

Jalal MERHI

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER OF THE MOVIE PROJECT Moneybag

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FAMOUS MARTIAL ARTS FILM PRODUCER AND ACTOR
ASSOCIATE PRODUCER OF THE MOVIE PROJECT MONEY BAG



SHIAI MAGAZINE: you're Jalal MERHI a famous martial arts actor of the 90's who have acted in legendary movies such as Tiger Claws, TC 2000, and Talons of the Eagles beside famous martial arts actors such as Bolo Yeung, Billy Blanks and Cynthia Rothrock. As film producer with your film company one film production you have directed and produced many legendary martial art films with actors such as Olivier Grunner, David Carradine and many more others. Your work has inspired many Africans to practices martial arts. You are a model for many African youths. What actually brings you today to participate as an associate producer in the 1st True African martial arts movie named "Moneybag" which will be filmed next year in Cameroon starring Joe ATEBA "The Unbeatable" an African martial arts champion?

Jalal MERHI: first of all I am honoured that I could bring hope and dreams to my fellow Martial artist

SHIAI MAGAZINE: With a name like Jalal MERHI how managed did you succeed in becoming a superstar in martial arts movies? Which are your origins? Does Africans have a chance to succeed like you did with film project like Moneybag?

Jalal MERHI: I am Brazilian born, but my parents are Lebanese, I won few tournaments in North America, and a producer approached me in order to star in a movie after winning a major tournament, and yes everyone has a chance if they have what it takes.

SHIAI MAGAZINE: As a producer you're quite aware of the main problems of African films are generally the quality of the materials and equipments used to film their movies. And also the little finance they have to produce them. With you and other associate producers of Moneybag such as the African American martial arts actor Khalil MAASI, the British martial arts expert Dr Soke Mike VAMPLEW world president of Mike Vamplew's Worldwide School of Martial Arts (MVWSMA) and your good old friend Loren AVEDON famous martial arts actor, can you all bring that right ingredients to make Moneybag successful?

Jalal MERHI: we could try, but the markets are not what they used to be, I am now doing other kind of films too and I am directing a TV show, www.soccerdreams.tv.

SHIAI MAGAZINE: We are quite aware that you've worked with famous African American martial arts actor Billy Blanks who has always been a model for Africans and blacks around the world. Today is a big challenge working with Joe ATEBA who's an unknown African actor from Cameroon who practices Taekwondo, kickboxing, Jukido a Cameroonian martial arts mixed style and gymnastic. Do you really believe that this young African champion can make it at the top?

Jalal MERHI: he can, my friend Billy is a very hard worker, I knew him for long time and I saw his potential that is why I cast him in Talons of the Eagle his first starring role

SHIAI MAGAZINE: As a producer and actor you're known to work only with the best .Surely

you've read the script of Money bag of Aurélien Henry OBAMA an African from Cameroon who is the producer, director and who will play the main villain of Money bag, is there a true opportunity for him to show the beauty of African culture and arts to entire world through his movie?

Jalal MERHI: have not read the script yet, only the synopsis. I am in production.

SHIAI MAGAZINE: After Money Bag will there be a chance for you to act, direct and produce an action movie in Africa? Many Africans will be glad to see their martial arts heroes play most often in Africa such as Loren AVEDON, Cynthia ROTHROCK, Olivier GRUNNER, Bolo YEUNG, Mathias HUES, Jalal MERHI and Billy BLANKS.

Jalal MERHI: I would love to direct something in Africa and bring a North American look to what you already have and make an international African movie.

SHIAI MAGAZINE: Travelling around the world have you been to Africa or do you have African friends? Do they practice martial arts?

Jalal MERHI: I do have African friends, and I will be shooting a film in China in September.

SHIAI MAGAZINE: Are you a soccer fan? Many countries like Brazil, Lebanon and Cameroon play soccer football.

Jalal MERHI: yes very much so.

SHIAI MAGAZINE: Somebody like you who has fought for his dream what message can give to African children who will like to follow your footsteps as a martial artist and actor? Can Africa one day have their own martial arts and action heroes to believe in where all people around the world can discover the rich cultural heritage of Africa through cinema?

Jalal MERHI: yes they can, all what it takes is hard work with a positive attitude, and every time we overcome a hurdle, we have to smile and be thankful, every day we awake.

SHIAI MAGAZINE: We thank you Jalal MERHI for your support and engagement in helping out African cinema to evolve with the film project Money Bag "The 1st True African Martial Arts Movie" an Aurélien Henry OBAMA film as an associate producer starring Joe ATEBA "The Unbeatable".

Jalal MERHI: Best of luck, and thank you.

Keywords

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