

## Publicity Material. 2004-02-19



### **Ethan Monnot Weisgard**

5th dan Aikikai

Ethan Monnot Weisgard was born in 1957 in New Milford, Connecticut. Resident of Denmark since 1969. Ethan is married to Midoriko Ichinosawa Weisgard, with two children, Nanami and Yuji. Ethan is fluent in the Japanese language and was an official interpreter when the late Saito Sensei held seminars in Europe. As well as being a professional Aikido instructor, Ethan works as a musician (drums/percussion), Japanese culture specialist and Japanese language transfer guide.

Ethan Monnot Weisgard has been a chief instructor in the Copenhagen Aikido Club in Denmark for 27 years, before starting his own dojo, Copenhagen Aiki Shuren Dojo in 2003. Ethan Monnot Weisgard began his Aikido training under Takeji Tomita Sensei

in 1976. Tomita Sensei is based in Stockholm Sweden and was a close student of Morihiro Saito Sensei's. Saito Sensei was a direct student of the Founder of Aikido, O-Sensei Morihei Ueshiba. Saito Sensei studied directly at the Founder's side in the Iwama Dojo for 24 years.

Ethan went to Iwama as uchi-deshi (direct live-in student) for the first time in 1984. At that time there were very few uchi-deshi and Ethan was privileged to receive much attention during his stay there from Saito Sensei. Ethan travelled frequently back to study with Saito Sensei, both as uchi-deshi as well as soto-deshi (direct student living close to the dojo).

After Ethans first trip to Iwama he started to study Japanese (a life-long pursuit, as in Aikido!), to be able to understand not only the details and technical points of his teacher, but also to be able to get to know him as a person as well. Saito Sensei shared his knowledge generously, not only in regards to Aikido but in so many other aspects of life as well. He was especially gracious in teaching about Japanese customs, etiquette and traditions.

Ethan Monnot Weisgard was appointed direct representative of Saito Sensei in Denmark.

Ethan has, from his time with the Copenhagen Aikido Club, acted as interpreter and personal assistant for Saito Sensei at seven international week-long summer camps in Denmark.

Ethan has taught Aikido in Denmark, Sweden, Italy, Germany, America, Russia and even in the homeland of Aikido: Japan. Ethan continues to practice intensively and travels frequently, conducting seminars throughout Europe