

# IKF's Instructor of the Year: Tai Chi Master Ren Guangyi

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Master Ren Guangyi  
<http://www.renguangyi.com/>

No one is surprised when he learns that [Master Ren Guangyi](#) was inducted into [the Inside Kung-Fu Magazine's \(IKF\) 2011 Hall of Fame](#). I was a little bit intrigued when I discovered that he was chosen as "Instructor of the Year" though.

Master Ren has been an outstanding [Tai Chi](#) martial artist. Born in China, trained in Chen Village (the birth place of modern Tai Chi) with Chen Style Tai Chi Lineage Holder Grandmaster [Chen Xiaowang](#), and later accepted by Grandmaster as his disciple, Master Ren came to the U.S. in the early 1980's and won numerous competition titles in the Tai Chi hand forms, weapon forms and push-hands. There was almost no match in the U.S. for his skill level.

At the advice of others, he stopped competing in the U.S. In 1998, he won the 1998 heavyweight push hands category in the highly competitive bi-annual International Taijiquan Competition held in the Chen Village County, China.

With a warm personality and the candid talk, Master Ren is a media darling. He has been featured by major martial arts publications ESPN, and New York TV stations. He and his students were on the covers of *Kung Fu Qigong* (the predecessor of *Kung Fu Tai Chi Magazine*), *Qi Magazine*, *Journal of Asian Martial Arts*, *World Journal Weekly Magazine*, *Inside Kung-Fu Magazine*, and *Kung Fu Tai Chi Magazine*. Actually, he was on *Kung Fu Tai Chi Magazine*'s cover multiple times. He and his students have also been on the front page of National Examiner.com four times.

He has collaborated with his students and published a few Tai Chi related articles, books (*Taijiquan Hand & Sword*, and *Taijiquan: Chen Taiji 38 Form and Applications*), and at least a dozen of Tai Chi teaching DVDs:

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“ *Chen Style Taijiquan 19 Form*  
*Chen Taijiquan 38 Form: Part 1 and Part 2*  
*1998 Chen Village Push Hands Competition*  
*Chen Taijiquan Applications/Striking Techniques*  
*Chen Taijiquan Lao Jia Yi Lu*  
*Chen Taijiquan Lao Jia Er Lu*  
*Chen Taijiquan Xin Jia Yi Lu*  
*Chen Style Taiji Straight Sword & 5 Methods of Push Hands*  
*Chen Style Taiji Broadsword & 5 Methods of Push Hands*  
*Chen Style Taiji Pear Flower Spear*  
*Chen Taijiquan Lao Jia Yi Lu & Straight Sword*  
*Power and Serenity: The Art of Master Ren Guangyi*

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Ren Guangyi has been performing for the ex-President of the Czech Republic, [Vaclav Havel](#) at [the 20th Anniversary of Velvet Revolution Concert](#). He appeared on the stage of a 2006 Winter Olympic Games ceremony, [Vivid Live](#) at [Sydney National Opera House](#), Las Vegas, Carnegie Hall, and David Letterman's Late Show. In Europe, once he demonstrated Tai Chi in front of a crowd over 10,000 people.

With all these achievements, he can easily be nominated for the best competitor, or the best celebrated Tai Chi master, or the best Tai Chi performing artist, or the best Tai Chi author. With these

thoughts in mind, Inside Kung-Fu made an excellent choice awarding him the Instructor of the Year. In circumspect, they did not make their selection solely based on what he did in 2010, but for what he has accomplished in his career.

### **Ren's passion for Tai Chi is deeply rooted**

He is eager to share the beauty and the benefits of Tai Chi with the world. He has been working long and hard to promote it via various venues, whether he was on TV at David Letterman's Late Show, or through his latest short Film *Final Weapon*. He has been teaching Tai Chi to celebrities, e.g. legendary rock star **Lou Reed**, Media mogul **Jonathan Miller**, Hollywood super star **Hugh Jackman**, and famous record producer **Tony Visconti**, but he also shares his arts with thousands of students through workshops, writings, and DVDs.

He has trained many champions including **Jose Figueroa**, who has won more than 40 gold medals. One interesting fact is that many students learned Tai Chi or/and Kung Fu years before they met Master Ren. However, once they started to study with him, they are totally amazed by his profound knowledge and stay with him since.

Stephan Berwick, who is Master Ren's student and a senior writer at Insight Kung Fu Magazine, comments "Ren Guangyi introduced Chen Tai Chi Chuan to arenas that never saw traditional martial arts performances". With this, Master Ren's selection is well-deserved.

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### **SUGGESTED LINKS**

- **2011 Inside Kung-Fu Hall of Fame Inductees**
- **A peek into Master Ren Guangyi's Tai Chi class**
- **Final Weapon will be screened at the Museum of the Moving Image**
- **Lou Reed: A highly celebrated Tai Chi practitioner and promoter**
- **Final Weapon**



**Violet Li**

Tai Chi Examiner

