

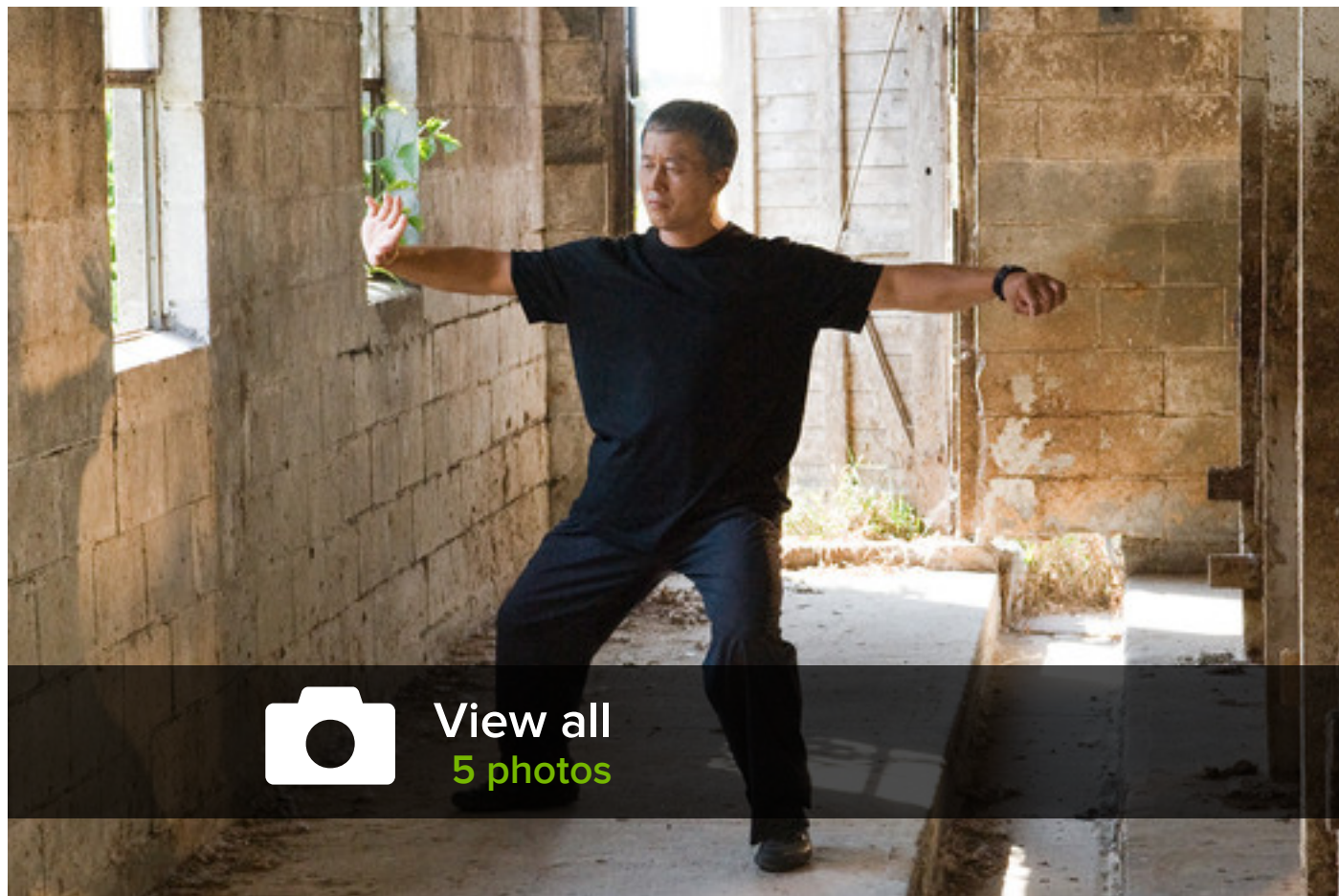
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Final Weapon is finally out

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Final Weapon is a long music video/film that takes viewers through the fast-moving odyssey of an aging Chinese warrior making a fatal choice upon his last battle. This action-packed movie stars famed **Tai Chi** Grandmaster **Ren Guangyi** and famous action movie star Michael Woods. The celebrated Classic, Alternative & Punk Rock n' Roll legend **Lou Reed** appeared in this fast-moving film which is fueled by his Avant-garde music (*Street Hassle*, *Finish Line*, *The Spirit*, and *Set The Twilight Reeling*). *Final Weapon* won kudos from critics and was viewed at few film festivals. There were many favorable reviews and many people expressed interest to see the movie. It was shown to the public last year in Manhattan, New York. Recently, Director **Stephan Berwick** decided to put the entire movie on Youtube so it can be viewed for free.



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5 photos

Grandmaster Ren Guangyi in the movie "Final Weapon".

True Tai Chi



True Tai Chi

Grandmaster Ren Guangyi is a Tai Chi [martial arts](#) champion and has won numerous titles and awards both in China and in the U.S. Grandmaster Ren is an inheritor disciple of the Chen Style Tai Chi. He was featured on the cover of Kung Fu Tai Chi Magazine multiple times. This was his first time acting in a motion picture. It seems like his action skills have transferred well to the silver screen, earning him first Runner Up in the category of “Breakout Action Star – Male” at the [Action on Film](#) International Film Festival in Pasadena, CA in 2010. The film was also nominated for “Best Action Sequence Short” at the same film festival.

This movie got a rave review at the [Coney Island Film Festival](#), which is rated one of the top 25 film festivals in the nation. Some film industry experts also thought that the music and sound effects were done very well. This film was also as part of the final selection by [2010 International Film Festival South Africa](#). Additionally, the film was the subject of two very important panel critiques. The most notable was with [Jonas Mekas](#), the pioneer of American film critique, at the Archive Film Anthology in New York. The panel discussion was filmed unofficially and is on YouTube in two parts.

[Lou Reed](#) was an avid Tai Chi practitioner and promoter. This film was considered as one of two films best representative of Lou Reed at the retrospective of his artistic work in Portugal, where he was present and discussed the film and its importance to him.

Final Weapon is an action drama about holding, passing, using, and protecting an ancient form of martial art that when employed, renders the user invincible for 20 minutes, after which he/she dies. Final Weapon offers a poetic expression of universal themes with diverse characters and a textured story that dramatizes the fatality and vitality that comes with truly determining one’s own fate. It was

written and directed by [Stephan Berwick](#), a Western pioneer of mainland China martial arts, who was an early 'foreign' actor in the Hong Kong action film renaissance of the 1980s, under the famed director, [Yuen Woo-ping](#) and action star [Donnie Yen](#).

Michael Woods, a famous villain in Hong Kong [Kung Fu](#) movie, co-starred in the film. Final Weapon was filmed and edited in Minnesota and Wisconsin, in high definition, with a highly experienced and talented crew from the Twin Cities. The film was shot in three days. They did not use stunt doubles for the action sequences in the movie nor did they use any wire work like most action movies. They did not employ any computer-generated images (or CGI's) in the film. What you see is true Tai Chi martial arts in its naked form without manipulation, which is refreshing in itself.

It was said that the budget of this film was only a few thousand dollars - far below the average for a short film. Almost everyone volunteered to work on this film, which was produced by Berwick and [Jose Figueroa](#), in association with Minnesota-based production houses, Restraining Hollywood, [Rolen Motion Pictures](#), and [185 Media](#). [Sampson Rolen](#) edited and colorized the film, the director of photography was Sam Fischer, and the make-up artist was Laura Hart, with costume advisory provided by Hollywood costume designer, [Donna Berwick](#).

With the success of this short film, a script for a full-length movie has been written. Stephan Berwick is seeking financial support to make the film. If you would like to produce or know a producer interested in the only film project that combines Lou Reed's music with Tai Chi Quan, you may want to contact Stephan Berwick at stefan@truetaiichi.com.

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