

Writer Fighter Eiji Yoshikawa is returning to the boxing ring at age 58.

(July 12, 2019 at Scottish Cultural Centre Vancouver)



INSPIRED TO FIGHT

"I don't want to fight but I have to. Otherwise, I'd be a zombie. Life is not about how long you live. It's about how you live." Eiji says. Some 5 years ago, he promised to a girl called Fuka in Japan that he'd continue fighting for her. Fuka got hit by a car driven by a high school teacher and since then, she has been fighting to be able to walk and talk again. She turned 20 recently in her bed.

"The participants at Outfight Parkinson class at Nikkei Senior Home are incredible. They inspire me." Eiji is in charge there.

"If I make a fistful of dollars, it'll all go to hungry children in the Philippines. The pain I get in the ring is nothing compared to the pain in poverty." Eiji has been supporting orphans and hungry children there.

"Even in rich countries, people's hearts are poor and very often selfish. I'll show how a man has to live." Eiji has done over 800 public speeches throughout the world.

Q&A with "Ageless" Eiji (his name Eiji is pronounced like AG)

You fought 6 foot tall boxers in their 20's in Tokyo and in Las Vegas when you turned 49 and 50. This time on July 12, 2019, you're fighting Robert Couzens current Canadian Welterweight Champion who is a 4-Time national champion and 5-time Golden Gloves Champion with the record of 111 wins. Why do you always choose bigger boxers who are nearly 1 foot taller than you?

Because I'm a man. Only by fighting an impossible, you may live like a man. If I choose someone smaller than me or the same size as me, shame on me.

But you'd get knocked down !

Yes, that's exactly why I fight. That's the best moment I can show people how I get up.

But you want to win. Right?

Do I look cool by knocking someone out? No, thanks. Not for me. I don't want to hurt anyone. I don't want to give anyone devastating experience of losing fights. I know that many defeated souls cannot come back from that lower depth.

Do you want your opponent to win?

Yes. Nobody wins unless everybody wins. There's no enemy. I am the only enemy to me. I don't care at all what the judges say about winning and losing. I need to win over myself.

You have "MamaFight" class too to teach women.

Yes, either pro boxers, ladies or kids, we all need to learn self-control. It's so wrong how so many people try to control other people. Children and youth are over controlled. Kids don't care about nationalities and if someone is rich or poor. By the time they're 20 years old, crystal-clear eyes become tinted glasses. They're born free and grow up to be greedy. I'm a bad coach who can't talk all right. So, I must show how I fight although I'm not a good boxer and am one of the worst. It's not about skill to kill. It's about skill of will.

You're a disciplined man.

No, I'm not. I just know for sure that we all pay the price for everything we do, and we don't do. I'm already so spoiled and I should stop here. Enough is enough and I'm never tough enough.

You're really courageous to fight for people.

No. Zero courage. I just have no choice. If I join the herd of those who pretend they don't see injustice going on, I shouldn't live because then I'm harming children and the world. The moment I conform, it's the end.

What motivates you to keep fighting?

Those true fighters who are fighting poverty, disease, domestic violence, bullying, racism and all sorts of injustice. Someone needs to raise voices about voiceless children and defenseless people.

Why boxing?

I can't play piano or dance waltz.

Music, sports, business or anything you do has to have a very high purpose of changing the world to be a better place. Take action always. Great ideas and thoughts are nothing if there's no action. Men without a dream is a meatball.

What's your dream?

Peaceful world. We will 88% be there if everyone stops being selfish and start being kind to everyone. "Beauty and the Beast" is right. We are no longer a human if we are selfish and unkind. It wasn't only the prince who was spoiled and selfish but also the entire people working in that castle. They can be human again when they learn to love.

What is your plan to achieve that dream?

Project 10 (ten). I heard a few times that if Queen Elizabeth shares 10% of her wealth, the poverty in the world would be wiped out. As we've never heard a plan from them to do so, we must do it ourselves. Corporations, shops and individuals can save hungry children by giving 10% of profit. 1 or 2% is better than nothing. Paul Newman's Newman's Own" has been giving 100% profit and these billions of dollars for good cause have been accumulating.

Nelson Mandela said "Like slavery and apartheid, poverty is not natural. It is man-made and it can be overcome and eradicated by the actions of human beings.", politicians won't solve it because they made it and are running the system. Just like they're worsening the global warming instead of easing, they won't. Me, fighting all alone won't make a big difference but being able to save even one person is worth fighting.

Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth.

The world has full of hatred and wars.

Yes. As long as there're borders in people's minds, it won't end. They think it's all fine when they themselves are in the comfort zone.

The world won't be destroyed by dictators and tyrants. It will be by those "good people" who keep their mouths shut. Apathy is the public enemy number one.

I feel fire in your heart.

I can't stand cold. Cold hearts will bring along Ice Age to mankind. Poverty in the hearts is more scary.

Need one last word from you.

If you don't believe in yourself, there's no life.

