

Black Kung Fu Chick Premieres at Slamdance Film Festival, Feb. 12-25

Exciting Web Series Creates Compelling, Female Action Hero

THEY WANTED TO FIGHT.
SHE WANTED TO DREAM.

BLACK KUNG FU CHICK

CREATED BY
RAE SHAW



FEATURING TAYLOR POLIDORE PETER BOON KOH

WICKED LOVELY FILMS & MEDIA AND IN ASSOCIATION WITH VARONA PRODUCTIONS
 SASCHA BROWN RICE REKO MORENO AND JAINAROHAN SATHYAN
 CO-PRODUCED BY BELINDA SALAZAR KIZY
 WRITTEN BY RAE SHAW
 DIRECTED BY RAE SHAW
 PRODUCED BY RAE SHAW SANDRA VARONA DESIRÉIA VALTEAU
 EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS KIM OGLETREE
 CINEMATOGRAPHY BY RAVEN STEVENSON
 PRODUCTION DESIGNER BY DAVID SHY
 FIRST CINEMATOGRAPHY BY ALFRED HSING
 EDITING BY MENG FANG YANG
 ORIGINAL SCORE BY JOSHUA LIM
 MUSIC SUPERVISOR BY MICHAELA GREEN
 SOUND DESIGNER BY MARCELLUS WESLEY
 www.blackkungfuchick.com

California, Los Angeles, Feb 11, 2021 ([IssueWire.com](https://www.issuewire.com)) - For Immediate Release: *Black Kung Fu Chick*, a transmedia web series created, directed, and written by **Rae Shaw**, will make its world premiere at the virtual **2021 Slamdance Film Festival, Feb. 12-25.**

Set in South Los Angeles, ***Black Kung Fu Chick*** is an impactful, coming-of-age story that mirrors the lives of many teenaged Black girls, whose dreams are deferred by responsibilities they should not have to carry. However, the struggle to pursue one's dreams also reflects the challenges faced by so many young women everywhere in a world that socializes them to put aside their ambition for the obligation.

Starring **Taylor Polidore** (*Snowfall, Black Lightning*), the series follows a high school senior Tasha, whose aspirations of becoming a doctor are disrupted when circumstances force her to fight for the people she loves.

Peter Boon Koh (*Chronicles of Jessica Wu, 9-1-1, In the Room*) stars as Mr. Jian, who teaches Tasha the healing principles of White Crane Kung Fu and Tai Chi to help her turn her life around.

Shaw is a bold new writer-director, who gives birth to a compelling, female action hero, ***Black Kung Fu Chick***. Taking a fresh perspective on fighting for what is right, the film goes beyond high-octane violence and instead brings the audiences into the grace and healing power of martial arts.

Shaw said of her inspiration, "Growing up, I hungered for heroines who looked like me and I wanted to change that for young girls of color. I wanted to share this story of a vibrant and powerful community that has commonly been portrayed through stereotypical lenses that create limits and boundaries instead of empowering and inspiring."

"***Black Kung Fu Chick*** is at its core a story about the possibilities and choices that young women of color deserve, the right to imagine and to achieve," Shaw continued. "***Black Kung Fu Chick*** has the power to reflect what I didn't have as a young Black girl: the ability for young women of color to see themselves onscreen and believe that they can be anything they desire."

Inspired by her love for martial arts movies of the '70s and '80s, Shaw opted to shoot the series on a Super8mm camera to capture the nostalgia of the classic Kung Fu era in the present day and implement an Afrofuturist approach to the transmedia series.

Slamdance will showcase the first episode of season one's ten episodes. Each episode is comprised of a sequence of mini-episodes making up the 17-22-minute episode and will feature a fight sequence bookending the episode, a healthy eating component, a female issue, local public art, and a philosophical Kung Fu lesson that teaches a real-life lesson. Each episode is based on the 10 moral laws of Shaolin and visits 10 principles of learning Kung Fu.

Watch the *Black Kung Fu Chick* Trailer:

<https://youtu.be/t8mFWCilXr8>

For details on the virtual Slamdance Film Festival and to buy a pass, go here: <https://slamdance.com>

Q&A with Director and Producers Available to Pass Holders

MORE ABOUT *BLACK KUNG FU CHICK*

Behind the Scenes...Created, directed, and written by **Rae Shaw**, *Black Kung Fu Chick* is a **Wicked Lovely Films & Media** production in association with **Varona Productions**. **Raven Stevenson** served as Director of Photography. The series is produced by **Shaw, Sandra Varona, Desiréia Valteau, Reko Moreno, Jainardhan Sathyan**, and **Sascha Brown Rice**. Co-Producer **Belinda Salazar Kizy**. Music by **Joshua Lim**. Music Supervision by **Michaela Green**. Sound Design by **Marcellus Wesley**. Editing by **Mengfang Yang**.

About Rae Shaw...Shaw got to know the South Los Angeles community during her work at Charles Drew University during her time working as a media facilitator on a health study called the FEMALES project, an HIV and STD prevention/intervention program designed to empower Black women.

After having worked in the industry for top executives, Shaw returned to work closer to her community and discovered a South L.A. that was vastly different from the violence, poverty, and sexism portrayed in the media. She saw community gardens, vibrant urban art, and people working together for a common cause.

As a storyteller, Shaw was inspired to create a story for young girls of color to imagine and achieve their goals. Shooting the film on location in the communities of Watts, Willowbrook, and Compton, the story comes alive against the backdrop of electric public art, whimsical communal gardens, and jazzy train and bus station plazas.

The *Black Kung Fu Chick* web series launches the innovative transmedia project, which will extend across multiple platforms including a game, comic, and an interactive website. By immersing the viewer in a more engaging experience the series creator aims to empower young girls and connect audiences around the world with the diversity of the rich cultures within the South L.A. community.

An award-winning writer, director, and producer, Shaw is known for her films, screenplays, poetry, essays, and short fiction. Her work explores diversity, connection, sexuality, and disparity. A graduate of the University of Chicago and the University of Miami, Shaw has directed both theater and films, which have premiered at festivals nationally and internationally. Her writing has also received awards from such noted screenwriting competitions as the Academy Nicholl Fellowship, Austin Film Festival, and Cynosure Screenwriting Awards. Shaw is also the recipient of numerous fellowships including the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship, Guy Hanks and Marvin Miller Screenwriting Fellowship, and Woodrow Wilson National Foundation Fellowship.

A member of Alliance of Women Directors, Independent Feature Project, Echo Park Film Center, Women of Color Unite, and the ACLU, Shaw champions projects that uplift women and offer a diverse perspective. Bi-coastal, Shaw splits her time between Los Angeles and Boston where she teaches at Emerson College.

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