

ENGLISH TRANSLATION

KENTARO

" THEY LET ME IMPROVISE QUITE A BIT "

The actor **Kentaro**, who already shared scenes with Jet Li in **Kiss of the Dragon**, plays the "**French Assassin**". This student and friend of Roger Itier (Wushu, Sanda) continues to leave his mark in the cinema world. He talks to us about the shoot.

"They had heard about me and had me pass a test for a scene. In fact, I was first chosen as an actor. I had already let them know that I wanted to do my own stunts. So when I arrived on the set, the assistant director asked me if I wanted to meet the stunt crew. All of sudden, out of nowhere, I was surrounded by six guys who looked at me like "So you're the one who dared to ask to do his own stunts? We're gonna see what you can do! " I was in jeans and I didn't even have time to stretch. We did a choreographed fight scene three times. Then they said "good" and just left me there standing. It was funny!

The day of the shoot, I didn't know if I was going to be able to do my own stunts or not. A day or so before, I had met a great stuntman by the name of Philip Tan (Pirates of the Caribbean 3...) I discovered that he would be my stunt double! Jackie Chan's stunt crew showed me the choreography once. And we shot it 25 times. What was surprising was that, for a Hollywood film, they gave me quite a bit of space for improvisation.

Jackie Chan: Show me what you can do

For the fight sequence with Jackie Chan, we had to see about some things first. Usually he doesn't like it too much when doing fight scenes with actors because they don't have the stunt technique nor the notion of distance [for punches, etc]. This seems to be one of the reasons why he sometimes gets hurt.

He was like, "Ok, show me what you can do". Jackie Chan 'hit' me in the scene over 20 times; it was a very "Jackie Chan moment", very comic-book-like. But for pace reasons, Brett Ratner had to cut a lot out.

It was nice to work with Jackie Chan. He's a real professional. What's different from many actors is that he stays on the set. In fact, he's in charge of all the action scenes.

Between scenes he doesn't really talk about Wushu but tells many anecdotes about his life, about his beginnings. He has a lot of energy.

I was impressed by how loyal his is to his stunt crew and vice-versa; they would die for him. I would be lying if I told you I was not honored to be part of this project.

L.M.