

# ADAM JAMES

## Interview with Actor, Writer, Filmmaker and Martial Artist

By Jose M. Fraguas

**A**dam James has recently been cast as Dok Sauvage in the upcoming streaming series “Dok Sauvage: Man of Copper”, inspired by the world’s first superhero. We catch up with Adam as he tells us about the new series, playing a superhero, and working on the international action blockbuster “Under Siege”.



# Actor, Writer, Filmmaker and Martial Artist

## How did you get started with the Dok Sauvage series?

Last summer, I attended DragonFest here in the Los Angeles area, which is an annual fundraising event for the Martial Arts History Museum in Burbank, and I was very honored to have my booth next to Don “the Dragon” Wilson and Fumio Demura, two legends in the martial arts and film industry. The creator of the new Dok Sauvage series and executive producer Chris Mackey of Valleywood Productions was at the event looking for an actor/martial artist to play Dok Sauvage who’s a giant 6’4” tall martial arts expert and he saw me there.

Chris approached me after the event and offered me the role. I’m very honored and humbled to be playing this character, who’s inspired by the original 1940s pulp fiction superhero; and at the same time, I love the challenge of creating a new hero in a modern streaming series.

## What is the Dok Sauvage series about?

Dok Sauvage is a scientist, adventurer, detective and martial artist, and in season 1, Dok Sauvage and his team will battle an international evil mastermind played by Americus Abesamis. We’re very excited to have Americus as the Co-Star of the series and he’s an amazing actor and martial artist. Americus is a former USA Sumo Champion and as an actor, he’s been in “Pirates of the Caribbean,” “Boba Fett: A Star Wars Story,” “The Mandalorian,” and “Let’s Be Cops.” As season 1 of our series unfolds, the story leads to the inevitable confrontation between Dok Sauvage and the evil mastermind played by Americus in the season finale.

We’re filming in Fresno, California in partnership with CMAC, the Community Media Access Collaborative, which is located in the beautiful, historic Fresno Bee Building from 1922 in Downtown Fresno. The cast and crew is amazing and the Central Valley has an incredible community of film professionals. Americus and I are extremely honored to be working with this group of outstanding actors and artists, and we’re all dedicated to creating a fantastic story for everyone to see and experience.

## What is the Dok Sauvage connection to martial arts and superheroes?

The original Doc Savage was an extremely popular pulp fiction book character in the 1930’s and is considered the world’s first superhero. Before Superman, Batman and the comic book superheroes like Captain America and Spiderman, there was Doc Savage and another character named the Shadow. Doc Savage was a detective and martial artist, which was very unusual in the 1930s, and his scientist adventurer aspect inspired Indiana Jones. However, despite this rich history, the character has been almost forgotten in time.

In the 1970s, there was a Doc Savage feature film with Ron Ely, who had played Tarzan in the Tarzan television show. The movie wasn’t well received at the time, but it had extensive martial arts action scenes and many people consider it a cult classic.

I’m very honored to be following in the footsteps of Ron Ely and to play the role of Dok Sauvage. I grew up reading Conan the Barbarian books by Robert E. Howard and comic books like Daredevil, X-Men and the Avengers, and I’ve always dreamed of an opportunity to bring to life the story of a hero’s journey.

In our new streaming series, we are introducing a brand new action hero who is inspired by the 1930s pulp fiction character and stories. The series is being filmed in the modern world but we’re striving to have a very classic comic book and retro vibe to the story tell-





ing and characters. And the martial arts are a central theme and direction of the entire story - in particular with the Five Principles of the Sauvage Family and the Copper Dojo.

#### When and where can we see it?

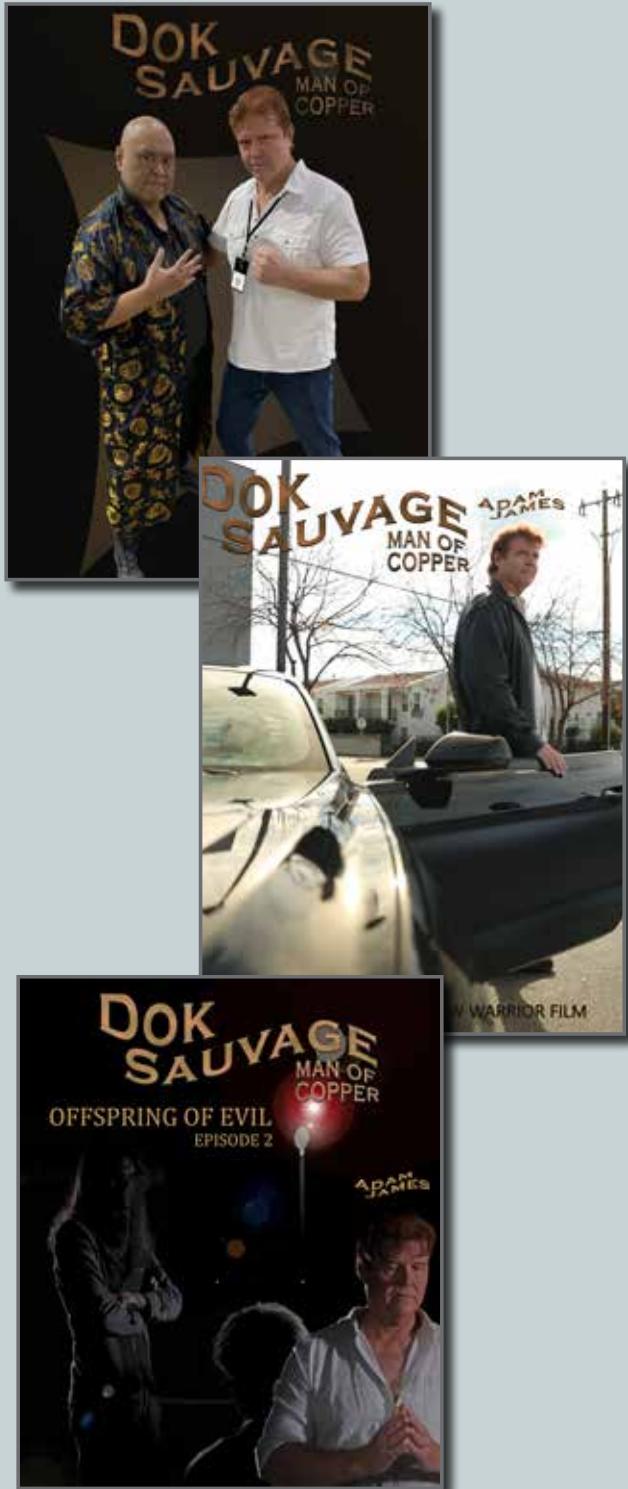
The series will be coming out in the fall on Roku, Tubi and other streaming platforms. We had the sneak preview for the pilot/episode at the Martial Arts History Museum in March, and it was a lot of fun. We had cast and crew members come from Fresno for the event along with friends from the Los Angeles martial arts and film industries in attendance. We're planning to be attending DragonFest again this summer to promote the show and then we'll do another premiere at the Museum before the official release on the streaming channels.

I would like to add that we're extremely grateful and honored that the Martial Arts History Museum hosted the screening and in many ways helped bring us together in the first place. I encourage everyone who loves the martial arts to support the museum by becoming a member and coming to DragonFest. The event celebrates martial arts as well as movies and action stars so there are a lot of celebrity martial artists in attendance to sign autographs and take photos. And it's a great place to purchase martial arts equipment, books and clothing and get the latest training information at seminars with some of the best instructors in the industry.

## ADAM JAMES BIOGRAPHY

- Founder of Rainbow Warrior Martial Arts. Instructor of Wei Kuen Do, Chi Fung and Modern Escrima with Leo Fong. 5th Dan in Hawaii Shin Kan Okinawan Kempo Karate. Former Director of World Black Belt with Bob Wall, Chuck Norris, Gene LeBell and 50 of the worlds greatest martial artists. Creator of the NCEP-Rainbow Warrior Martial Arts MMA Trainer certification program.
- Currently, Adam stars in *Dok Sauvage: Man of Copper*, a new streaming series inspired by the 1930s pulp fiction hero. *Dok Sauvage* is a scientist, adventurer, detective and martial artist and in season one, he battles an international evil mastermind played by Americus Abesamis from *Boba Fett* Star Wars and former USA Sumo champion.
- Previously, Adam appeared in *Under Siege* with Steven Seagal and Tommy Lee Jones and in *Steal Big/Steal Little* with Andy Garcia and Alan Arkin. Adam also played the lead role in the television pilot movie *East of West*.
- As a writer, Adam has been featured in *Black Belt Magazine* and *Masters Magazine*, and he's the consultant and co-writer of *Mastering Martial Arts*, a ten volume book series. Also an accomplished screenwriter, Adam was the co-writer of *East of West* and has written several feature scripts for projects currently in development.
- Adam is also a fitness industry professional and he is the Vice President of the National College of Exercise Professionals, an education company that has certified thousands of personal trainers and nutritionists. Previously, Adam was the General Manager for the Toluca Lake Tennis & Fitness Club located next to Warner Brothers and Universal Studios and voted the Best Health Club in Los Angeles for five years straight under his leadership. Adam was also a fitness manager for the prestigious Sports Club Company and the Fitness Center Director of the Outrigger Canoe Club in Honolulu, Hawaii.
- Adam played defensive end for Northwestern University in the Big 10 conference and was recruited by Dennis Green, the first African American head coach in Big 10 history. Adam was a top athlete at Punahoa School in Honolulu and played football, basketball, wrestling and track & field.
- Adam currently works as an advertising consultant for 911 MEDIA, a communications company for the Law Enforcement community and the owner of American Police Beat magazine. 911 MEDIA is an official partner of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial & Museum in Washington DC, the Fraternal Order of Police and other major police associations.

# Actor, Writer, Filmmaker and Martial Artist



## What was it like working on "Under Siege"?

That was an amazing experience for me as a young actor, and I made a lot of awesome new friends like George Cheung, Gary Morgan and Eddie Bo Smith. I played the role of one of the Commandos, who disguised themselves as caterers and a rock band and then took over the battleship. My cousin Michael James was also an actor in the movie and he had a really cool role and did a great job. There were so many fantastic actors on the set every day and it was a pleasure to work with them. Like Raymond Cruz, Colm Meaney and of course Erika Eleniak, who was incredibly beautiful and charming.

Under Siege was filmed at the USS Alabama Memorial Park in Mobile, Alabama because at the time, the USS Missouri was still active. The project had some of the best stunt professionals and military consultants in the industry. Another guy that I met on Under Siege is Tom Muzilla, a highly ranked Shotokan Karate Sensei and former Green Beret, and he was very nice to me and I greatly appreciated his kindness and encouragement.

I've also got to mention the director of Under Siege Andy Davis, who has been behind some of the best martial arts movies of all time. Andy specializes in action suspense films and he's most famous for The Fugitive with Harrison Ford. With martial arts action stars, Andy directed Under Siege as well as Seagal's first movie Above the Law and he also made Code of Silence with Chuck Norris, which people consider one of his best. Andy is originally from Chicago and many of his films are based in Chicago or have lots of Chicago actors and crew members no matter where he films. I'm grateful that he saw something in me and gave me my first opportunity.

## Tommy Lee Jones -

Tommy might not be a martial artist but he's one of the toughest guys you'll ever meet. He's a very focused actor and I learned a lot from working with him. I've always appreciated the quality of his acting performances and it was an honor to work with him.

## Gary Busey -

Gary is an excellent actor and he did a terrific job in Under Siege. I loved his performance in Lethal Weapon and the final fight scene is one of the best ever and a sensational display of Jiu Jitsu.

## Steven Seagal -

During the filming of Under Siege, Black Belt Magazine released a cover story with Bob Wall and a group of martial arts champions like Benny the Jet and Howard Jackson and they called themselves the Dirty Dozen challenging Steven Seagal to fight anywhere and anytime. This was at the height of Seagal's popularity, so the cover of the number one martial arts magazine doing this fight challenge was very controversial and Steven was not happy about it on the set of

Under Siege. Steven heard that my good friend in Hawaii worked for Mito Uehara, the founder of Black Belt Magazine and Steven asked me to talk with him on his behalf. Ironically I later worked side by side with Bob Wall as the Director of World Black Belt, a martial arts media and internet company co-founded by Chuck Norris, Bob Wall and Gene LeBell. And Bob definitely relished that cover and had it framed and hanging on the wall at the World Black Belt office.

#### What self defense techniques do you practice?

First, I always encourage people to use the power of their words to find positive resolutions to confrontations and situations that could lead to a self-defense encounter. And when you must defend yourself or protect innocent people or loved ones, the mind is the most powerful weapon you have. I advocate that you stay calm, evaluate/think clearly and then take the right action.

My martial arts method is based on free fighting and street self defense/special forces fighting techniques. I grew up in Hawaii doing Karate and a variety of martial arts. My father had been a United States Naval Officer and my parents have had a big impact on my approach to life. After playing football in high school and college at Northwestern, I trained in Hawaii Shin Kan Okinawan Kempo Karate under Sensei Michael Dela Vega, who was a relative of Chojun Miyagi and an original student of Joe Emperado of Kajukenbo. Sensei Mike became a long-range reconnaissance officer during the Vietnam War and he was renowned in Hawaii martial arts. I learned the foundation of my fighting method from Sensei Mike and rose to the rank of 5th Dan and Chief Instructor. After moving to the mainland, I met Leo Fong and trained with him for 25 years in Wei Kuen Do, Chi Fung and Modern Escrima and received the rank of 10th Level Instructor. All of these amazing people deeply impacted my approach to martial arts and life.

#### What is “Rainbow Warrior Martial Arts”?

Rainbow Warrior Martial Arts is my martial arts and fitness organization. Along with my Kempo background, I'm also very influenced by my mentor and friend Leo Fong, who was Bruce Lee's close friend and training partner. Leo was the founder of Wei Kuen Do, which is similar in some respects to Bruce Lee's style Jeet Kune Do. Leo also created Chi Fung (a power chi gung system) and Modern Escrima (FMA weapons system). The Rainbow Warrior approach is also about fitness and mental training. We are partnered with the National College of Exercise Professionals, a leading fitness industry education company that has certified thousands of personal trainers and nutritionists across the country. Together, we've created the NCEP-Rainbow Warrior Martial Arts MMA Trainer certification program, which certifies graduates as a personal trainer, a strength & conditioning coach for MMA and as a Trainer or Coach in the sport of MMA.

#### What do you want to say to fans?

All of us from the Dok Sauvage: Man of Copper show are very grateful for your love and support. We're super excited to bring to you this cool new action hero, and we hope that you will be inspired and entertained by his adventures. Please visit our website <https://doksauvage.com/> for updates on our upcoming events, promotions and the official launch of the new show this fall.

