

# Netflix Orders Martial Arts Drama *Wu Assassins* Led by *Star Wars*' Iko Uwais

by Caitlin Leale on Jun 29, 2018



**Netflix** is expanding its programming slate once again, ordering *Wu Assassins*, a new martial arts drama starring Iko Uwais. The series will be a blend of several genres, involving a combination of martial arts, science fiction, crime thriller, and drama.

*Wu Assassins* will follow Uwais as the character Kai Jin, a Wu Assassin in San Francisco's Chinatown that is tasked with hunting down an old organized crime outfit to find justice and balance in the city. Joining Uwais as a co-star is Byron Mann, known for his roles in *Hell on Wheels*, *The Big Short*, and *The Expanse*.

The series order for *Wu Assassins* was announced on Friday via *Deadline*. Tony Krantz, John Wirth, and Nomadic Pictures have all joined forces to produce the series, whose first season will be comprised of 10 episodes. Stephen Fung, known for his Hong Kong

martial arts films such as the *House of Fury* and *The Adventures*, will direct the first two episodes of *Wu Assassins*. Producer Wirth will serve as both the writer and showrunner of the series as well. *Wu Assassins* is expected to begin production this summer on August 8.



While Uwais may be most recognizable to American audiences through his role as the Kanjiklub lieutenant Razoo Qin-Fee in *The Force Awakens*, the Indonesian actor is best known internationally for his work in the *The Raid* franchise as protagonist Rama. Yet Uwais is not only an actor. He is also known for his work as a fight choreographer, having choreographed the fight sequences in both *Raid* films (which are consistently praised for their battle choreography), and the upcoming Mark Wahlberg film *Mile 22*.

In May, Netflix officially became the most valuable media company in the entire world, surpassing Disney in the stock market. As such, they've been able to attract a wealth of creative talent to create more and more original programming as a result, including Barack and Michelle Obama. That deal comes as Netflix works on emphasizing the diversity of its programming slate, taking on more and more ambitious, convention-breaking projects such as the timely sitcom *One Day at a Time* or brash political comedy *Dear White People*. Centered as it is on Indonesian lead Uwais, *Wu Assassins* could end up being yet another example of how Netflix is challenging the status quo, and growing its original programming sector beyond Hollywood norms.