

McDowell Sonoran Conservancy

"The McDowell Sonoran Conservancy champions the completion and sustainability of the McDowell Sonoran Preserve for the benefit of this and future generations. We connect the community to the Preserve through public and private partnerships, environmental education and stewardship."

How does McDowell Sonoran Conservancy accomplish its mission?

ADVOCACY

Influence the community to establish open space for the preservation of native wildlife and historical resources while maintaining appropriate public access.

EDUCATION

Offer community education focusing on the science of the Preserve and the necessity to protect our natural environment.

STEWARDSHIP

Provide the City of Scottsdale with the human resources required to protect and maintain the McDowell Sonoran Preserve.



Partnering Businesses

This school teaches and holds the philosophy that one should give back to the community. Not only do we associate with people and groups that share this philosophy, we also try to only trade with businesses that feel this way. If you have this belief about the importance of giving back to your community, work with businesses that share your feelings. Below is a list of businesses that embrace this philosophy and are working with us in this community effort. We highly recommend them. You can find any information of our partnering businesses on our website at:

<http://www.smacus.com/businesses.html>.

MusiKids Kindermusik

Plumb Performing Arts Center

Voices

Scottsdale Education Center

Oxford Learning Center

Driving MBA

AZ Party Pals

Pump It Up

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AZ on the Rocks

Alltel Ice Den

Aquasafe

Velocity Sports Performance

Blau Financial Services

McDowell Mountain Ranch Dentistry

State Farm Insurance, Joe Lankau

Meeting Your Needs

Arizona Wado and Martial Arts Center

The Hoteikan System

Arizona Wing Tsun

Samurai Sports

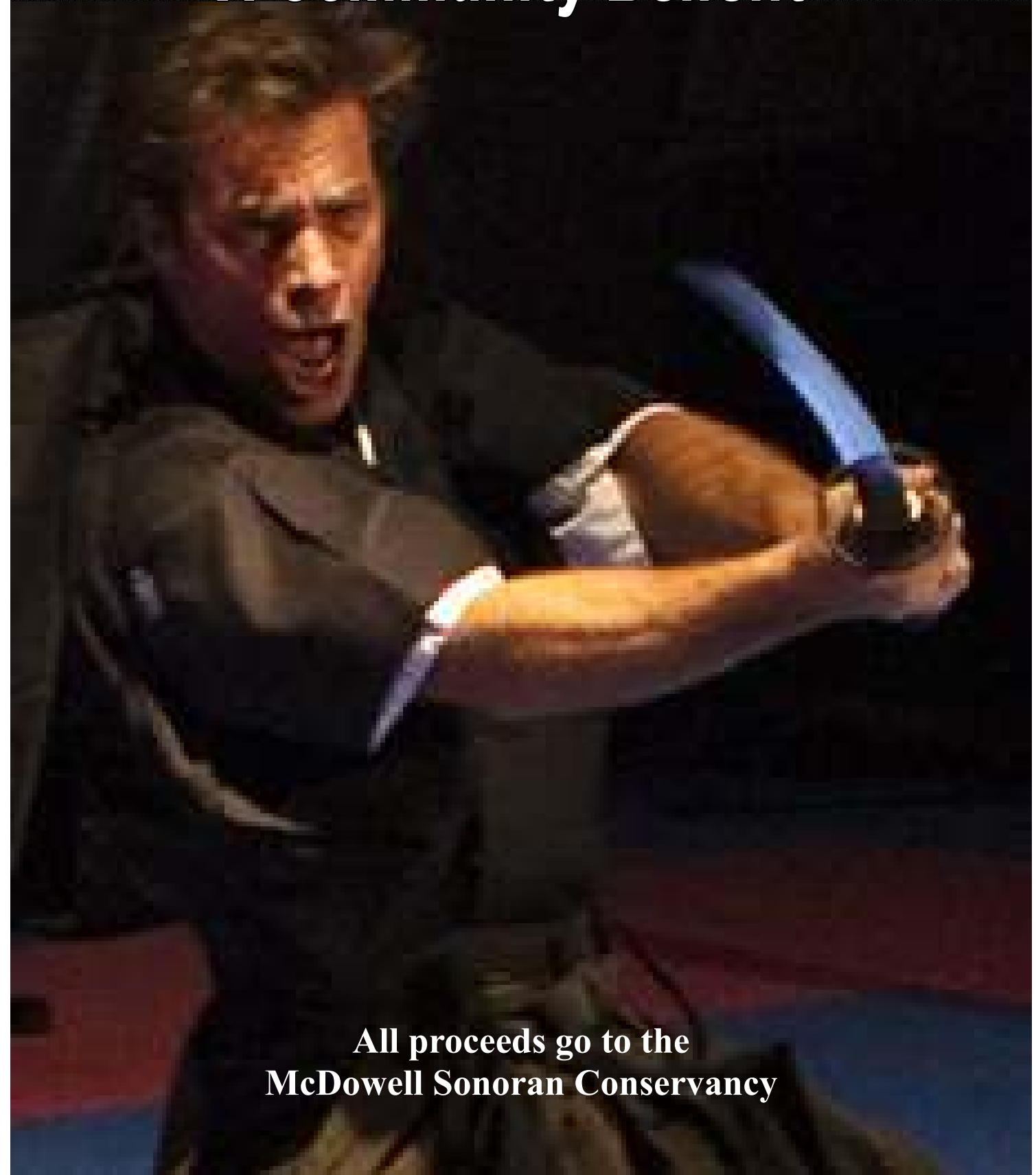
JW Photography

Home is Arizona

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"The Art and the Way"

A Community Benefit



All proceeds go to the
McDowell Sonoran Conservancy

PLAY

The “Art and the Way” is a multimedia theatrical presentation depicting the historically accurate portrayal of the evolution of karate and the martial arts from ancient China to modern USA. This professional production brings to life the 2000 year history of this esoteric art in an exciting, humorous, and educational play that the entire family will enjoy.

People generally think of karate as a Japanese art, but it actually evolved on the tiny island of Okinawa, an independent kingdom until the Japanese conquered it in about 1600. Karate developed in secret for 300 years, almost into the 20th century. Now it is practiced throughout the world.

PURPOSE

There have always been misunderstandings regarding the martial arts. This play is designed to help clear some of these misunderstandings in an entertaining, informative, and comical production.

HOW IT CAME ABOUT

During the summer of 2008 Ray Hughes, owner of the Scottsdale Martial arts Center, and Robert Hunt, author of the novel “The Art and the Way” as well as chief weapons instructor at the center, and other key associates were discussing the usual martial art philosophies of life and the holiday party coming up at the end of the year. For nearly twenty five years the center had the different martial arts of the program demonstrate their skills at the annual party. Though the demonstrations were great and well received, they never really answered the many questions that people often had about the arts. Questions such as: What makes these arts different and where did they come from? Robert Hunt suggested maybe we tell a story with the talent and the demonstrations we had at the school. Having recently published the book: The Art and the Way which was about the history of karate, it only made sense to follow this theme. Thus, the theatrical presentation of the “The Art and the Way” was born.

Key personal in the creation, production and demonstration of the play “The Art and the Way.”

Ray Hughes-Producer

Owner- Scottsdale Martial Arts Center, Inc.
Chief Instructor-Wado Karate

Ray Hughes has a list of tournament wins and other accomplishments to his name that would fill a small encyclopedia. He is a world class champion and has been studying karate and other martial arts since he was 19. His dream was to open a martial arts school that wasn't strictly for any particular martial artist or style, but for any instructor who could meet Mr. Hughes stringent requirements for martial arts experience, education and ethics. With the Scottsdale Martial Arts Center he has accomplished that dream and then some and can boast one of the finest schools in the United States, both in facility as well as the level of martial arts taught there. Mr. Hughes embodies the martial spirit and is continually striving for self improvement, greater harmony (*Wa* in Japanese) and a deeper understanding of his art.

Robert Hunt-Writer/Director

Author of the novel The Art and the Way
Chief Instructor-Kobudo (Japanese weapons)

Robert Hunt started his martial arts career at college in northwestern Pennsylvania in 1964. Since then he has received black belt rank in three of the four major Japanese karate systems as well as Okinawan weapons. A recognized authority on the history of karate, it has been his life's study to search out the origins, traditions and modern development of the Okinawan martial arts. He holds a Master's Degree in International Business, has been a high school and college teacher, a martial artist and instructor, a film actor, producer, and screenwriter, a businessman, an entrepreneur in the software industry and has traveled, studied and lived in Asia and Europe and speaks four languages.

Santiago Armstrong

Chief Instructor-Jujutsu

Santiago Armstrong has been studying the martial arts for 43 years and has inherited the title “Grandmaster” in the art of Hoteikan Jujutsu. He also holds black belt rank in Judo and Shotokan Karate and during his career he has had extensive training in 10 different arts. He is a twice World Champion and an International Hall of Fame member. He has conducted seminars and training of the U.S. Army National Guard and Reserve and conducts annual seminars in advanced combat Jujutsu for the Military Academy at West Point.

Phil Brier

Chief Instructor-Judo

Phil Brier has studied Judo for 36 years and currently holds the rank of Godan or 5th degree black belt. Mr. Brier has a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from the United States Merchant Marine Academy and an M.B.A. from the University of NC at Charlotte. He has studied under several world renowned Judo instructors including Sensei Konokogi, a world acclaimed judo instructor, while at the U.S Merchant Marines Academy from 1980 to 1984. Sensei Brier has competed in dozens of tournaments and is still an active competitor to date.

Dana Abbott

Chief Instructor-Kenjutsu

Dana Abbott, after a quarter century of intensive Kenjutsu (sword) study, including 14 years in Yokohama, Japan, returned to the United States along with his Japanese wife to teach the sword. Mr. Abbott cuts away the mysteries that have shrouded the sword for generations and explains how the sword is correctly applied through his renowned courses, seminars, and DVDs. His son, Chance and his daughter, Shelby are testimony to the depth of dedication and breadth of knowledge of this modern day martial artist and his family.

Cast and Crew

1. Prolog

Teacher – Ray Hughes
Prospective Student – Skyler Brice
Seeker (possibly a Ninja) – Tyler Warren

2. China

Boy Warrior - Andrew Berka

3. Samurai - fisherman battle.

Okinawan Warrior - Katie Park
Samurai - Carl Husic
Second Samurai – Jason Knoll

4. Weapons kata

Andrew Berka – bo
Thomas McCormack - tonfa
Zachary Feldman - sai

5. Stumbling Ninja 1

Ninja – Tyler Warren

6. Traditional Kata

Robert Hunt

7. Modern Kata

Robin Hunt

8. Kata Bunkai

Linda Chorney- kata
Robin Hunt and Skyler Brice - bunkai

9. Stumbling Ninja 2

Ninja - Tyler Warren

10. Jiujutsu

Ken Wong
Kirk Householder
Carlos Trujillo
Victoria Marcus

12. Judo

Phil Brier
Stephen Leech

13. “Uke” Kata

Scott Harrow

14. Iaijutsu vs Iaido

Dana Abbott
Chance Abbott
Shelby Abbott

15. Businessman against knife

Ray Hughes
Brian Berka

16. The Mugging?

Katie Park
Jason Knoll
Skyler Brice

17. Kumite demonstration

Ray Hughes
Kyle Harder
Tyler Warren

18. Modern dojo

Modern Boy Warrior – Andrew Berka
Modern Instructor - Ray Hughes

19. Ninja 3, The Domination

Ninja – Tyler Warren
Dominator – Phoebe Berka

Behind the scenes

Brian Berka
Gueric Nkunizama