

To my dearest Australian fans of The Samurai,

It is really my great pleasure to know that you have a fan conference of The Samurai (Onmitsu Kenshi) today in Brisbane, Australia, even though a half century has already passed since the first airing of the program in Australia.
I am deeply impressed.

I came to know that The Samurai was going to air in Australia when I was just preparing for The Samurai in Kyoto. After a while, the program gained popularity in Australia, so I was asked to visit Sydney and Melbourne.

I remember very well that I entered the Sydney Airport in the costume of Akikusa Shintaro. I had changed my clothes in the air plane!

If my memory is correct, I heard that the Beatles had also visited Sydney one week before my visit.

If there had been more budget, I could have been able to take a lot more fellow actors and show real samurai and ninja to the Australian fans.

When I think back on my days of acting The Samurai (which is also the name of your Facebook club), I can recall hundreds of untold interesting stories.

I can tell you at first that all the ninja's paraphernalia needed a lot of work and time to prepare before a shoot.

At one time, there was a close-up of a shot when thrown stars and arrows struck near my face. They were thrown with piano wire, of course, not by someone's actual hand.

Honestly, I was very scared!

They could have struck my face, you know, if something went wrong.

I was terrified also when gunpowder exploded near my body.

It was the middle of winter when we went to the Izu Peninsula for a long shoot.

Izu is a resort area near Tokyo and is famous for its hot springs.

However, I had to be in the freezing waterfalls for a while.

I could survive such torture because I was young.

I jumped into a hot spring after the shot and felt extremely comfortable!

I heard from Mr. David Lovegrove that the Shintaro wig is at Mr. Greg Newman's house today.

There is nothing left in my hand that was used for The Samurai.

I even gave a sword, (katana), when someone asked me to have it as a present.

When Mr. Gary Renshaw said he wanted to have something as a memory, I gave him my one and only wig. I am very glad he still keeps it.

I am also very glad to hear that Ms. Nikki White has maintained a website for all The Samurai fans.

I have so many stories that I cannot tell them all at one time. I would love to tell you about them sometime when I meet you. I have a wish to visit Australia again before it becomes too late;-)

Thanks again to all of you.

With Love,

Ose Koichi