

Martial Arts Revisited

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Special issue 'Martial Arts Revisited'

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To the Ukrainian fighters bravely opposing Russian aggression



Julia Lewandowska (Poland) and Mohammad Reza Aliakbari (Iran) during the ATIS 2015 in Brzezinka. Photo: Maciej Zakrzewski.

Since the 1960s, various non-Western forms of martial arts and their adjunct activities related to healing and meditation have been increasingly adopted in Western performer training. Their diverse influences on actor preparation and manifestations in this context have already been widely discussed (for a summary, see [‘A Bibliography’](#) and [‘Voices Advocating Martial Arts in Actor Training’](#)), including in the pages of this journal (see *TDPT* articles devoted wholly or in part to aikido 2.1, 2011; boxing and capoeira 3.2, 2012; and tai chi 4.1, 2013). Nevertheless, we decided to reinvigorate discussions about martial arts’ applicability and usefulness in training contexts as well as related ethical issues.

As a consequence, this special issue explores specific martial arts forms and their suitability for different performance contexts, the situations from which they have arisen and in which they exist and any implications of this in a highly interconnected world. The issue

includes contributions which confront not only those practices most commonly associated with martial arts and most frequently employed in performer training contexts, such as Japanese aikido and Chinese *taijiquan* (widely known as tai chi), but also lesser-known styles and schools as well as other less obvious martial arts approaches, attitudes, ideas and techniques.

CONTENTS

Editorial

Paul Allain, Thomas Wilson and Grzegorz Ziółkowski

Postcard

Leaving the cave

Marco Adda

Article

Is the readiness all? Revisiting martial arts in actor training

Grzegorz Ziółkowski

Essai

'Let go lightly': the absent presence of taijiquan in the artistic practice of ROSA and ATIS

Grzegorz Ziółkowski

Interview

Interview with Adrian Lester: taekwondo in actor training

Paul Allain and Grzegorz Ziółkowski

Article

The applicability of historical Japanese and Polish fencing to the development of acting competences

Wojciech J. Cynarski

Postcard

Training Historical European Martial Arts

Gabriella McLean

Article

Martial art-acting in dictatorial Indonesia: *Antigone* (1974) and *Lysistrata* (1975) directed by W. S. Rendra

Marco Adda

Article

Judo as a devising practice: Yves Klein, La Mancha and Chile

Ellie Nixon

Postcard

Leaving the script behind

Théo Aiolfi

Essai

Aikido in Kokyu Studio's practice

Przemysław Błaszczak

Essai

A place of practice – a report from Kokyu Studio

Marie Walker

Article

Spatial projection: extended perception for theatre creators through the practice of Chinese martial arts

Daniel Mroz

Postcard

太极推手: *taiji* pushing hands

Stefanie Gabriele Sachsenmaier

Article

Accessing Psychophysical Identities through Russian Martial Arts in actor training

Slade Billew

Postcard

Postcard to a friend

Jonathan Grieve

Article

Humanity and animality in Chinese martial arts

Gabriel Guarino de Almeida

Article

Martial arts training during the pandemic and beyond: towards practices of virtuality

Martin J. Meyer

MATERIALS AVAILABLE ON THE BLOG

- (1) [Akram Khan and Brazilian ju-jitsu](#), an interview by Janet O'Shea
- (2) [Martial Arts Revisited: Bibliography](#), compiled by Grzegorz Ziółkowski
- (3) [Stylistic resonances: using martial arts to develop understanding and curiosity within a higher education dance curriculum](#) by Paul Golz
- (4) [Voices Advocating Martial Arts in Actor Training](#), compiled by Grzegorz Ziółkowski