

cut out and save for a martial artist you know

A MARTIAL ARTS EDUCATION

**Tony Annesi, head instructor,
BUSHIDO-KAI, 92 Blandin Ave., Framingham
Karate-do, Karate-show 1**



Everyone knows that the martial arts superstar whom you see on screen, as good a real-life martial artist as he may be, cannot really knock out ten crazed bikers wielding tire-irons and then back-flip onto the leader's Harley to do a Hi-Yo Silver before scrubbing out to rescue the damsel/sidekick/child in distress. Movie martial arts emphasize the visual and we live in a fast-paced visual-oriented society. Neon signs are not bright because they illuminate dangerous corners but because they get our visual attention. We like the gymnastic, high-kicking, Jackie Chan type of martial arts and would love to see ourselves



doing it. So, when we visit the local martial arts establishment to watch a class, we are impressed with the high-flying kicks and large arced throws. Some of it, we realize, is impractical, but darn! it looks so cool.

If one wants self-defense, then the visual should be of no concern at all. And if one wants self-development through martial training, one has to decide what martial method will afford that self-development. Ironically, only the inexperienced can decide for him/herself.

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Karate-do, Karate-show 2**



In traditional karate-do (as opposed to "karate-show"), the aesthetically pleasing is either a by-product of proper technique or simply a method used test and challenge one's self-perfection. How it looks to others is not of prime importance.

In traditional karate-do (or other traditional martial arts), success in personal combat is not only a goal but also the method by which one tests one's personal development. Effectiveness of technique offers an objective standard that the student attempts to achieve. Self-development lies in facing what one has to do to meet the challenge.

It is very difficult to be objective about one's martial art. It is even

more difficult for a novice to be objective about martial arts one knows nothing about. The

potential student may find it arduous to judge whether one art is really more effective than another, but he/she should not find it difficult to judge whether the art is of the DÔ (Way of life) or SHOW variety. Flash is a small amount of riches in a pan. The traditional, proven Way is long and is not always neon-lit.

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