
MICHAEL M. FOLEY – Biographical Summary

Film Industry

While stationed in Hawaii, I helped with the filming of the TV mini-series; “Pearl”. Dennis Weaver was like a “film father” to me and gave me a lot of good advise. I took his advise to LA in 1989 to try my hand at acting. In the first three years, I acted in more than six feature films, the same number of made for TV movies and a few commercials. Four of the features were starring or lead roles for me. After re-locating to Placerville, I worked on three episodes of the series; Raven, a few more TV movies and landed a starring role on “WMACT Masters”. This last one was a number one rated show for three years. I have acted, done fight choreography, second unit directing, stunts and stunt camera work on many of those projects.

Military

I enlisted in the Army in order to go to Hawaii. Not for the obvious reasons, however, but to study Martial Arts from some of the best Masters in the world. After joining I discovered something about myself; I’m very patriotic! So, I went to Military Police school, Investigator training, anti-drug training and more. Later, after transferring into the Reserves, I attended Officer Candidate School, Officer Basic Course, Officer Advanced Course, Psychological Operations Course, Civil Affairs Course and many other courses for Special Operations Officers. I’ve received four Army Commendation Medals, four Army Reserve Achievement Medals, a Good Conduct Medal, a Kosovo Campaign Medal and a few more here and there.

Martial Arts

Living in a small town like Placerville, CA, didn’t exactly make martial arts readily accessible. But, with Bruce Lee movies being the big thing then, even Placerville got a Black Belt instructor. I studied with one gentleman in P’ville and another down in Sacramento from 1970 to 1977. I then moved to Hawaii and found a plethora of Martial Art schools. I studied from many but received Black Belts from only a few. I dabbled in Kickboxing, Tai-Chi, Tai Kwon Do, Kajukenbo and Shoto-Kan. The Army sent me to Japan on three occasions and I trained there as well. I am currently a 6th Degree Black Belt in Jujitsu and Karate under the American Jujitsu Institute of Hawaii. One of my fondest memories of martial art accomplishments is the creation of the “Kickin’ Drugs Out Of The USA” Demo Team. We traveled to Schools, Fairs, Meetings and special events to pass on the message; “There’s better things you can do with your time besides drugs”. Team members were young children through teens who worked hours a day to hone their skills in the Martial Arts.

Education

I have been in the arts of one type or another all my life. I started out as a musician playing the trumpet and went on to learn every major brass instrument in the band. Later I also learned to play the drums, bass guitar and one song on the sax. In college I found out that I could, with a little nudging, act. So I went on to get a degree in Theatre Arts. I acted in many plays in school and out before entering the Army. After leaving the Active

Army, I enrolled in school at CSU Sacramento. The Army Reserves kept sending me to Germany on missions, which messed up my schooling so I ended up with 3 years of kinesiology, a few credits of Police science and a little more music training. All-in-all I've had eight years of college education. While attending CSUS, my major option was dance. Ballet and jazz mostly with a taste of modern, pop, ballroom and tap.

In L.A, I worked at Universal Studios, Hollywood where I learned more about stunts than anyone should ever need to know. We did high falls, low falls, crashes, stunt fights, sword fighting and much, much more. I worked on the "Adventures of Conan" live sword and sorcery spectacular and the "Miami Vice Action Spectacular" shows. Yes they were quite spectacular. I also trained with many acting coaches over the initial three years I lived there.