanted to challenge myself and we wanted this feature to be set in Fall and Winter time, and filming outside in the snow was important for the story. As well as the weather did not cooperate much, ended up with many of the outdoor scenes were filmed in the rain. Of course, one particular fight sequence was film with our own made artificial rain as we needed to light the set well, this is thanks to Jason Wang, another local filmmaker with great talent, helped with setting this scene for us.



City of Cleveland's Mayor Frank Jackson attended our Special VIP Private Screening on August 16, 2019

Outside filming in the snow, we had to bring several portable heaters as well as electric heaters to have it attached on the trees to keep us all warm. This included several heat packs for our hands and feet as well as taping it to the bodies. The final battle was filmed all in one day starting at 9am till 10pm when the temperature dropped to 18 degrees.

We are already planning for another feature which scheduled for Fall/Winter of 2020, and it seems most of the cast/crew are eager to come back and be part of this great family!



Cast/Crew during one of the filming day







REVIEW: Johnny K. Wu's "Wu Xia 2: The Code"

Due to my professional reviewing platform being long gone (Examiner) I will be doing a short review on here. I've been reviewing Johnny's films for about a decade, or so, and I am proud to say that "Wu Xia 2: The Code" keeps with his raising the bar on his entertainment. I loved his vfx winged angels, gumming zombies, fan films crossing many comic genres, and other assorted martial arts films, however, seeing his latest on the big screen was a treat.

First off, it is definitely a martial arts extravaganza, so you kinda have to enjoy fight scenes to really grasp the fullness of the feature film, however, even if not the plot is a save the world type story that anyone can get behind. Between wirework, trained martial artists, and talented acting, and even sound fx appropriate for the genre, the action is an improvement over old style movies in same genre. A lot of work went into this, as did a lot of thought between many people.

The visual effects were solid, the music was solid, locations effective (especially being partially post apocalyptic) and I really liked the bar with fireplaces all over, as well as the high tech Karaoke place. Emotional aspects driving one sect of bad guys worked well and you almost sympathize with their goal, but then greedy dystopian corporations have their part in it.

The hero is not so much the good guys, "5 Elements", but rather George Tuttle, which in all these themed movies their characters rarely get the praise they deserve for saving the day, but the audience deep down knows they should, but there are other heroes to consider, like one played by actor Ben Zgorecki! I don't mention too many cast by name, usually, but I have to say that everyone put their all into it, so when the movie is eventually released to the public, it will be obvious. I can't even imagine the discipline it takes to do martial arts and act full strength. As a filmmaker, I let my cast formulate the fights, and I still to this day do not know how they mapped them out, just that I captured it. However, Wu Xia stuff is flying high kicks, jumping off backs, full flips, and much much more than you might expect.

Actual violence, like killing, is barely PG13, so I would say its family friendly. The short film Wu Xia (part 1) shows mercy towards women, even. The feature is less forgiving, yet still stays family friendly, whether intended or not. In other words, it is compatible with worldwide distribution outlets.

Summary, if you like scifi dystopian martial arts movies, this is a solid one for your collection and worthy of repeat viewings and film gatherings. Heck, it may even be useful to show youth what can be done through discipline and determination, with some respect/honor thrown in. There was more honor in this than Karate Kid, in my own opinion. Then again, the amount of action in this buries Karate Kid and maintains the feel of traditions most Americanized fight films lack. Granted, John Wick would be closer comparison than Karate Kid, but even so, the tradition aspect still applies. If you like John Wick, you will likely find much about this to enjoy. As I understand it, tons of behind the scenes bonus footage will be included once released.

Final statements....GREAT JOB, and did I really see the Mayor of Cleveland at the Premiere! I do believe so!

Best, Kenny Carpenter

## Press and Media:

Via email from John Walsh, August 17, 2019

Johnny,

It's been quite a while since I've sat on the edge of my seat that long without realizing how long it was. It looked great and it sounded great! The fight scenes were awesome!!! My wife, who is not necessarily a martial arts fan, enjoyed the movie immensely and we talked about it for the next hour.

Thanks for asking to come see it the second time at the Indy Gathering. It was so worth it!

John

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Dragonlord Dreble L.O.A.W  
Lord of Communications

John Walsh  
Director of Communications for The Legion Of Terror

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## Audio and Video Press / Review:

- Ryan Polk's Video Review: <http://bit.ly/ryanpolk>
- FilmmakersOn podcast interview with Ben Zgorecki: <http://bit.ly/beninterview>
- FilmmakersOn podcast interview with Johnny K. Wu: <http://bit.ly/johnnyinterview>
- Rant & Rave with Don Michael's - Johnny Wu - Wu Xia 2 The Code: <http://bit.ly/rantandravedon>
- VoiceItRadio BackStage: <http://bit.ly/wuvoiceitradio>





## CLE filmmaker premieres new movie, sees bright future for Cleveland film scene

NewsNet5 Cleveland

Posted: 10:34 PM, Aug 16, 2019

Updated: 11:24 PM, Aug 16, 2019

By: Joe Pagonakis, <http://bit.ly/wuxia2newsnet5>

CLEVELAND — Cleveland filmmaker Johnny Wu sees nothing but good things for the future of filmmaking here on the north coast.

Wu has produced, directed or edited 12 feature length movies since 1998 and on Aug. 16, he premiered his new movie, “Wu Xia 2 The Code,” at Atlas Cinemas Lakeshore 7 in Euclid.

Wu said his movie, shot in Cleveland, Mentor, Cortland and Parma, will be screened at film festivals across the country and will later be available on streaming services.

Wu said even though superstar filmmaker and Cleveland native Anthony Russo announced he will not be shooting his next film here in Cleveland, the local film scene continues to grow.

“We have very flexible rules here in Cleveland Ohio, basically you can do whatever you want to do here. Just as long as you have permission from property owners and have insurance coverage, you can make it happen,” Wu said. “There’s a lot film makers here, we have a really really vibrant community here.”

Wu believes more and more movies will be produced in Northeast Ohio, but said it’s critical Ohio maintain its motion picture tax incentives.

“We have a very strong, talented film community here and all this opportunity coming from Hollywood brings all the opportunity for us to be there helping out,” Wu said. “We get the chance to learn some better skills.”

Wu, a Cleveland native, also operates Media Design Imaging, a successful marketing and advertising company. Copyright 2019 Scripps Media, Inc. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed.



## Local Filmmaker Johnny Wu Debuts His Latest Feature Film

CoolCleveland.com

Fri 8/16 @ 7:30PM

<https://coolcleveland.com/2019/08/local-filmmaker-johnny-wu-debuts-his-latest-feature-film/>

Johnny Wu is one of Cleveland’s most diligent filmmakers and local film cheerleaders. While constantly working on his own films, he also tirelessly promotes the entire film-making scene.

His latest film Wu Xia 2 The Code is described as a futuristic sci-fi action/martial arts film, featuring science fiction visuals and Hong Kong-style martial arts sequences choreographed by the actors, who include Wu. It’s an expansive of a short film he released four years ago. The plot synopsis says that it “tells the continued story of a group called the 5 Elements who are caught between the FOUR11 and the monopoly tyrant MediCan corporation in pursuit of a code that was developed to provide clean air after pollution and radiation engulfed the planet.” Filming was done in Cleveland, Parma, Mentor and Courtland, Ohio.

Wu Xia 2 The Code will have a special screening at Atlas Cinemas Lakeshore 7. Tickets are \$10. You can order them here. <https://wuxia2thecode.eventbrite.com>







Scene and Heard: Scene's News Blog

Film

## Atlas Cinemas Lakeshore to Host a Special Screening of Cleveland Director Johnny Wu's Latest Movie

by Jeff Niesel August 12, 2019 at 1:47 PM

<https://clevescene.com/scene-and-heard/archives/2019/08/12/atlas-cinemas-lakeshore-to-host-a-special-screening-of-local-director-johnny-wus-latest-movie>

At 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Atlas Cinemas Lakeshore 7 will host a special screening of Wu Xia 2 the Code, the latest movie from local filmmaker Johnny Wu. The movie combines science fiction visuals with Hong Kong-styled martial arts sequences that many of the actors choreographed themselves.

Wu Xia 2 the Code's current trailer recently screened at the Action on Film MegaFest in Las Vegas.

"I am excited to see this movie — the fight scene trailer for Wu Xia 2 the Code was super," says Cleveland-based stunt coordinator Richard Fike Sr. in a press statement. "Well done fight team. Super impressed with Johnny [Wu's] filmmaking."

Tickets for Friday's screening cost \$10. They can be purchased via the Atlas Cinemas website or via [wuxia2thecode.eventbrite.com](https://wuxia2thecode.eventbrite.com).

Sign up for Scene's weekly newsletters to get the latest on Cleveland news, things to do and places to eat delivered right to your inbox.

The film tells the story of the 5 Elements, a group caught between corporations in pursuit of a code developed to provide clean air after pollution and radiation have damaged the Earth.

Wu shot the movie in Cleveland, Parma, Mentor and Cortland.

"Actors trained for months with choreographed fight sequenced instructed by our Fight Choreographer Keith Collins II," says Wu in a press release about the film. "And due to the limited time available, many of the actors brought their own martial arts skills to help craft many fight sequences. Like a big family teamwork, everyone helping to make this a reality. I think this movie has over 100 cast and 50 crew to make it happen."

### Indie Feature: Wu Xia 2 The Code

Eoin, August 3, 2019

The Action Elite

<https://theactionelite.com/indie-feature-wu-xia-wu-xia-2/>

Award winning Cleveland filmmaker Johnny Wu has another hit on his hands. Wu's latest film, Wu Xia 2 The Code, is a futuristic sci-fi/martial arts feature film. Following the success of his martial arts comedy musical film Innerself in early 2018, Wu tackled a more complicated martial arts action film. Wu Xia 2 The Code combines science fiction visuals with Hong Kong styled martial arts sequences choreographed by many of the film's actors including Wu himself.

The film tells the continued story of a group called the 5 Elements who are caught between the FOUR11 and the monopoly tyrant MediCan corporation in pursuit of a code that was developed to provide clean air after pollution and radiation engulfed the planet. Wu filmed in Cleveland, Parma, Mentor and even ventured to Cortland, Ohio. The late fall filming yielded snowy backdrops.

The main lead, Ben Zgorecki, whom also helped choreographed two fight scenes, and supporting talents are all well-versed martial artists that worked together before on Wu Xia 1 – a martial arts tango, a short film that was released 4 years ago.

"Actors trained for months with choreographed fight sequenced instructed by our Fight Choreographer Keith Collins II" said Wu, "and due to the limited time available, many of the actors brought their own martial arts skills to help craft many fight sequences... Like a big family teamwork, everyone helping to make this a reality... I think this movie has over 100 cast and 50 crew to make it happen."

Wu Xia 2 The Code's current trailer and one of the bar fight scenes was released in early 2019 and has garnered a lot of attention, including being selected to be screened at the Action On Film MegaFest in Las Vegas from July 25 to August 3rd. Legendary actor and stuntman Al Leong along with other Hollywood stunt actors were impressed by the quality that Cleveland can produce.

"I am excited to see this movie, the fight scene trailer for Wu Xia 2 The Code was super," said Cleveland's own stunt coordinator Richard Fike Sr. "Well done fight team. Super impressed with Johnny's film making."

Wu Xia 2 The Code will have a private VIP Screening on Friday, August 16 at 7:30pm at Atlas Cinemas Lakeshore 7 in Euclid, Ohio. The film will include many locally made trailers include the first Wu Xia: A Martial Arts Tango short film. Tickets are \$10/each, seating is limited, and can be purchased via the Atlas Cinemas' website or via <https://wuxia2thecode.eventbrite.com>

Visit the Wu Xia 2 The Code Facebook Page at <https://www.facebook.com/wuxia2thecode>

Wu Xia 2 The Code stars Ben Zgorecki and Crystle Paynther, with a supporting cast that includes Keith Collins II, Matt Kane, Jerry Sur, Leland Leger, Lisa Wong and Wayne Wong.

Synopsis: IN OUR future, one simple breath could mean life or death. As we search for a solution, pollution engulfs our world. If we don't find an answer fast, all living things shall perish. We are the Five Elements; we strive to protect humanity... Years ago, many warriors came to us seeking change, joined our way of life. Right after, a Code was discovered that could save the world and was injected into one of us. One of our clan's mate didn't survive. Now we must fight for our lives to bring the code – to the world...or die trying. With the MediCan Research Corporation and The FOUR 11 gang on our tails...We must protect the code...AT ALL COSTS.

The second Wu Xia will be released on August 16th and is innovative with its ideas showcasing some impressive visuals considering its modest budget. It's also not just action for the sake of it as it has something to say about the way we are treating the Earth's environment and showcases what could possibly happen in the future if we don't start to change.

It never comes off as preachy and I love some of the tech they use like the holographic screens that come out of people's arms that can be used for various reasons like communication.

The performances are far improved this time around compared to the first Wu Xia and there is no shortage of action. We get to see every punch and kick with steady camera work and no flashiness taking away from the martial arts. I have to admit I've never had a barman react so suspiciously when someone ordered a Soda/Coke before... remind me never to visit that pub any time soon.

Overall, the Wu Xia films deliver the action goods and although they are low on budget they are high on ambition and exciting ideas. Director Johnny Wu is certainly one to watch and I look forward to seeing what he comes up with in the future.







## Wu Xia 2: The Code (2019) - Review

WORLD FILM GEEK

<https://worldfilmgeek.com/2019/07/09/wu-xia-2-the-code-2019/>

The Five Elements get an upgrade in this feature film sequel to the short film Wu Xia: A Martial Arts Tango.

It has been a few years since Neil Bowers passed his initiation and has joined the Five Elements clan, earning the nickname Cloud. However, since then, the Earth has been suffering from a lack of clean air, causing radiation sickness amongst citizens. There has been research done and a code has been discovered that will endure the return of clean air. The code has been embedded inside of a green stone and the Five Elements are believed to have the stone in hopes to deliver it to a medical research facility.



An assassin clan, known as the Four Eleven, also want the stone. Led by Lee and his wife Ms. Swan, The Four Eleven targets Cloud, who finds himself in a somewhat dire situation as he is blamed for the death of Water, who was involved in the research involving the clean air. When a new Water fighter arrives, she discovers something shocking about Cloud, but nevertheless, helps him as he is believed to be holding the code. It is an all-out war between the Five Elements and the Four Eleven in a chase for the code, which can save the world.

Back in 2016, director Johnny K. Wu introduced us to the short film Wu Xia: A Martial Arts Tango, the story of a man going through a series of fights against members of the Five Elements. However, it is revealed that the fights were a test of his initiation to join the martial arts clan. Now comes the sequel, which comes in a more feature-length format. And it is exciting to say that this sequel is definitely a step up from the short film as a whole, thanks to its sci-fi themed story, plot twists, and pretty good fight scenes.

Returning from the original film aside from director Wu are actors Benjamin Zgorecki, Matt Kane, Jerry Sur, and Keith Collins II. It is Zgorecki who once again gets star credit as the newly named Cloud, who finds himself a primary target with an assassin clan over a stone that is believed to have a code embedded in it to bring clean air back to Earth. Cloud is definitely an interesting figure as we get to learn more about him and his past, which plays a vital role in the film. Collins, as Earth, is also vital as he is aware of Cloud's situation and attempts to help him at any cost. New actors involved include Crystle Paynther Collins as the new Water and Benjamin Garton, who resembles Johnny Yong Bosch, as Gold.

Keith Collins also served as the film's fight choreographer with Zgorecki, Kane, David Spencer, and director Wu assisting. The fights here are a bit of a step above the original short film as we get to see Zgorecki go at it at various times. While the fights are not on par with the likes of a Scott Adkins or Hong Kong action film, they still



hold their own as something you would see in perhaps an early 80's to 90's B-movie of its time. And that's not a bad thing. There are some nice two-on-one or one vs. many fight scenes that drive the film along. The twist in the film's finale is a bit of a shock and leads to a three on three fight that is a fitting end to the film.

Wu Xia 2: The Code is a nice upgrade from its original short film. Not only do we get a feature length film, but an interesting story with some nice and unexpected twists as well as some fight scenes that outdo the original.

WFG RATING: B

On August 16, at the Atlas Cinemas Lakeshore 7 in Euclid, Ohio, there will be a screening of the film at 7:30pm. If you are in the area, get a chance to check out the film.

A Media Design Imaging film. Director: Johnny K. Wu. Producers: Jason L. Wang and Keith Collins II. Writers: Johnny K. Wu and Andras Zold. Cinematography: Jason L. Wang and Shawn Adams. Editing: Johnny K. Wu.

Cast: Benjamin Zgorecki, Crystle Paynther Collins, Keith Collins II, Benjamin Garton, Matt Kane, Jerry Sur, Y Chan, Lisa Wong, Wayne Wong, Leland Leger.

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### Wu Xia 2 The Code

Johnny Wu's latest feature film

VIP Movie Premier

Atlas Cinemas Lakeshore 7

August 16, 2019

<http://www.greatlakesgeek.com/events/2019/wu-xia-premier.htm>

Award winning Cleveland filmmaker Johnny Wu has another hit on his hands. Wu's latest film, Wu Xia 2 The Code, is a futuristic sci-fi/martial arts feature film. Following the success of his martial arts comedy musical film Innerself in early 2018, Wu tackled a more complicated martial arts action film. Wu Xia 2 The Code combines science fiction visuals with Hong Kong styled martial arts sequences choreographed by many of the film's actors including Wu himself.

The film tells the continued story of a group called the 5 Elements who are caught between the FOUR11 and the monopoly tyrant MediCan corporation in pursuit of a code that was developed to provide clean air after pollution and radiation engulfed the planet.

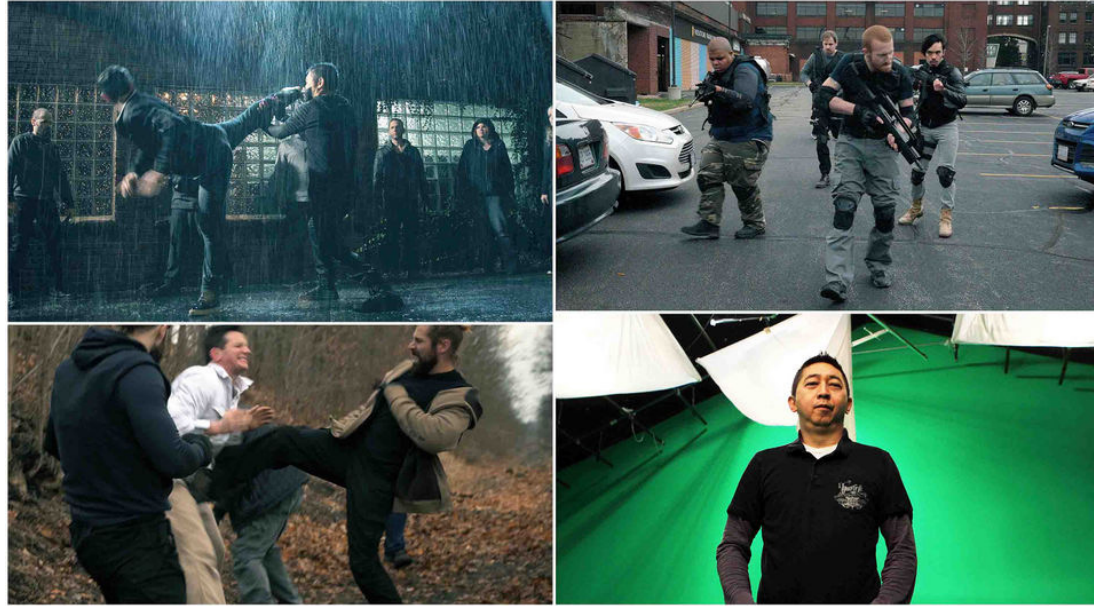
Wu filmed in Cleveland, Parma, Mentor and even ventured to Courtland, Ohio. The late fall filming yielded snowy backdrops.

Here from filmmaker Johnny Wu at the premier in this short video.



**Cleveland martial arts filmmaker Johnny Wu to premiere latest movie Friday (photos)**

By John Petkovic, The Plain Dealer | Posted August 14, 2019 at 03:30 PM | Updated August 14, 2019 at 03:39 PM  
<https://expo.cleveland.com/life-and-culture/g66l-2019/08/54d4b233fa347/cleveland-martial-arts-filmmaker-johnny-wu-to-premiere-latest-movie-friday-photos.html>



CLEVELAND, Ohio -- A kick to the head. A punch to the ribs. A choke hold for good measure.

For 20-plus years Johnny Wu has delivered an orgy of fists and buckets of fury. He hasn't even broken a bone, though he has crushed a few computers and cameras and lenses.

Wu, you see, is one of Cleveland's most prolific filmmakers. He has produced, directed or edited 12 feature films since 1998. You could say that he's an auteur, but a DIY whirling dervish on a martial arts rampage is more accurate.

"I have a lot of help from people and I'm lucky that I know so many hard-working talented people," says Wu. "But I'm involved in every step of the process, from the script to finding the cast to organizing schedules and rehearsals to producing, directing and editing, getting a distributor... and, in the end, promoting the movie."

He utilized all his skills to complete "Wu Xia 2 The Code."

At 7:30 p.m. Friday, it will make its premiere at Atlas Cinemas Lakeshore 7. The martial-arts film -- shot in Cleveland, Parma, Mentor and Cortland -- envisions a futuristic world that is overwhelmed with pollution. At the center of it is a corporation that creates a bio system that will control and clean the air.

"It wants to use a new code system to bring the earth back, but they don't want to give it away for free," says Wu. "So a doctor steals the code and he's chased by mercenaries."

And, yes, a lot of fights break out.

"I wanted to have a faster pace and conflict from the very beginning," says Wu, who also operates a marketing and advertising company, Media Design Imaging. "Action is what martial-arts films and Asian cinema is all about."

Wu learned young.



"My dad was a film aficionado and owned 5,000 Beta and 4,000 VHS tapes of movies," he says, referring to the antiquated movie-viewing formats. "So I grew up immersed in Asian cinema."

While a native Clevelander, Wu has lived in the Philippines and Panama and has family in China and Hong Kong. It's given him an appreciation of international cinema, but also the tastes of different audiences and how to reach them. He has, via video-on-demand and DVD distribution deals for the United States

and Asia.

At 7 p.m. Thursday, Wu will appear at Music Box, 1148 Main Ave, Cleveland, to talk about producing and distributing a film. Admission to the discussion, titled "How to Produce Your First Film," is free. For more info, go to [musicboxcle.com](http://musicboxcle.com) or call 216-242-1250.

"The Asian film market is booming and they're looking for American movies and they also really respond to martial arts films," says Wu. "And the martial arts genre is my forte."

He studied the martial arts and also participated in and organized a variety of tournaments -- and then a light went off.

"Back in 1998 I was involved in a martial arts tournament and realized there were all these people in Cleveland who wanted to showcase their talent," says Wu. "They go into training to be discovered for action films -- so I decided to make my first film, 'Twisted.'"

He hasn't stopped.

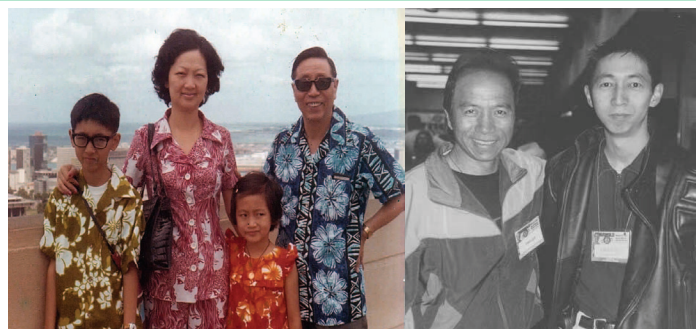
"Making movies is a challenge and a learning experience," says Wu. "I got depressed and stressed out with my last one and thought that didn't want to do another film, but the you finish it and get a distributor that likes your work and wants you to do another one and so keep on going."

"Wu Xia 2 The Code" will premiere at 7:30 p.m. Friday at Atlas Lakeshore Cinemas 7, 22624 Lakeshore Blvd, Euclid. It will screen at film festivals around the country before going to streaming services. For more info, [facebook.com/wuxia2thecode](https://facebook.com/wuxia2thecode).

At 7 p.m. Thursday, Wu will appear at Music Box, 1148 Main Ave, Cleveland, to talk about producing and distributing a film. Admission to the discussion, titled "How to Produce Your First Film," is free. For more info, go to [musicboxcle.com](http://musicboxcle.com) or call 216-242-1250.







前進的路上,無需告訴別人,艱難的日子是如何熬過來的。人都看你飛得高不高,沒人在意你飛得累不累。所以,做該做的事,走該走的路,不退縮,不動搖,無論多難,相信是成功的開始,行動是成功的過程,堅持是成功的終點。一個人優秀,是因為他知道他要干什么,怎么去干。這就是我認識的 Johnny Wu 中文名吳凱森,在克利夫蘭,他是一個著名人士,所有人都叫他 John。

9月6日,在伊利華報報社我採訪了 John,我深知 John 是一位十分活躍在克利夫蘭各個族裔社團的人,他參加的董事會就有 WKYC TV3 Community Advisory Board, City of Cleveland Community Affairs Board, St. Clair Superior Development Board Member。他從 2015-2019 年是克利夫蘭世界日的策劃者 Producer (2015-2019) 74th Cleveland Cultural Gardens' One World Day, 同時他榮獲 2013 Minority Business Entrepreneurs Award Recipient Inducted into International Karate and Kickboxing Hall of Fame, Inducted into World Head of Family Sokeship Council 2014 Legendary Master of the World Head of Family Sokeship Council, 加上他自己創辦的電影公司 - A Media Design Imaging. We Produce - Create - Deliver inducted into The International Indie Filmmakers Hall of Fame for Outstanding Achievements。

一個人身有這麼多職務,要做好每一件事情是需要付出時間與精力的。John 就是一位做他選擇做的事的人,他也連任幾屆克利夫蘭華美協會會長,他公司做的 OCA Image TV - reaching over 200

million viewers each month OCA AsiaTown Voice Radio - Sundays 7pm at 88.7FM or listen online at OCA Image TV Ohio - OCA Image TV-Cleveland, Ohio 收視率極高。

人有無限的可能, John 是一位讓不可能變成可能的人,採訪中他告訴我,10年前,他和 Wayne Wong and Lisa Wong 商量做克利夫蘭的亞洲節,當時克利夫蘭許多人都不相信能辦成。John 開玩笑說:好在他們不反對。沒有想到一晃已經做了 10 年亞洲節。

John 每天有許多事情要做,我問他有時間做那么多事情嗎?他回答:只要你想做就會擠出時間去做。

John 一言一行一舉一動都得到市政府社區的肯定,在他 50 歲生日時,克利夫蘭的市長 Frank Jason 和議員 TJ Dow 到克利夫蘭新開的 KTV 祝賀,市長特寫為 John 頒發了榮譽證書,證明 John Wu 15 年來,曾經擔任過克利夫蘭華美協會的主席以及為其他社團服務,他為克利夫蘭社區做出了杰出的貢獻,沒有人可以等來輝煌,一定是用行動累積出成就。

我認識 John 已經很久了,他是伊利華報 2-4 期,最早的排版設計人,至今我都記得我們在一起熬夜工作的情景,那個時候他的工作室與公寓在一起,我帶着我的兩個還小的孩子一起做版面設計。當時我們對報紙都不很熟,在實踐中摸索,John 讓我感覺他是一個不放棄的人。那個時候我知道 John 他每一個月都要去好萊塢(因為好萊塢租房太貴,所以他寧可一個月去一次。)現在想他選擇留在克利夫蘭不是命運還是讓 John 回到克利夫蘭。John 說:小時候對自己說,長大最大的願望,就是離父母遠一點,一個意外父親不幸離世,從那一天起,John 和父親的骨灰和靈魂一直在一起。我明白人是在苦難中得到學習和成長,一個人每一分努力,老天都記得,沒有人會隨隨便便成功,風雨過後才是彩虹,John 一步一步走進他的夢想。



Johnny Wu 和 Mark Lee Pringle 二人有很相似的地方,他倆都練武術,都執着追求自己的夢想的人,他們都善良,活在當下,自在做自己,不囿于世俗人言,跟隨自己的內心所想。敢做敢當,以一顆乾淨的心來面對複雜世事,保持純淨,保持簡單。

在他們臉上是洋溢在容顏上的自信;是融化在血液里的骨氣;是打造進靈魂中的信念;是蘊藏在心底里的夢想。生命是一種回聲,你把最好的給予別人,就會從別人那里獲得最好的,相互的鼓勵是最難得的真誠!為別人鼓掌,也是給自己生命加油,擁有這樣的朋友,能激發自己潛能的恆信....



**Johnny K. Wu (吳凱森)**  
Awards winning filmmaker: Produce. Create. Deliver. For events/films. Goal : making noise. INFJ

確的選擇,就如同他說的,如果他去了好萊塢,在天才擁擠的好萊塢他只是一隻小將,而他現在在克利夫蘭就像一條龍,是領軍人物。

John 在他忙碌的生活中,她始終沒有忘記他的夢想是製作電影,最近他的第二部電影《武俠 2》電影用中國五行木、火、土、金、水命名人物,我問 John 什麼時候學習中文的,他告訴我他成長的過程:John, 他父親老家在上海,也是一個有錢家庭,1949 年他的父親吳明德去了香港,後來當上外交官,John 是在克利夫蘭出生,父親非常嚴厲,從小叫他學習中文武術,John 說,小時候學習中文和武功挨揍不少,後來隨着父親走了許多國家,命運還是讓 John 回到克利夫蘭。John 說:小時候對自己說,長大最大的願望,就是離父母遠一點,一個意外父親不幸離世,從那一天起,John 和父親的骨灰和靈魂一直在一起。我明白人是在苦難中得到學習和成長,一個人每一分努力,老天都記得,沒有人會隨隨便便成功,風雨過後才是彩虹,John 一步一步走進他的夢想。



## 捲龍中國武術館創始人

年前我到家住 Youngstown, 開了 47 年捲龍中國武術館的 Mark Lee Pringle 先生家探訪他,Mark 家里基本都是中國傢具,牆上都是中華文化和藝術海報及相片,還有他家院子幾乎都是中國林園盆景,我採訪後都不知如何寫這位全部是中國元素的 Mark Lee Pringle,整整隔了一年,我讀懂了這位帶有中國血統,愛中華文化藝術,做自己熱愛的事業的人。

Mark 自幼熱愛中國武術,我仔細看他,幾乎感覺他還真的有點像中國人,他告訴我:他有中國人的血統,他的曾祖母是 1930 年從上海到美國來的,是一位非常了不起的女人,家里都聽她的,也許 Mark Lee Pringle 在他幼小心靈深處就留下了對中國文化的印象。

Mark Lee Pringle 不僅是一位武林人士,他和氣謙虛,總是聆聽他人說話,這次我邀請他來幫助大鼓米線開張,表演舞獅,我們又一次見面交流,我是第一次看他舞獅表演,他謙虛問我:有沒有要求?我說店主滿意就行,他十分負責地與店主溝通。當日他還問我:能不能放爆竹?我說可以的,那天大鼓米線開張大吉,Mark Lee Pringle 與他的舞獅隊的精彩表演,讓氣氛非常熱烈...

Mark Lee Pringle 14 歲開始學習武術,那個時候他就往克利夫蘭 Rockwell 舊的中國城跑,他有二位中國武術老師,他全方位學習武功,還學螳螂拳太極拳等中華武術,另外他還學習中國民樂器二胡等。他讓我感覺到,他比我這位中國人還中國人,他愛中國美食,在他的 Facebook 幾乎談的就是中國武術,中國電影和中國美食。還有與他聊天的時候,他總愛說幾句中文。



Mark Lee Pringle, 一家人不求榮華富貴只求心安理得,現在他的孫子也在跟他學習舞獅,在 Mark Lee Pringle 的身上,我看到的不僅是他喜歡中華文化藝術,我還看到學到一種精神,一種愛而不捨對人生,對社會的認識及感悟,他充滿了智慧,有價值,合理的演出收費,認真認真的表演,他還有另外一份職業,表演橫濱王演唱,去年他才退休不再橫濱王演唱了。

其實不是每一個人都在某一方面有多少高天賦,Mark Lee Pringle 靠努力勤奮,靠他對中華文化藝術的眷迷喜愛,他達到了夢想的目標,他在 Youngstown 也是一位家喻戶曉的人物,有武館,有 100 多位學生,現在又在培養他的孫子學習中華文化,Mark Lee Pringle, 給您掌聲,您是走進夢想的人。

na, er hu, and zhong ruan Music instruments." Coiling Dragon Chinese Kungfu School " 527 Powers ave. Girard, Ohio ph. # 330 545-2720 also on Facebook as "Mark Lee Pringle 'PART 1'. Over the last few months I've been sharing more of my Chinese heritage on here. After so many of you have messaged me about taking Kung-Fu & Tai-Chi lessons, I thought I would show my experience from the start. My traditional Chinese Kung-Fu training started in 1972. (y) After I found out I was part Chinese, my parents sent me for serious study with Prof. Peter Wang & Dr. Rose Wang from the Institute of Chinese-American Culture in Chesterland, Ohio Rt. 322. (they have since retired, but the house is still standing) These photos are from 1973 & 74'. 'Packard Park Chinese Tea Garden' Gazebo photos taken by one of my dearest friends from High School, the late Mike McAllister. He had his own cameras, dark room, & print set-up. Julie McAllister Vugri novich.

## I love Chinese Culture

By Mark Lee  
My love for Chinese culture and heritage started when I was 15 years old. My parents told me I am part Chinese and part Scottish. My 3rd. Great Grandmother was from Shanghai. Plus I have other relatives from Hong Kong and Hakka areas.

I want to learn everything about China that I can. My parents sent me to Chinese American Culture school in Chesterland, Ohio with professor Peter Wang.

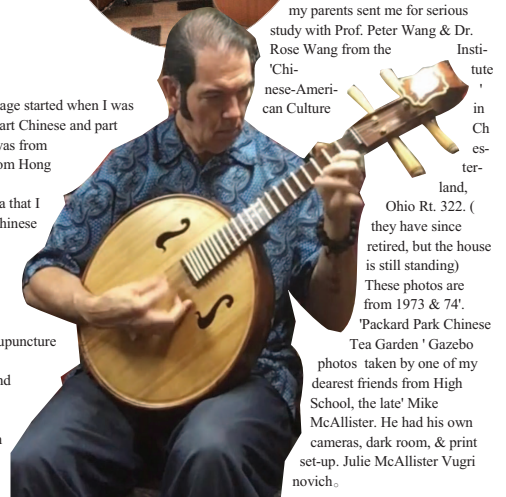
I learned Mandarin language first ... and over the last two years I'm now learning Cantonese. His wife, Dr. Rose Wang taught Acupuncture and he also taught cooking and Chinese music.

I have studied Kungfu for 48 years now, and have been teaching for 28 years at my Kungfu school in Girard, Ohio.

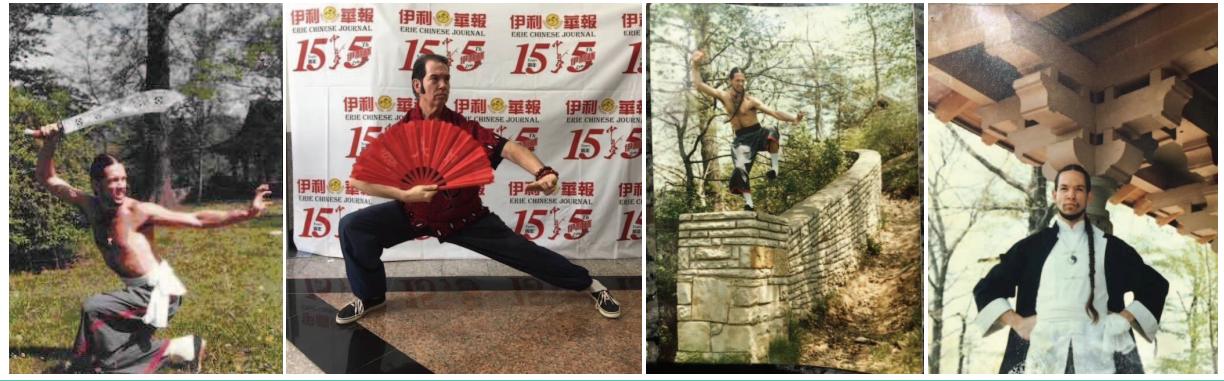
I also studied Traditional Chinese Opera in New York City with Master Hoy. I learned Opera singing, face painting, for Monkey King & General Guan Yu.

My school performs Lion dance, Dragon dance, Qilin Dance, and Buddha Monk routines for all cultural and Special events.

I can perform on suo



## Johnny Wu 讓不可能變成可能





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**Nominees for Best Actress: Ohio Film**

Alicia Marie Spurlock "Toyed With"  
 Crystle Paynter "Wu Xia 2: The Code"  
 Janna Klein "Turn Out the Lights"  
 Stacey Malone "First Strike"  
 Tina Goldfarb "Resurrected"

**The 25th Indie Gathering**

**Nominees for Best Editing: Ohio Film**

"Cells"  
 "Trail Magic: The Grandma Gatewood Story"  
 "Turn Out the Lights"  
 "Vanished in Ohio"  
 "Wu Xia 2: The Code"

**The 25th Indie Gathering**

**Nominees for Best Cinematography: Ohio Film**

"First Job" "First Strike" "Toyed With" "Turn Out the Lights" "Wu Xia 2: The Code"

**The 25th Indie Gathering**

**Nominees for Best Actor: Ohio Film**

David LePays "Toyed With"  
 Jake Wrege "Internalized"  
 Jesse DiFranco "Turn Out the Lights"  
 Keith Collins II "Wu Xia 2: The Code"  
 Mitch Rose "Cult Classic"

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 Prep your popcorn for our most-anticipated movies and TV shows of 2019 — starring, directed or produced by Northeast Ohio natives. / BY ABBY BURTON /

**THE LAND PAU**  
 Move over SUV. Filmed in Northeast Ohio, Dominique Paramore's local spin on the police procedural follows an all-African-American police unit searching for high-profile Cleveland fugitives. See it: On CBS 19 Jan. 5 at 11:30 p.m.

**DORA THE EXPLORER**  
 With successful adaptations of *The Jungle Book* and *Beauty and the Beast*, live-action remakes rose from the dead in the past few years. Isabella Mones, a 17-year-old Clevelander best known for *Transformers: The Last Knight*, straps on Dora the Explorer's purple backpack in this live adaptation of the children's TV show. See it: In theaters Aug. 2

**AVENGERS: INFINITY WAR**  
 No, they didn't film this one here. But Shaker Heights natives Anthony and Joel Russo are still at the helm. Endgame finds Tony Stark adrift in space while others reel from *Avengers: Infinity War*'s "sad" end. Our bets are on the heroes trying to turn back time to resurrect Thanos' victims. Oh, and rumor has it, this could be Captain America Chris Evans' last flick. See it: In theaters May 3

**WU XIA 2: THE CODE**  
 Kung fu enthusiast and filmmaker Johnny K. Wu extends his dystopian thriller. In the near future, the world's supply of clean oxygen has run out. Citizens survive by implanting a clean air-producing bioscanner in their wrists. But a breakthrough discovery called the Code threatens to overturn the world order. See it: Amazon and video on demand in August

**POWERBOMB**  
 The directorial debut from local journalist BJ Colangelo and R. Zachary Shildwacher follows an obsessed wrestling fan's bloody quest to further a favorite wrestler's career. This film bleeds Cleveland: Every scene was shot here, every actor is from Northeast Ohio and every song was produced in town. See it: Video on demand in mid-spring 2019

**SEXTUPLIS**  
 Shaker Heights native and SNL icon Molly Shannon is set to have a banner 2019. After reprising her Emmy-nominated guest role on *Will & Grace*, Shannon is slated to co-star in Marlon Wayans' new Netflix comedy series *Sextuplets*, following a man who attempts to seek out his birth mother when he discovers he was born a sextuplet. See it: On Netflix, TBD

**SCREAM QUEEN**  
 Culture author and Cleveland native Melissa Chodacki co-executive produces this doc about a different kind of Elm Street nightmare. When nightmare on Elm Street 2 became an unintentionally iconic gay film, ridiculed and later revered, the film's closeted star Mark Patton returned from Hollywood. Covered by *Entertainment Weekly* and *People*, the Kickstarter for the film's production has raised more than \$55,000. See it: TBD

**JOHN WICK 3**  
 Once our brightest Hollywood export, Halle Berry has taken a career hit thanks to some box office duds. But cult-favorite action series *John Wick* might change that. She plays a killer-for-hire and former love interest of Keanu Reeves' Wick, a retired hit man who must fight his way out of New York when a \$14 million contract makes him a target of the world's top assassins. See it: In theaters May 17

**FIGHTING THE SKY**  
 Indie filmmaker Conrad Faris is making his name on chilling horror stories. His sci-fi feature, *Fighting The Sky*, is no different, premiering at festivals last year. When mysterious tones begin sounding worldwide, researchers set out to find their source. The answer is much more than they bargained for. See it: Amazon Prime, iTunes, Xbox and Vudu Feb. 5

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**Coming Soon: Immortal Combat: The Code**

A while back we covered an indie flick called Wu Xia 2: The Code from director Johnny Wu but it is now getting a US release under the new title of Immortal Combat: The Code on Sep 1st. It will be available at Amazon, BestBuy, Barnes and Noble, iTunes and other stores in the US.

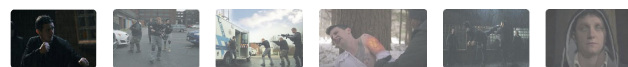
The feature was shot entirely in Northeast Ohio with local talent and crew shot entirely with the GH5 in HLG mode. The movie has won best action feature at The Indiegathering Film Festival and has been accepted to over 10 film festivals and sold worldwide already.

Plot: When a code that could save the world is secretly injected into a member of the 5 Elements clan, the fate of humanity and the world become intertwined with his fight for survival.



# Award-winning Cleveland filmmaker Johnny Wu's newest film releases today on DVD

KARIN CONNELLY RICE | TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 01, 2020



It's been a rough year in the film industry during the coronavirus pandemic, but Cleveland filmmaker Johnny Wu has managed to see his latest project, "Immortal Combat: The Code" (originally titled "Wu Xia 2 The Code") make it to DVD and Video on Demand (VOD).



Wu is the producer, director, and editor of the martial arts action movie, which will be available from online and big box retail stores starting today, Tuesday, Sept. 1. Immortal Combat depicts the Five Elements Clan fighting to save humanity with a code that the clan holds.

"We are excited to see this release—hard work does pay off," says Wu. "And we are happy that many will have an opportunity to see the talented cast that is part of this project."

Immortal Combat was filmed in the Cleveland, Cortland, and Akron areas from September through December 2018. The actors hail from all over Cleveland and Akron, with one coming from

Columbus.

The diverse cast includes Ben Zgorecki, Cynthia Paynther, Keith Collins II, Jerry Sur, Matt Kane, Y Chan, Ben Garton, Leland Leger (from Columbus), Lisa Wong, and Wayne Wong.

While the **2020 IndieGathering International Film Festival in Cleveland** has been postponed until March 11-14, 2021, Immortal Combat, under the title We Xia 2, has already been declared Best Action Feature Film.

And the **Greater Cleveland Urban Film Festival** will host a **virtual screening** on Thursday, Sept. 17. Get tickets [here](#).

Despite the pandemic, Wu reports he is back to filmmaking this fall, when he starts



production of the action sci-fi flick "Wu Lin the Society." Wu and his team plan to film all over Ohio from late September to December.

In addition to taking all COVID-19 safety precautions during filming, Wu reports that masks are also being incorporated into the storyline of the movie.

"We tried to find a way to make sure we can move forward and film while the actors can continue to be safe" said Wu in a statement. "We thought why not have our feature action film story take place during the year 2050 when radiation, pollution, and viruses are rampant in the world and masks are required for people to breathe."

Although the team had been planning to film Wu Lin The Society since January of this year, before COVID-19 hit, the team decided to explore the possibility of having actors wearing masks in front of the camera. "It would be something new and challenging for the actors," Wu said of the plot twist.



**Read more articles by Karin Connelly Rice.**

*Karin Connelly Rice enjoys telling people's stories, whether it's a promising startup or a life's passion. Over the past 20 years she has reported on the local business community for publications such as Inside Business and Cleveland Magazine. She was editor of the Rocky River/Lakewood edition of In the Neighborhood and was a reporter and photographer for the Amherst News-Times. At Fresh Water she enjoys telling the stories of Clevelanders who are shaping and embracing the business and research climate in Cleveland.*

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**Cast:**

Cloud/Neil	Benjamin Zgorecki
Water	Crystle Paynther
Earth	Keith Collins II
Fire	Matthew Kane
Wood	Jerry Sur
Gold	Ben Gardon
Dr. Dave/Wind	Y Chan
Marcus	Leland Leger
Ms. Swan	Lisa Wong
Lee	Wayne Wong
Yen	Siu Yan Scott
Mr. Costa	Michael Trivisonno
Bolo	Vernard Adams
Mercs 1	David Spencer
Mercs 2	Lyle Shelly
Mercs 3	Gideon Lorete
Mercs 4	Angel Matos
Mercs 5	John Riddlebaugh
The Specialist	B.J. Halsall
Doctor Kent	George Tutie
Executioner	Johnny K. Wu
Wind	Andrew Santin
Gold (past)	Jedidiah Fabian
Dr. Phillips	John Pusztay
Grace	Simone Stark Gay
Research Assistant	Ron Falconi
Lab assistant	Scollard Reinhardt
Thomas/Four11	Thomas Gassaway
Four11	Matt RossMan
Bearded Wrrrior/Four11	Scott E. Brosius
Four11	Jason Cekanski
Four11	Billy Freedson Jr.
Four11	James Eckstein
Four11	Haden Rupnik
Four11	Jerrold Primm
Four11	Dominic Cancelliere
Four11	Dorjan Dorjån Scott
Four11	JJ Deville
Four11	Matthew D. Carter
Four11	Ron George
Four11	Nick Mulhbach
Four11	Allan Velez Jr.

Four11	Chris Kokitka
Four11	Emily Biship-Bosu
Four11	Jennifer Lynn Anderson
Four11	Krista Dotson
Four11	Jessica Thomas Romp
Four11	James Gappy Burney
Four11	Jesse Smith
Four11	Wensheng Huang
Four11	Jez Shuvani
Four11	Ryan Polk
Four11	Ryanell Phillips
Four11	Charles Coleman
Four11	Daniel Giza
Four11	Nathanial Weiland
Four11	Vimalraj A. Jayaseelan
Four11	Alexandria Hernandez
Four11	Jennifer Speth Plas
Four11	Sharda Johnson
Four11	Holly Rohrbaugh
Four11	KeYona Rodgers
Four11	Abby Helfand
Four11	Mike Dukles
Four11	Todd Metzendorf
Four11 Doctor	John Fecek
Four11	Jason L. Wang
Emma/Water	Snezhana Zhana Shvets
News Anchor	Chris Tanaka
Grandmaster	Terry Giancaterino
Shadows Bar and Grille	
Bartender	Kyle Znamenak
Patron	Deborah Frank
Patron	Zenobein Adams
Patron	Steve Hergina
Patron	Stephen Manos
Galaxy KTV	
Bartender	Nathanial Weiland
Server	Krista Dotson
Server	Jessica Thomas Romp
Patron	Vimalraj A Jayaseelan
	Abbey Lowry
	Emily Bishop-Bosu
	Daniel Giza
	Ryan Polk
	Anna Maria Kovats
	Alicia Spurlock
The 5 Elements Clansmen	
	Snezhana Zhana Shvets
	Joe Winans
	John Catheline
	Andrew Sokol
	Michael Lemieux
	Alvin Doly



Anthony Doly  
 Laura Masi Cline  
 Sabrina Mcpherson  
 Marcella Lane  
 William Grossman  
 Conrad Faraj  
 Tina Goldfarb  
 Tim Kilbane

Tammey Karp  
 Michael Cline  
 Jassen Bruegman  
 India Perkins  
 Sean Manos  
 David Kozinski  
 Bre'Ana Nix



Makeup/vfx : Ron George  
 Props Steven Keller  
 Location Scollard Reinhardt  
 Oanh Powell

Graphic/Poster Jerry Sur

Fight Choreography Supervisor: Keith Collins II  
 Assistant Choreography: Matthew Ken  
 Benjamin Zgorecki  
 David Spencer  
 Johnny K. Wu

Medic / Safety Todd Metzendorf

Behind the Scenes Ron George  
 Wayne Wong  
 Johnny K. Wu  
 David Spencer  
 Ron Hoff Jr.

Edited by Johnny K. Wu  
 VFX by Johnny K. Wu  
 Sound Foley Fyodor Novotny  
 Johnny K. Wu  
 Sound Mix Johnny K. Wu

Composed by Aryavarta Kumar  
 Additional score by Linda Robertson

Locations:  
 David Kozinski Boat (E. 55th Marina)  
 Tskaha Brown Kung Fu School  
 Shadows Bar and Grille  
 Cortland Fire Station  
 Cortland Rail Road System  
 The Metzendorf House  
 Mentor Beach Club  
 Croation Cultural Garden  
 Creative House Studios  
 Media Design Imaging  
 Tyler Village  
 The Kane Resident  
 Galaxy KTV

**Crew:**

Director: Johnny K. Wu  
 DP: Jason Wang  
 Shawn Adams

Producer: Keith Collins II  
 Jason Wang

Associate Producers: Ron George  
 Aryavarta Kumar  
 Scollard Reinhardt  
 Todd Metzendorf

Script written by Andras Zold  
 Johnny K. Wu

Script consultant Linda Robertson

Assistant Director: Terry Giancaterino

Script Supervisor: John Fecek

2nd Unit Director Keith Collins II

Camera Ops : Vidas Pliodzinskas  
 Dominic Bino C Conner  
 Scott E. Brosius

Camera Assistant Nick Muhlbach  
 Todd Metzendorf

Aaron Kasunic  
 Leland Leger

Sound Terry Giancaterino  
 Jake Keta  
 Aaron Kasunic  
 Matthew Carter  
 Marcella Lane

Boom Operator Terry Giancaterino  
 Jake Keta  
 Aaron Kasunic  
 Matthew Carter

PA Stella Lane  
 Matthew Carter  
 Nick Muhlbach  
 Grant Campbell



Thanks:

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 Cutz n Curves  
 Mentor Beach Club  
 Creative House Studios  
 Tom Turkely  
 Scott Brocious  
 Dave Fleming  
 James V. Geier  
 Croatian Cultural Garden  
 Oanh Loi-Powell  
 Ed Mahone  
 Al Leong

Stock footage provided by Pond5, VideoHive.Net,  
 ProductionCrate

Shot with  
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 Blackmagic Pocket Camera 4K  
 Panasonic GH4 V-Log/Pix-e5h Recorder  
 Lens: Sigma 18-35mm, Meike 25mm T2.2, Panasonic 12-  
 35mm, Panasonic 35-100mm, Voigtlander 17.5mm  
 Gudsen Moza Air, Moza AirCross, Moza Air 2  
 Came-TV LED Rods  
 DJI Mavic Air

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348 people attended the Special Private VIP Premiere Screening of Wu Xia 2 The Code on Friday, August 16, 2019 at 7:30pm at Atlas Cinemas Lakeshore 7, the theater max capacity was 390. Thank you everyone who came and attended the event, we are also very happy to hear that everyone enjoyed it and continue to talk about it!



