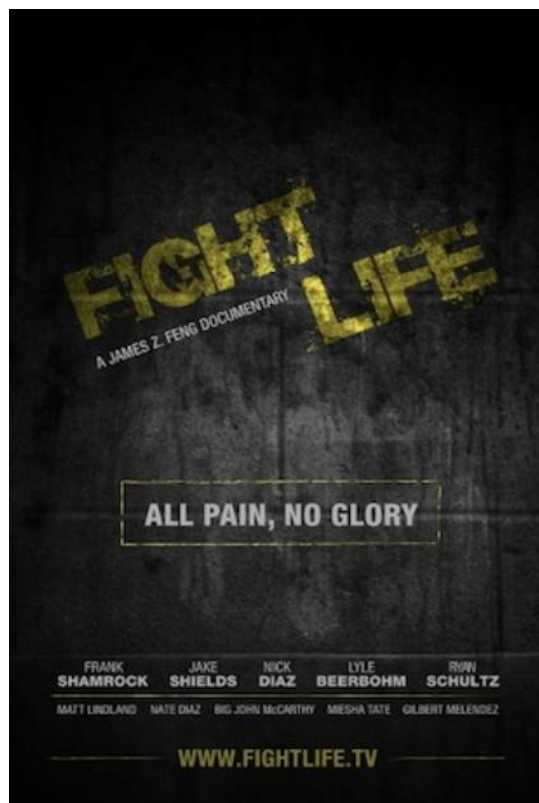


FIGHT LIFE

a film by:

James Z. Feng



Film Press Kit

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SYNOPSIS

Fight Life is a new groundbreaking documentary that gives the audience an intimate look into the real life of the modern day professional Mixed Martial Arts fighter. From paying dues starting out at the smaller shows to the championship fight on TV, *Fight Life* chronicles the daily lives of fighters from all different levels over the course of one year.

“68% of Professional MMA Fighters Don’t Have Health Insurance”

Fight Life

Starring three different fighters in different stages in their careers, *Fight Life* paints the full picture of the MMA lifestyle through the diverse point of views on our protagonists. This new profession of mixed-martial arts has flourished from cult status into mainstream after years of surviving in the underground. The evolution of the sport within the last ten years from an unsanctioned blood sport into main attraction on Spike TV/CBS has surprised all naysayers who a decade ago doubted the sport would ever survive. Along with this new sport emerges this new fascinating lifestyle of the professional fighter that newly embodies the definition of the American hero.

“Average Professional MMA Fighter’s Salary = \$11,000”

Fight Life

"Highest of high, lowest of lows" a fighter once told me about the sport of Mixed Martial Arts. In the spirit of capturing the growth of this new modern phenomenal, *Fight Life* chronicles the exciting sport of MMA through the lens of our fighters. Focusing on our three main protagonists' lives both inside and outside of the cage, we offer a rare behind the scenes view of both the triumphant and inglorious times of the professional fighter. From the moment of victory every fighter is chasing after, to the nightmare of receiving the devastating knockout, we follow these fighters during their journey chasing a dream few dare.

This film is directed by award-winning independent filmmaker James Z. Feng and produced by Seher Basak, James Y. Shih, and Lanser Boint. This film is also co-produced by MMA veteran champions Jake Shields and Frank Shamrock.

THE CAST

Lyle Beerbohm.....	As Himself
Bryan Caraway.....	As Himself
Nick Diaz.....	As Himself
Matt Lindland.....	As Himself
Big John McCarthy.....	As Himself
Gilbert Melendez.....	As Himself
Ryan Schultz.....	As Himself
Frank Shamrock.....	As Himself
Sam Sheridan.....	As Himself
Jake Shields.....	As Himself
Miesha Tate.....	As Herself

THE FILMMAKERS

Writer, Director, Producer.....	James Z. Feng
Director of Photography.....	Mike Solidum
Editor.....	George Danno
Post-production Supervisor.....	Ramon Vasquez Jr.
Trailer Editor.....	Ramon Vasquez Jr.
Graphic Designer.....	Jenny Pan
Producer.....	Seher Basak
Producer.....	Lanser Boint
Producer.....	James Y. Shih
Co-Producer.....	Barbara Grandvoinet
Co-Producer.....	Frank Shamrock
Co-Producer.....	Jake Shields
Executive Producer.....	James Z. Feng

ABOUT THE FIGHTERS

Jake Shields

Co-Producer/Professional MMA Fighter



Jake Shields began amateur wrestling at the age of nine and has been a professional MMA fighter for over ten years. He began his MMA training at Chuck Liddell's SLO Kickboxing Academy in 1999. In 2001, Jake received a wrestling scholarship to San Francisco State University and moved to San Francisco where he began training with the Cesar Gracie Fight Team (Dave Terrell, Nick and Nate Diaz, Gilbert Melendez). Jake is a lifelong vegetarian and a proud father, whose competitive edge and hard work has earned him a place in the top five welterweights in the world. *Fight Life* gives an inside look on Jake's journey from fighting broke to becoming champion.

Frank "The Legend" Shamrock

Co-Producer/Professional MMA Fighter



Born Frank Alisio Juarez III, Frank spent his childhood in and out of foster homes and crisis centers. Eventually he went to live with Bob Shamrock, a man who has taken in hundreds of troubled boys including Frank's stepbrother Ken, and adopted the Shamrock name. In 1994 during the beginning stages of the sport, Frank Shamrock took to MMA as way to support himself. Since then he's amassed numerous world titles and established himself as a respected authority on MMA. In *Fight Life*, Frank Shamrock lends his experience and insight on the sport of MMA, a sport that he was instrumental in getting sanctioned in the US.

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Lyle “Fancy Pants” Beerbohm
Professional MMA Fighter



Lyle Beerbohm has had his share of ups and downs. Wrestling in high school, Lyle already showed tenacity in competition and was ranked in the state. Things took a turn for the worst when after high school, Lyle fell into the wrong crowd and got addicted to methamphetamine. This addiction would dictate the next six years of his life which he spent in and out of jail and amassed eight felony charges. While serving out his last sentence in prison, Lyle saw an episode of *The Ultimate Fighter* that sparked a fire in him to be a fighter. Eight days after he was released from prison, Lyle fought his first amateur fight and “traded one addiction for another”. His parents, once weary from constant disappointment of their son, are now his biggest fans and his mother shows her support by making him the fanciest fight shorts in the business. *Fight Life* gives an intimate look at one of the most inspiring undefeated rising stars in MMA.

Ryan “The Lion” Schultz
Professional MMA Fighter



Ryan Schultz grew up in North Platte, Nebraska and was a member of his high school wrestling team. He continued to compete at the University of Nebraska where he met Olympic wrestler and MMA fighter Matt Lindland. After graduating with a Criminal Justice degree, Ryan worked as a plumber before making the move to Team Quest in Oregon and training full time with his former wrestling coach. Supporting his wife and son through fighting, “The Lion” (a nickname that he wears on his back) epitomizes the reality of what it is to be a professional MMA fighter living the *Fight Life*.

Nick Diaz

Professional MMA Fighter



Nick Diaz was born and raised in Stockton, CA. Growing up in a tough neighborhood, Diaz started training in martial arts as a teenager to defend himself. He and his brother, pro MMA fighter Nate Diaz, began training at Cesar Gracie Jiu-Jitsu Academy where he met close friends and training partners Jake Shields and Gilbert Melendez. Since starting his MMA career in 2001, Nick has fought in numerous promotions (IFC, WEC, UFC, Shooto, Pride, Strikeforce) and has cemented himself as one of the top MMA fighters in the world. Upfront with his use of cannabis and his no BS attitude have garnered him the love and hate of many MMA fans. *Fight Life* gives a rare perspective on one of the most misunderstood fighters in MMA today.

Gilbert "El Niño" Melendez

Professional MMA Fighter



Born and raised in Santa Ana, CA, Gilbert Melendez competed as a wrestler at Santa Ana High School. Upon graduation he earned a wrestling scholarship to SF State where he met Jake Shields who encouraged him to train in BJJ and MMA with the Cesar Gracie Fight Team. Gilbert has been fighting since 2002 and has garnered an impressive record of 16-2 and has earned the nickname "El Nino" (in reference to his fighting style that "wipes out everything in its path"). *Fight Life* takes you to the eye of the storm and shows what it takes to be one of the top lightweight fighters in the world.

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ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

James Z. Feng

Writer/Director/Producer



James Z. Feng is an award-winning indie filmmaker (*600, Drowning*) shooting his first feature documentary film with *Fight Life*. An accomplished actor with many credits, James dedicated himself into filmmaking after his debut film *600* made a splash in the international film festival scene. Not a fan in using other people's money to shoot his own projects, James works multiple jobs to support and fund his own films. James is a passionate filmmaker with a unique realistic vision on the stories he wants to tell. James lives by the following motto: "Passion, Hard work, Perseverance."

Seher Basak

Producer

Seher became interested in making movies from working in the video game industry, where she first saw the potential for expanding narrative realms through the use of different media types through the Wachowskis' work on the Matrix universe. She has been most inspired by Robert Rodriguez and Kevin Smith in the world of film and in gaming by Ragnar Tornquist and Warren Spector. After co-producing James Z. Feng's short film *Drowning*, she was asked to continue working with him on *Fight Life*. She has also produced two other short films and the video game *Physitive* for PC.

James Y. Shih

Producer



An actor by trade, James Y. Shih, got his start in film production producing short films at the University of California, San Diego where he studied Theatre and Economics. After college, James went to live in Taipei, Taiwan where he continued to act in theatre and also worked as a Business Director for a social network start up. A lifelong martial artist and a MMA enthusiast, James was drawn to *Fight Life* by its subject matter and also with the hopes that this film will help shatter the many misconceptions about the hardworking men and women fighters that make this sport.

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Lanser Boint

Producer

Writer/Producer Lanser Boint brings his journalist and CPG sales and marketing background to the team. He hopes to both educate people and bring mainstream exposure and sponsorship to MMA. He also is working on producing his latest screenplay *Freedom Rains*, the story of a disillusioned Iraq war vet who turns to the octagon for truth.

Michael Solidum

Director of Photography



As a newcomer to the filmmaking world, Michael Solidum strives to inject a fresh look to the lens of every project with which he is involved. He immigrated to the Los Angeles area at an early age from the island of Mindanao in the Southern Philippines and worked in the legal field for nearly a decade before he began to pursue filmmaking. His life experiences help shape his cinematographic and filmmaking perspectives. He is a fan of contemporary cinematographers Matthew Libatique, Christopher Doyle and Larry Fong. Michael eagerly signed on to *Fight Life* to embrace the challenge of working on a project involving a subject that was unfamiliar to him and to work with a talented crew of dedicated individuals.

Barbara Grandvoinet

Co-Producer

Born and raised in Paris, Barbara Grandvoinet now lives in San Francisco as a producer and director. Her film "Children of the Trains" (in post-production) is gaining attention worldwide. She produces, writes and edits segments frequently broadcast on national television as well as documentaries and films. Her past work with the PBS/American Masters series includes: "Julliard", "F. Scott Fitzgerald: Winter Dreams", "Robert Capa: In love & War" and "Clint Eastwood". She received her Masters Degree in Broadcast Communication Arts from San Francisco State University. Barbara brings over a decade of expertise in pre-production, production and postproduction.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Having spent the past year working on *Fight Life*, I can finally declare that the professional Mixed Martial Arts lifestyle is no different than that of a struggling independent filmmaker. My inspiration for doing this project drew from the parallels and similarities of both of our worlds. I was confident I could capture the reality of their lives because I *knew*, understood, and *lived* it myself. Broke, passionate, insecure, hungry, driven, opportunistic; these words will give you a good insight into the identical themes in our own respective worlds.

The misconceptions and stereotypes of fighters was one important taboo I sought to break open through my project. No more playing tough guy for the cameras or acting like a brute to intimidate opponents; I wanted our fighters to showcase themselves contrary to what's expected of them on TV. Through interviews, surveys, spending lots of time with the fighters, I was able to get a deeper look at both the good and bad sides of this new growing sport. Most importantly, I wanted the fighters to open themselves up and tell their own stories under their terms.

As we went deeper in the project, I could feel myself more and more connected emotionally to our fighters and their fights. I started to feel the nerves before fight night imagining what will happen and how I would react to the result of the fight. The thrill of watching one of our fighters fighting live is a feeling I could never do justice with mere words. The actual fights themselves feel like a surreal blur where I question my own state of being asking myself if I'm in a state of trance or simply shell-shocked by reality. After the fights, I share our joys in victory and at times the pain of misery in defeat.

"The highest of highs, the lowest of lows" these words will always stay with me as I look back at everything I've witnessed through the rollercoaster careers of our fighters. The more I soaked in their world, the more I realized MMA is more than just a job or sport. These athletes push their own physical and mental limits to reach a higher-level everyday, 365 days a year. Having now gone through this journey into MMA and looking back, I'm positive there isn't anybody out there more fit to tell the story of *Fight Life* than a struggling independent filmmaker.

Director of *Fight Life*

James Z. Feng

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PRODUCTION STILLS



Jake at weigh-ins for Strikeforce: Carano vs. Cyborg



Filming Bryan Caraway in Washington



Filming fighter Cody McKenzie in Spokane, WA



Filming in El Nino Training Center in San Francisco



Filming Jake Shields at Diablo Barbells, Concord, CA before his fight with Robbie Lawler



Lyle Beerbohm in Kent, WA Strikeforce event locker room before his fight vs. Duane Ludwig