

PRESS INFORMATION

FOR

"ENTER THE NINJA"

THE CANNON GROUP, INC. and FIRST CITY FILMS

PRESENT

FRANCO NERO

SUSAN GEORGE SHO KOSUGI

in a GOLAN/GLOBUS PRODUCTION of a

MENAHEM GOLAN film

"ENTER THE NINJA"

STARRING

ALEX COURTNEY WILL HARE ZACHI NOY

CONSTANTIN DE GOGUEL DALE ISHIMOTO

and CHRISTOPHER GEORGE

Producers.....JUDD BERNARD and  
YORAM GLOBUS  
Screenplay by.....DICK DESMOND  
Director.....MENAHEM GOLAN  
Director of Photography.....DAVID GURFINKEL  
Fight Choreography and  
Stunt Coordination.....MIKE STONE  
Music Composed and Conducted by.....W. MICHAEL LEWIS and  
LAURIN RINDER  
Screenplay based on an original story by.....MIKE STONE

## "ENTER THE NINJA"

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In the late Fall of 1980, the concept for "ENTER THE NINJA" was brought to producer/director Menahem Golan. Having never produced a Martial Arts film, Mr. Golan was a bit difficult to convince at first. He assumed that everything had been done before in Martial Arts films, but after he was told about the unique art of Ninjutsu, he immediately began preparations on "ENTER THE NINJA."

"ENTER THE NINJA" will be the first Western film to deal solely with the mysterious and elusive art of Ninjutsu. It will set the trend in Martial Arts films for the '80's, making them the decade of the Ninja, as Kung-Fu was of the '70's, Karate of the '60's, and Judo of the '50's.

Ninjutsu, the "art of invisibility," originated in China over two thousand years ago and found its way to Japan's mountainous Iga and Koga provinces, where the mystics developed it into special guerrilla-like style of fighting, combining perfect physical condition with psychological warfare. Their fighting techniques were far and above those of the regular Japanese army, or the Samurai warriors of the Shogun during the Feudal period (13th to 17th Centuries). As the centuries went by, the Ninja families became even more skilled and more precise in their techniques, and the Shogun began hiring them as espionage agents, assassins, and guerrilla soldiers in their constant battles against Shogun of other provinces. The Ninja were experts with every weapon in existence, as well as with their own special weapons such as Ninja stars, caltrops, tegakis, etc. They also specialized in fire and explosives, chemistry (they mixed their own deadly organic poisons), disguises (as spies they had to be able to penetrate and become one with the enemy, who usually was from a completely different cultural background, speaking a completely different dialect), hypnotism, and equestrian skills. Each single Ninja was like a one-man army, and they were in great demand by the Shogun. Upon the demise of the Shogunate, the Ninja were outlawed and ostracized by society, who had always thought of Ninja as something evil. Gradually their numbers diminished, until today there

exists a mere handful of Ninja masters in Japan. These few practice the art to keep it alive, imparting their knowledge only to a small number of students, as there is so much involved in the training that a Ninja master must give his total dedication to one student at a time. As Ninjutsu is a very strongly Japanese tradition, there has been only one non-Japanese allowed to study the art. He is Stephen Hayes, and he has just published a book on the subject.

Because of its history and its uniqueness as a Martial Art, Ninjutsu is a most fascinating subject for a film, and it is rapidly gaining overwhelming interest around the world, and especially in the United States, where Martial Arts is a booming business.

A lot of research on Ninjutsu has gone into the making of "ENTER THE NINJA," trying to keep the art of the Ninja as true to tradition as possible. Mr. Golan took on Karate World Champion and Ninjutsu enthusiast, Mike Stone, to choreograph the fight scenes and to do the stunt coordination. He signed Sho Kosugi, All Japan Karate Champion and former student of Ninja Master Yamamoto, to play the part of Hasegawa, the evil Ninja. Several top Martial Artists are in the film contributing to the spectacular fight scenes.

"ENTER THE NINJA" was shot on location in the Philippines and Japan with a multi-national cast and crew. The first week of shooting was an adjustment period for everyone involved. The Westerners were indoctrinated into the Asian culture and way of life, and the Filipinos were introduced to the fast-paced European and American way of making films. Three different languages were predominant on the set, but there was surprisingly no lack of communication.

Magnificent locations were found for the film, that could never have been found anywhere else. The climax of the film takes place in a large cock fight arena, where the two Ninja, Cole and Hasegawa, are pitted against each other in a "to the death" battle. Cock fighting is a national spectator sport, and huge arenas are built especially for cock fighting.

Due to the three hundred years of Spanish occupation, the Philippines has numerous beautiful Spanish-style mansions. One of these served as the plantation house of Frank and Mary Ann.

The beautiful and unspoiled Philippine nature became a favorite source of locations, utilizing the forests and jungles (very carefully shooting among the snakes, mosquitos, and huge lizards), the waterfalls, and coconut groves.

Native villages add spice and charm, as do the gaily decorated "jeepneys", the Filipino mode of public transportation.

Sun-worshipper Susan George was able to escape to the almost deserted island of Borokai to bathe in the seering sun, while Franco Nero was battling treacherous waterfalls, and like a tight-rope walker, making his way across 20 foot deep ravines on bridges of narrow logs, to shoot the opening Ninja fight sequences. Mr. Nero also had the opportunity to show off his expert equestrian skills when he was required to ride a beautiful, but highly strung, black stallion that had been trained as a race horse. All the horse wanted to do was to get rid of his rider, but Nero handled him superbly.

The director, Menahem Golan, was also able to show off his expert riding skills - on a carabao borrowed from a passing farmer!

The filming went very smoothly, and with the combination of superb talent, script, and direction, the end result is stunning in this trend-setting motion picture.

## "ENTER THE NINJA"

### A Synopsis

The only sound to be heard in the ominously still Japanese forest is the sound of crickets chirping and then the barest hint of breathing. Like an apparition, a maroon-clad Ninja appears in the clearing. Alert as a deer sensing danger, he cautiously moves a few feet forward. The dirt explodes before him, and out of the cloud of smoke, a white-clad Ninja materializes, draws his sword, and slays the maroon Ninja before he can move to defend himself. As the white Ninja darts off, he is pursued through the forest by flying arrows from another maroon Ninja. Deftly escaping the arrows, the white Ninja seemingly disappears into thin air, and lies in wait for his pursuers. As they pass, he is off again, but comes face to face with a black Ninja, who is fiercely swinging his Nunchaku sticks as he makes a flying attack at the white Ninja. A quick battle ensues, and the white Ninja escapes, with the black Ninja in hot pursuit. Maroon Ninja reinforcements join the black Ninja, and the chase is on. The black Ninja corners the white Ninja at the edge of a huge waterfall, who draws his sword, and with a blood-curdling yell, flies over the edge for a 70 foot drop to a pool below. The black Ninja follows, and they struggle to the death. The white Ninja again escapes and makes for an old, heavily guarded Japanese temple. He eludes the Ninja guards, steals into one of the doors to find an old man kneeling in meditation, and swiftly and cleanly beheads the kneeling figure. A tidal wave of Ninja pours into the room with weapons drawn. The kneeling figure gets up holding the decapitated head, which is a wax replica of his own. All the Ninja kneel down before him, and the white Ninja removes his mask to reveal the handsome face of Cole. He kneels before the old man, Master Komori, and as he begins the rites, pronouncing Cole to be a master of Ninjutsu, the black Ninja breaks into the room, ripping off his mask to reveal the menacing face of Hasegawa, and denies to recognize Cole as a true Ninja, because he is not Japanese. Undaunted, Cole and Komori continue with the ceremony.

Cole receives a distress telegram from his friend, Frank, in the

Philippines, asking him to come to Manila to help.

Cole arrives to find that Frank is being harrassed by a bunch of thugs, who repeatedly beat up his plantation workers to make them run away. Mary Ann, Frank's wife, is deeply distressed, as she is trying to manage the whole plantation on her own, due to Frank's constant drunken state.

Upon returning to the stable from a ride, Cole and Mary Ann arrive to see one of their workers, Pee Wee, being dragged behind a jeep, and a beaten-up Frank lying by the fence. Cole races his horse along-side the jeep, jumps off the horse and into the jeep, tackles the driver, and then begins eliminating one after the other of the thugs . He then goes after the ringleader, "The Hook," rips the hook off his left arm, and sends the screaming runt back to his boss. When Venarius, a thoroughly nasty construction mogul and head of the operation to get Frank off his property, hears of Cole's unusual fighting demonstration, he sends his right-hand man, Mr. Parker, to Japan to locate a Martial Artist who can take care of Cole. Mr. Parker comes back with Hasegawa in tow.

Eager to find out who is at the bottom of Frank's harassment, Cole bribes an old bum called Dollars, who for a buck or two, will sell information. Dollars leads Cole to Venarius' office, they break into Venarius' safe, and find a geological survey showing a wealth of oil running right under Frank's house.

Meanwhile, Hasegawa has already sprung into action. He set fire to the entire village where Mary Ann's workers lived, broke in upon an intimate dinner with Mary Ann and Frank, killed Frank right before Mary Ann's eyes, and kidnapped Mary Ann. Cole returns from Venarius' office to discover the havoc wreaked at the house, Frank's dead body floating in the pool, and a missing Mary Ann. Instantly recognizing that it was the work of a Ninja, Cole works himself up into a fury, dons his white Ninja suit, and sets out to find the evil Ninja, whom he knows must be with Venarius.

Cole goes to Venarius' office, and kills most of the guards until he finds out where Venarius is.

Cole finds him at a cock fight surrounded by his bodyguards. He picks them off one by one with arrows, darts, caltrops, Ninja stars, and his sword, until a voice rings out calling his name. It is Hasegawa, and he stands in the middle of the cock fight arena holding the bound Mary Ann. As his last act of mercy, he frees her, and prepares himself for a no-victor battle against Cole. Hasegawa is fighting to prove that Cole is no rightful holder of the title Ninja, but Cole is avenging his friend's death. The most terrifying battle ensues as these two human killing machines of nearly equal strength and skill, fight to the death. The battle wages in the hushed arena, as the two Ninja, each with a deadly purpose, use every conceivable tactic and weapon against each other. After a long and dramatic fight, Cole has Hasegawa at the disadvantage. Hasegawa begs Cole to let him die with honour, and with one last mighty swing of his sword, beheads the Ninja Hasegawa.



## MENAHEM GOLAN

### a biography

Menahem Golan's career began in the theatre in Israel. He introduced many American dramas to Israeli audiences, and in a short space of time became the hottest young director in the country, directing such plays as "Tobacco Road," "A Streetcar named Desire," "Dangerous Corner," "The Chairs," "The Queen and the Rebels," and "The Pajama Game." He also conducted a children's theatre in Tel-Aviv.

Prior to all of this, at the age of nineteen, Golan went to London to study drama at the Old Vic Theatre School. He quickly discovered that acting was not his forte and became interested in directing.

In 1960 he left for the United States, where he studied film making at the New York City College, and during his stay, he headed the Motion Picture, Radio, and TV department of the Israeli Embassy. Upon his return to Israel, Golan directed his first film, "El Dorado," starring the then unknown Topol opposite the beautiful Gila Almagor, the first lady of the Israeli cinema today. "El Dorado" ostensibly launched the film industry in Israel.

In 1963 Golan created Noah Films with Yoram Globus, and since then, Noah Films has made close to 40 features for local as well as international markets, including Shalom Alechem's "Tevye and his Seven Daughters," "Fortuna," and "Highway Queen." One million people saw each one of these films in Israel, a country with a population of only three million.

Golan's film "Margo," was compared to "Marty" by U.S. critic Judith Crist, who lauded it as "a love of a story...a charming film that restores romance to human beings."

The development of the Israeli film industry has always been closely aligned with Golan's career, and his musical, "Kazablan," was a turning point for both. This film, which tells the story

of a Moroccan immigrant who became a hero in the army, and who is later rejected by his same colleagues in society, broke all box office records in Israel, and it was the first Israeli film to be picked up by a major American distribution company. In this case, it was MGM.

Golan then began to direct a series of films involving major international names, such as Norman Wisdom in "What's Good for the Goose", and Robert Shaw, Richard Roundtree, and Shelley Winters in "Diamonds." "Diamonds" proved to be the biggest money-maker in Italy in 1975.

As a result of the huge success of "Kazablan," Golan was invited to work in the U.S., where he directed "Lepke," starring Tony Curtis, for Warner Brothers. Golan had conceived the idea of doing a film about the life of the former Mafia figure, Lepke.

Shortly after the famous Israeli raid on Entebbe to rescue the hostages, three films dealing with the subject were released almost simultaneously. Critically acclaimed to have been the best of the three, was Golan's "Operation Thunderbolt," for which he received an Academy Award nomination for Best Foreign Film. He produced three other films that were also nominated for Best Foreign Film.

Golan has the singular distinction of having been the first film maker to adapt Nobel Prize Winner Isaac Bashevis Singer's work to the screen. Five years before Singer won the prize, Golan had been trying to acquire the rights to The Magician of Lublin, a powerful drama set in turn-of-the-century Poland about the struggle of a Jewish magician to come to terms with himself and with life. Richard Grenier from Cosmopolitan magazine called the film "awesome" and "magical." "It makes most movies look like kiddie fare." "The Magician" has a star-studded cast beginning with Alan Arkin, Louise Fletcher, Valerie Perrine, Shelley Winters, and Lou Jacobi.

Golan's next picture was at the opposite end of the spectrum from "The Magician." It was a futuristic musical fantasy, set

in 1994, called "The Apple." He wrote the screenplay, based on an original story by Coby Recht, who also composed the music, and whose wife, Iris, wrote the lyrics. It was a grandiose production, utilizing every theatrical, almost operatic, imaginable. The costumes, make-up, hair styles, props, music, etc. were all created just for this film, by a team of some of the best in the business. Jürgen Kiebach, for instance, who won an Oscar for his set designs in "Cabaret," designed all the sets for "The Apple." The film centers about two young lovers who are torn apart by lust and desire for fame. It stars two new discoveries, Catherine Mary Stewart and James Dean look-alike, George Gilmour, as well as veteran actors like Vladek Sheybal ("Women in Love") and Joss Ackland (Peron in the London West End production of "Evita").

Golan and his partner, Yoram Globus, then bought controlling shares in the thirteen-year old film production and distribution company, The Cannon Group, Inc., and moved to Los Angeles. Since they have been at the helm of Cannon, they have produced some very ambitious films for an independent production company. They include "DEATH WISH II," starring Charles Bronson, Jill Ireland, and Tony Franciosa, "LADY CHATTERLEY'S LOVER," starring Sylvia Kristel ("Emmanuelle") and Nicholas Clay ("Excalibur"), "BODY AND SOUL," starring Leon Isaac Kennedy, Jayne Kennedy, Muhammad Ali, Michael Gazzo, and Peter Lawford, and "ENTER THE NINJA," starring Franco Nero, Susan George, and Christopher George.

Ever concious of creating a new image for the company, to steer it away from exploitation films, Golan and Globus have ever more ambitious projects on the horizen, with the likes of a new version of the famous Kipling masterpiece, "Gunga Din" and Emile Zola's "Nana."

Golan's next directing assignment will be "GUNGA DIN," which he will shoot entirely on location in India with an international cast of stars.

## YORAM GLOBUS

### a biography

Born in Tiberius, Israel, Yoram Globus has been involved in the film business since he was seven years old, when he began working in his father's cinema's in Haifa. He was a dedicated worker even at a young age, and fiercely determined to "make it" in the industry. The cinema was his first love, and there just was no other business he would have dreamt of going into. Sharp as a tack, Globus whizzed through business school, then after a two year interruption by the Israeli Defense Force, he teamed up with his cousin, Menahem Golan (who was, by this time, the leader in the Israeli motion picture industry) to produce films. They created Israel's largest production and distribution company, Noah Films, for this purpose. Soon they expanded the operation into the field of exhibition, and they now run a chain of eight theatres in Tel-Aviv.

Globus' expertise in distribution and exhibition became famous when he developed the Golan-Globus sales organization. By unanimous world opinion, Globus is the most acclaimed expert in foreign sales.

In 1978 Globus produced "Lemon Popsicle," directed by a very talented young director, Boaz Davidson. It was a teenage comedy, largely based on the director's experiences of growing up and falling in love for the first time. Set in the '50's, the film is almost a European "American Grafitti," and it became a smash hit all over the world. Prompted by the incredible box office figures, they immediately launched a sequel and called it "Going Steady." It, too, was a block-buster. Less than a year later, "Hot Bubblegum," ("Lemon Popsicle III") was underway. All three pictures starred the same three, mischievous and love sick teenagers, and were all directed by Davidson. "Hot Bubblegum" was also such a tremendous success that a fourth part is now in preparation.

Since the "Lemon Popsicle" films were never released in the U.S., Globus decided to try the same format in an American version of the "Popsicle" hits. This film will be called "The Last American Virgin," and will be directed by Davidson, who now also lives in Los Angeles, and who has already directed two films in the U.S.

As President of The Cannon Group, Inc., Globus is placing all his energies into creating a new image for Cannon, producing bigger and better films, molding Cannon into a major among the independents.

Among the some 40-odd films that Globus has produced, are:  
"Operation Thunderbolt," "I Love You, Rosa," "Margo," "Diamonds,"  
"Eagles Attack at Dawn," "The Four Deuces," "Lepke," "Kazablan,"  
"The Magician of Lublin," "The Apple," "Body and Soul," "Lady  
Chatterley's Lover," "Death Wish II," and "Enter the Ninja."

## JUDD BERNARD

### A Biography

Writer/producer Judd Bernard had known director Menahem Golan for years, but they had never worked together until this film, when Golan asked him to come to the Philippines and help produce the picture, because of his vast expertise in producing films in foreign countries. Bernard went to Manila immediately, where he was faced, not only with the difficulty of shooting in a foreign country, but also with a multinational cast and crew, which was rather like a mini U.N. Golan arrived in Manila after Bernard had all the locations set and the shooting schedule prepared, and proceeded to work on the script, changing pieces here and there. Bernard then had to change his locations and schedule accordingly.

Bernard was born in Chicago, Illinois, and attended the University of Wisconsin, where he majored in History and minored in English. He wrote a story that was published in a magazine, a film company saw it, and brought him out to Hollywood to write a screenplay. After several more script commissions, he became interested in producing, and since then has produced numerous major motion pictures. Among them are such films as "Double Trouble," with Elvis Presley, "Point Blank," with Lee Marvin, "Fade In," with Burt Reynolds, "Negatives," with Glenda Jackson, "The Man Who had Power over Women," with Rod Taylor, "And Now for Something Completely Different," starring the Monty Python group, "Deep End," with Jane Asher, "The Marseilles Contract," with Michael Caine and Anthony Quinn, "Inside Out," with Telly Savalas and James Mason, and "The Class of Miss MacMichael," with Glenda Jackson and Oliver Reed.

When Bernard is not busy producing films, he still enjoys writing screenplays and has recently written a script for Cannon Films, besides "ENTER THE NINJA," one for 20th Century Fox, and one for Lord Lew Grade.

Bernard is not the only one in his family who is in the film business. His wife and former prima ballerina, Patricia Casey, is also a producer, and his big, old English Sheep dog, Boliver, regularly worked in films and television.

Bernard now lives in Hollywood after nearly twelve years in London.

## FRANCO NERO

### A Biography

Even though Franco Nero now makes his home in Rome, he is still fiercely in love with his hometown, Parma, the "town of music," in the north of Italy. Parma is the home of the first theatre in Europe, as well as of the famous Parmesan cheese and Parma ham. It nevertheless is a small town, and with the enormous talent, energy, and sense of adventure that fairly rules Nero's life, Parma was a bit too constricting. While still in his teens, he left home and enrolled at Milan University, majoring in Business Administration. Two years later, the Italian Army stationed him in Rome for his service time - not exactly a hardship tour! While in the Army, he formed a group with several other aspiring young film makers and produced short films and documentaries. He continued with the group after he was released from the Army, and it was during this period that he decided to become an actor. But his interest in the whole of film making process didn't stop there. He took the opportunity to learn about photography (in fact, the Academy Award-winning cinematographer, Vittorio Storaro, was a member of the group), music, editing, directing, and producing.

In 1964 Nero won his first role in an international motion picture. John Huston chose him to play Able opposite Richard Harris' Cain in "The Bible." During the two years following this film, he was inundated with offers and managed to accept leading roles in ten motion pictures, gathering tremendous international popularity, prestige, and experience in this short period.

Nero has been responsible, along with Clint Eastwood, for the overwhelming success of Italian Westerns around the world, especially through his portrayal of "Django."

Nero starred opposite Richard Harris again, three years after "The Bible," playing Lancelot in "Camelot" to Vanessa Redgrave's Guenevere. The film was a world success, and Nero became an undisputed international star.

Since then he has been working nearly non-stop, chalking up some 70 pictures. But even with so many films to his credit, he has been

extremely selective in the roles he has accepted. The only European actor to take the risk of portraying a different character in every film - to avoid the equal risk of being type-cast for a particular kind of character and thus being caught in a rut - Nero is considered the most versatile actor in the world. He covered the spectrum from political films to historical dramas, to social films, thrillers, Westerns, comedies, war films, and action and adventure.

Franco Nero is an award-winning actor, having won such prestigious awards as the David Donatello Award, for "The Day of the Owl," and the Grolla d'Oro, the Italian Critics' Award.

Among his many films are such successes as "Django," "Camelot," "The Bible," "The Day of the Owl," "The Falcon," "Pope Joan," "21 Hours in Munich," "A Quiet Place in the Country," "Drop Out," "Force Ten from Navarrone," "White Fang," "Tristana," "The Salamander," "The Pirate," "Double Face," and "The Battle of Nerevta," just to name a few.

Franco Nero is not just a superb actor, he is an artist, and as such works at his craft with diligence, love, and true dedication, finely honing every aspect of the art. In fact, he excels at everything he sets his mind to, because of his unique combination of talent, determination, and insatiable thirst for excellence.



## SUSAN GEORGE

### A Biography

Among the handful of actresses who have achieved international stardom while still in their twenties, Susan George may be the only one with more than twenty major motion pictures to her credit. Susan was never a typical young starlet who made an overnight sensation on the movie scene. She began her career at the age of three, doing commercials and films for the Children's Film Foundation. When she was twelve, she landed a role in "The Sound of Music" at London's Palace Theatre, for an 18 month run. A few months later she appeared in her first film, "Billion Dollar Brain," opposite Michael Caine. Shortly after, she was cast as the sexy Hippy, starring opposite Michael York in "The Strange Affair."

The film that gained her world-wide recognition was "Straw Dogs," the controversial Sam Peckinpah film in which she played the wife of Dustin Hoffman. Her role as Dirty Mary in "Dirty Mary, Crazy Larry," followed, opposite Peter Fonda.

Her most recent films include "Mandingo," with Pames Mason and Perry King, "A Small Town in Texas," with Timothy Bottoms, "Tomorrow Never Comes," with Oliver Reed, and "Venom," with Oliver Reed and Klaus Kinski.

The Lorimar Production "Out of Season," will be released soon, in which Susan co-stars with Vanessa Redgrave and Cliff Robertson.

In her latest films, Susan has used a flawless American accent. Her talent for accents stems from her musical ear. She has now set aside time to write and record her own songs, and she has just completed an album with noted producer Mike Leander. She made a special 30-minute show with some of the songs, that is now being sold on video cassette and video disc.

Although Susan is inundated with offers, she is very selective in the ones she accepts. "I like frequent change of pace and style. I won't do films that are boring or duplicate roles I've already done." She therefore immediately accepted Menahem Golan's offer to play Mary Ann in "ENTER THE NINJA," opposite Franco Nero. Mary Ann is a sophisticated lady and at the same time very tough and determined. She takes over the management of her drunken husband's plantation and very nearly

has an affair with his best friend, Cole, who comes to help them with some trouble they are having at the plantation. Mary Ann has a multi-faceted character to begin with, which makes several transitions throughout the film. Susan enjoyed the challenge of portraying such a character and having the opportunity of playing opposite Franco Nero, whom she has known for quite some time, but this is the first time they have worked together.

## SHO KOSUGI

### A Biography

All Japan Karate Champion by the time he was eighteen (quite a feat in Japan, where almost every second male does some form of Martial Art), Sho Kosugi has since won some 450 trophies. "Number one son" in the Kosugi family, Sho's older sisters convinced him to strike out on his own when he was eighteen, and he went to Los Angeles to learn English. He arrived knowing only how to read and write, he had no relatives for friends there, but finally made his way to little Tokyo after a minor mishap when he had to use his Karate expertise on a couple of hoods who tried to rob him. He immediately enrolled in an English school, where he met his future wife, a Chinese girl also studying English. After he learned English, he enrolled at Pasadena City College where he received an A.A. degree in Economics. He then went on to California State University and graduated with a B.A. in Economics. While he was in University, he also studied Chinese and Spanish, both of which he now speaks fluently. Afterwards he opened two Karate schools and dabbles in Real Estate on the side.

Sho was already interested in acting when he was ten years old, and went to the Toho Academy for acting, wanting to become a big television star. He lost interest after about six months, when he became involved with the study of old Japanese weapons and Ninjitsu, which he was immediately attracted to because of its mysterious elements and uniqueness as a Martial Art. He never, however, went to schools, but studied from books and various instructors. He studied Ninjitsu from one of a handful of Ninjitsu masters left in the world, Mr. Yamamoto, and travelled all around Japan studying various weapons. He competed in tournaments in his specialty, Shoto Kan, and eventually became All Japan champion.

While still in Japan, he did two Martial Arts films, one in Taiwan called "Six Killers," and one in Korea, "The Stranger from Korea." After a couple of years in Los Angeles, he landed a role in a comedy, "Bad News Bears in Japan," about the Bad News Bears baseball team.

He then got himself into television, doing a Samurai skit with well-known Japanese actor, Kobota, on the Richard Pryor show, and karate shows on the Ted Mack Show and on Romper Room.

Karate World Champion Mike Stone introduced Sho to director Menahem Golan, who found him perfect for the part of Hasegawa, the evil Ninja in "ENTER THE NINJA," who is out to show Cole, a Westerner, that only a Japanese can be a true Ninja. Sho himself believes this, and wants to preserve that Ninja tradition. It should not be open to "outsiders." Ninjitsu is "pure Japanese." With relatively little actual acting experience, Sho was a bit apprehensive when Golan enlarged his part, and he asked Franco Nero how to do it (act). "He didn't give me a straight answer," says Sho. "It's very hard." So he decided not to act at all. "I am real. Emotional. I get very involved in the part. I saw that Hasegawa must be me, a lover of the Martial Arts and of tradition." Sho didn't see Hasegawa as a bad guy, necessarily. "He wasn't bad- he was just pure Ninja." And that's what Sho became when he was on the set - pure Ninja.

Sho captured the essence of a Ninja, his mastery of all kinds of weapons, his expertise in the Martial Arts, and the whole mystery surrounding his art, Ninjitsu.

## CHRISTOPHER GEORGE

### A Biography

Chris was born on February 25th in Royal Oak, Michigan. His parents, of Greek decent, moved the family, early in Chris' life, to Miami, Florida. He attended high school in Miami, leaving prior to graduation to join the Marine Corps. He earned his diploma from Miami High School while in the service stationed at Quantico, Virginia, and then Japan.

Upon completion of his enlistment, Chris enrolled at the University of Miami, graduating with a Bachelor's degree in Finance. His vocations after graduation were varied, as he traveled the country; a private detective in Miami, a crewman on a Caribbean cargo boat, a performer in Florida tent shows, an operator of a drive-in movie theatre in Miami, the owner of a bar in California, and the owner of another drive-in in South Carolina.

His developing interest in the theatre led him to New York City, where he studied under the able tutelage of Wynn Handman and Christine Linkletter. He soon made his professional debut on an East Coast Tour with Hugh O'Brian in "Mr. Roberts."

That successful tour led to many roles in television encompassing both dramatic and comedic performances. Chris obtained unexpected national recognition when he was awarded the New York Film Festival Award for the best performance by an actor in a commercial. This commercial, for a shaving cream product, led to his being cast in his first feature film, "The Gentle Rain," and then an important role in "El Dorado" with John Wayne and Robert Mitchum. Based upon his performance in the latter, Chris was chosen to star in the action adventure series "Rat Patrol" on ABC television. His career mushroomed from there in motion pictures and television, including "The Delta Factor," "The Train Robbers," "Tiger by the Tail," "Dead Heat," and "The Captive," to name just a few of the films. He starred in the television series "The Immortal," and did numerous television films, such as "Swat," "McCloud," "The Last Survivors," and "The Immortal."

## ALEX COURTNEY

### A Biography

A product of a strict Jewish family, Alex broke all traditions when he decided to become an actor instead of a doctor, which was really the only profession left open for him, as his older brother was already a successful attorney. He did make a bold attempt, however, and was enrolled in pre-med at Columbia University for a time, until he gave in to his artistic drives and instincts. He then switched his major to Art History and took some drama classes along side. Although he loved the history of art and graduated with a B.A. in the subject, acting became his first love. He did a lot of summer stock, and upon graduating from University, studied with Sanford Meisner and Lee Strasberg.

While in New York, Alex did two Broadway plays, performed with the New York Shakespeare Festival for three years, and landed a part in the popular soap opera "The Guiding Light." This soap was his first detour from the stage, and upon completion of his role, went back to the stage, playing Richard in "The Lion in Winter," which went on National tour.

It was when he was doing the stage version of "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" that James Farentino saw him and convinced Alex to make the big move to Los Angeles. That was in 1976, and Alex has been in L.A. ever since, doing a lot of television work, and more recently breaking into feature films. In his spare time, which is really spare, he is taking a Masters class with Milton Katzeles.

Alex's many credits include such films as "Looking for Mr. Goodbar," a special television series about white-collar crime called "Sword of Justice," and numerous television shows including "Starsky and Hutch," "Quincy," "Barnaby Jones," and "Kojak."

His stage plays include "Mr. Roberts," "A Streetcar Named Desire," "Sunday in New York," and "Zoo Story."

His most recent film, and box office success of 1981, is "The Exterminator," directed by James Glickenhaus, in which he starred as police Lt. Dalton.

Chris then went to Manila for "ENTER THE NINJA," in which he plays a giant construction mogul, Venarius. From Manila, he was off to Bangkok, Thailand, to star in an Italian co-production.

Chris is married to actress Lynda Day George, and the couple have two children. The family resides in Los Angeles, where Chris' leisure interests include skin-diving, water skiing, martial arts, hunting, painting, writing, and boating.

## ZACHI NOY

### A Biography

Rotund funny man, Zachi Noy, best known for his role as Huey in the three smash hit "Lemon Popsicle" films, is playing "The Hook," one of Venarius' (Christopher George) henchmen, in Menahem Golan's "ENTER THE NINJA." This is the second time Zachi has been under the direction of Golan. The first was in Golan's "The Magician of Lublin," in which he played the small-time thief and son of Shelley Winters. Zachi deftly incorporates his talent for comedy in his "baddie" role of "The Hook." He is sent forth by Venarius, a nasty construction mogul, to scare Frank (Alex Courtney) off his property, but each time, he meets up with Cole (Franco Nero), who gives him lessons in Ninjutsu. He has a hook instead of a left hand, which Cole rips off his arm one time, and then hangs him up over the counter of a bar, another time.

Zachi first realized his talent for acting, especially in comedy, at the age of twelve, and he then joined the Haifa Workshop Theatre, where his roles included Ben Rogers in "Tom Sawyer" and one of the Ugly Sisters in "Cinderella."

In 1971 Zachi was off to join the Israeli Army, but not by choice. However, he soon found a way to alleviate the tragedy and joined the Army Ensemble, with which he toured the country as a one-man show. After his tour of duty, he continued to work as an all-round entertainer in variety shows at night clubs and hotels, as well as in radio and television.

A year later, Zachi broke into the motion picture business, and in the last seven years has made 13 feature films, including "The Garden" which represented Israel at the 1977 Cannes Film Festival, "Lemon Popsicle," "Going Steady," "My Mother the General," "The Magician of Lublin," and just before "ENTER THE NINJA," "Lemon Popsicle III."

Zachi's realistic goal is to become a recognized actor in films in the U.S., but his real dream is to carry on in the tradition of Charles Laughton and Peter Lorre.



## CONSTANTIN DE GOGUEL

### A Biography

Born in New York, Constantin and his family moved to England when he was eight years old, and has lived there ever since.

He went to Trinity College in Dublin, where he graduated with a B.A. in Economics. He very quickly discovered that banking was not his style, and decided to follow his natural yearnings and become an actor. He had performed with amateur drama groups for years, but never took it all very seriously.

His first professional role was as the back legs of a horse in a Christmas show. His second part was as a fairy in an open-air production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream." Since then he has had a "fairly normal career as a British actor."

For a few years he was a member of the Royal Shakespeare Company and performed at Stratford with such notables as John Wood and Colin Blakely.

His first film role was in "Before Winter Comes" with Topol, David Niven, and John Hurt.

Constantin has made about thirty motion pictures, including "Girl in my Soup," with Peter Sellers, "Inside Out," with Te-ly Savalas, James Mason, and Glenda Jackson, "The Class of Miss MacMichael," with Oliver Reed and Glenda Jackson, and most recently, "Reds," starring Warren Beatty and Diane Keaton.

Lately he has been doing quite a bit of television work, straight drama and comedy, all the while turning down film offers because he was tired of being type-cast as a heavy who always ended up being killed. In "ENTER THE NINJA" Constantin plays a heavy, Mr. Parker, but he plays it with a twist to throw one off balance.

Eventually he would like to go into the production end of the business, but not into directing. He prefers to associate with the actual film makers and not with his fellow actors, so that he can learn more about production. His favorite pastime is cooking and playing squash to work it all off.

## MIKE STONE

### A Biography

A veritable legend in his own time, Mike Stone burst onto the competitive Karate scene in startling fashion by winning the 1963 South West Championships, the 1964 National Brown Belt Championships, and the International, National, and World Championships as a fledgling black belt. Before retiring, the unerring Hawaiian had netted one of the most impressive competitive records in sport Karate history. His urge to compete brought him out of retirement in 1968 to win the World Professional Karate Championship. He held the title until he retired once again in 1974, only this time as the Undefeated World Professional Light/Heavy-weight Karate Champion.

Stone was voted into the Black Belt Hall of Fame in 1970 as "Fighter of the Year." The most amazing statistics compiled by Stone in his career seem unbelievable, but they are true. He has fought in twelve tournaments. In individual competition he has fought in only nine tournaments, winning all 89 matches without being defeated once. The other three tournaments he fought in were special team championships. He has never taken home a second, third, or fourth-place award.

Quickly adapting to the role of promoter, he, along with Chuck Norris and Bob Wall, organized the Four Seasons Karate Championships in 1967, which is a series of four quarterly events. His track record with these tournaments was so successful, that in 1972 he conceived the first tournament franchise deal, and he sold the Four Seasons name and concept to promoters in other parts of the U.S. In 1971 he produced the National All-Star Team Championships, pitting big-name U.S. quintets under one roof for the first time. Stone is considered one of the best tournament promoters in the U.S. and has promoted several tournaments in his home state of Hawaii.

As an instructor, he fostered the careers of Jerry Piddington and Steve Fisher, both of whom have been rated nationally in fighting and form competition. Stone also created the Golden Fist Awards in 1974 to pay homage to those individuals who had contributed to the Martial

Arts on a regional level. Similar to Hollywood's Academy Awards, the production is approaching its third year. He even found time to invent a Kung-Fu game that has been contracted to the Jack Ryan Group. Stone was first created as an outstanding official in 1970, when he was cited by the U.S. Karate Association, even though he was not affiliated with the organization. Three years later, he received a similar award at the prestigious Battle of Atlanta, as a result of the vote taken by participating competitors. Stone occasionally wrote columns for Karate Illustrated and later served as contributing editor to Professional Karate magazine. He appeared in the motion picture "The Wrecking Crew" in 1968 as a double for Dean Martin, and in 1974 in "That Man Bolt."

Stone has developed a program of instruction in which he focuses on three keys of awareness: physical fitness, a positive mental attitude, and nutrition. Superstar Engelbert Humperdinck, after losing twenty-eight pounds while under Stone's training, was so satisfied with the results of the program, that he raved about it on talk shows and in magazine interviews all over the world. In 1979 Stone set a new world record for the Karate flying side kick. The record was set on the "Guinness Game" television show, where he broke two one-inch boards at four heights, with the record-breaking jump set at seven feet. Asked how he trained for the jump, Stone replied, "I practiced for this attempt the day before the taping by jumping over the tennis court net for about fifteen minutes."

Stone's talents have been put to good use on "ENTER THE NINJA" as the fight choreographer and stunt coordinator. He has a genius for choreographing a brilliant fight scene in a very short amount of time, which is often necessary in motion pictures. Stone was a great asset on this film, and is responsible for all the breathtaking fight sequences as well as some amazing stunts.

"ENTER THE NINJA" was based on an original story that Mike Stone presented to Menahem Golan of Cannon Films, and was instrumental in putting across the concept of Ninjutsu, a subject he has been extremely interested in for years.

"ENTER THE NINJA" is just the beginning of Stone's career in motion pictures.

"ENTER THE NINJA"

CAST LIST

Cole.....	FRANCO NERO
Mary Ann.....	SUSAN GEORGE
Hasegawa.....	SHO KOSUGI
Venarius.....	CHRISTOPHER GEORGE
Frank.....	ALEX COURTNEY
Dollars.....	WILL HARE
"The Hook".....	ZACHI NOY
Mr. Parker.....	CONSTANTIN DE GOGUEL
Komori.....	DALE ISHIMOTO
Mr. Mesuda.....	JOONEE GAMBOA
Pee Wee.....	LEO MARTINEZ
Elliot.....	KEN METCALFE
Alberto.....	SUBAS HERRERO
White Ninja.....	MIKE STONE
Maroon Ninja.....	ALAN AMIEL
	DOUG IVAN
	BOB JONES
	JACK TURNER
Venarius' Men.....	DEREK WEBSTER
	KONRAD WAALKES
	JAMES GAINES
	DON GORDON
Venarius' Secretaries.....	ISOLDE WINTER
	LUCY BUSH

"ENTER THE NINJA"

UNIT LIST

Producers.....JUDD BERNARD and  
YORAM GLOBUS  
Screenplay.....DICK DESMOND  
Director.....MENAHEM GOLAN  
Director of Photography.....DAVID GURFINKEL  
Production Coordinator.....JOHN THOMPSON  
Gaffer.....AVRAM LEIBMAN  
1st Assistant Cameraman.....MICKEY BENJAMINI  
Key Grip.....SCHMULICK LEVI  
Script Supervisor.....JUDY WILSON  
2nd Unit Director.....EMMETT ALSTON  
2nd Unit Cameraman.....RICARDO REMIAS  
Location Manager.....KEN METCALFE  
Production Comptroller.....MOSHE KLEIN  
Make-up.....RINA HOFMANIS  
Production Supervisor.....LEO MARTINEZ  
Sets.....ROBERT LEE  
Production Manager.....AURELIO NAVARRO  
Production Administrator.....MARTIN SAGARABARRIA  
1st Assistant Director.....JUN AMAZON  
Unit Manager.....TONY DE LUMEN  
Special Effects.....BEN OTICO  
Music Supervisor.....REX DEVEREAUX  
Music composed and conducted by.....LAURIN RINDER and  
W. MICHAEL LEWIS  
Sound Man.....EARL STEIN  
Boom Man.....KEN BEAUCHEME  
2nd Unit Continuity.....NAOMI GOLAN  
2nd Unit Sound.....WILLY ARCE  
Stillman.....ROGER ROBLES  
Editors.....MICHAEL DUTHIE and  
MARK GOLDBLATT

UNIT LIST, CONT.

Publicity.....	PRISCILLA MCDONALD
Associate Editor.....	THIERRY COUTURIER
Sound Editors.....	MICHAEL SLOAN
	GRAHAM HARRIS
	KENT BEYDA
Assistant Editors.....	ALAN TOOMAYAN
	KARL ZASKE
	RICHARD BOCK
Wardrobe Masters.....	DANNY and ELVIE SANTOS
Set Dresser.....	MANNY LEE
Franco Nero's Wardrobe.....	GIOVANNI SANNA-MANILA