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In the world of sports-entertainment, there are Superstars and there are icons... and then there are pioneers. Ed Farhat, known around the world as the Sheik, is one of those people, and for this he is recognized as a WWE Hall of Famer. Most fans would think that the extreme, hardcore style of wrestling that is prevalent today was conceptualized in the 1990s by Paul Heyman and ECW. Frankly, ECW only brought it back to the fore, as throughout its nearly 50-year career, the Pioneering Sheian revolutionized and made his hardcore style popular. No object was too foreign, and no tactic was too dishonest for the Sheik, who used sharp pencils and flying fireballs like some of his best offensive weapons. He ended his opponents with the feared Camel Clutch, a hold that was later used by another Hall of Famer, The Iron Sheik, as well as Farhat's nephew Sabu. Beneath that exterior, however, Farhat had the athletic ability to sustain his unique skill set. He was a high school football star player in Michigan, going on to play for the University of Michigan. After serving in the United States Army during World War II, Farhat began his career in sports-entertainment, making light of his Lebanese heritage and renaming himself as the Sheik. This was the beginning of a journey that saw him intersect with numerous Hall of Famers over the next half century. The sheian spent much of his career in the Midwest, making his greatest fame in his home state of Michigan. His brutal rivalry with his Team-Mates in the Hall of Famer Bobo Brazil lasted more than three decades, becoming one of the most legendary rivalries in the history of sports-entertainment. The sheid also had another historic rivalry with Freddie Blassie, as the two men bled out all over Los Angeles in a rivalry that included numerous Steel Cage Matches. In addition to his work in the ring, Sheik was the main promoter of the Detroit Big Time Fight in 1960 and 1970. While far from Detroit, the Sheian had two periods in WWE in the 1960s. In his first race, Sheic and partner Johnny Valentine had a memorable rivalry with Antonino Rocca & Miguel Perez. Later, in the 1960s, the Sheic returned to begin a heated rivalry with WWE champion Bruno Sammartino, but was never able to snatch gold from the popular champion, despite several attempts in front of the sold crowds, the Sheic also spent time in Japan and Canada, where he was undefeated for 127 matches in the Maple Leaf Gardens in Toronto; several Hall of Famers were victims of the Sheic during this period until it was completed in 1974 by the legendary Andre the Giant. In Japan, the Sheian fought and teamed up with his colleague Abdullah the Butcher; the two were a lethal combination when together, engaging in a bloody and memorable war with Terry & Dory Funk in the late 1970s. In the 1980s and early 1990s, The Michigan state, content to move on to its hardcore legacy by training more future superstars. Among them were nephew Sabu and Rob Van Dam, as well as the son of his former partner, WWE Hall of Famer Greg The Hammer Valentine, and his U-mate de M-aun Scott Steiner. Sabu modeled his style in the powerful ring after that of his uncle, and he and Van Dam were two of the cornerstone talents that brought ECW and extreme style into the spotlight. The sheid continued to fight occasionally, too, and even spend some time in ECW himself. Along with Pat Tanaka, the Sheik had several classic matches in 1994 with Kevin Sullivan and Tazz, who later became one of his nephew's biggest rivals. Finally, in 1998, the Sheic closed his boots after nearly 50 years in the ring, fighting in his last game in Japan at the age of 74. Throughout his career, he was as quiet as he was dangerous. The sheian never spoke, leaving his managers (who included fellow Hall of Famer the Great Wizard) to speak. Unfortunately, while in the middle of writing his autobiography, Farhat died in 2003. When he was inducted into the WWE Hall of Fame in 2007 by Sabu and Van Dam, Farhat's plaque was received by his wife, Joyce. The sheid was extreme before most fans knew what that term really meant, and the reckless style that breaks the rules, which he conceived, will forever be a part of the evolution of sports-entertainment. Ed Farhat's legacy will always live through this contribution, and people have trained for battle in the square circle. His legacy will forever be memorialized as part of the WWE Hall of Fame. I was excited to check out this documentary for a while, and this week I finally unleashed on the world through Vimeo. As soon as I found out I bet I bought the movie and watched it right away. This documentary is about former wrestler and current social media superstar Khosrow Vaziri aka the Iron Sheik. He is someone I was a fan of because as far as back after I remember, not only as a wrestler, but through his crazy Youtube videos and Twitter account. In the early days when I was a child, my family watched fights, thanks to my grandparents who loved her. In fact, I found out that in previous years it would actually go to shows! During these early years my father, who I'm sure is a very closeted fan would cheer for the Iron Sheik and Nikolai Volkoff. Such a fan was he, when we would all sit down to watch Raw (back during 2001), he would say Marcella this is stupid, the wrestler here are not good, the best were the Iranian sheic and Russian and he would then remember how they used to skipped the crowd by singing their hymns and carrying flags and how Freddie Blassie would help them win by cheating. You might add my father certainly loved strangers, the Sheik and Volkoff have always been the best Tajiri when he made his WWE debut had his name right next to theirs. So, you can see, I had a long history with the Iron Shei, could I not love the man my father declared one of the best? In fact, in those days I hired the old WWE show so I could watch Iron Sheik and Volkoff and I could connect with my dad over the thing I loved so much. Of course, I've always followed the Sheich and I've read about and seen (on his YouTube videos) his many ups and downs and how obvious he was he was suffering severely from substance abuse. It was sad to see, and this documentary actually covers everything and shows us that the man with so many demons and so many swear words is actually in a much better place now and he no longer uses it. This film documents Khosrow Vaziri from his early days in Iran, and he was an amateur fighter then and one of the best (he wont let you forget either haha). He actually served as bodyguard for Shah of Iran and because of events then, he decides to leave Iran and head towards America. He was here he actually woke up as a wrestling coach for the U.S. team! So he made things work, and soon he caught Verne Gagne's attention and turned to Professional Wrestling. He was a beast in the look and he certainly had it factor, and JR said that he possibly didn't get higher then because he wasn't the bully. But things changed when the iron-shen's trick came along, and he was the bad guy. The timing was perfect and he was the final heel. For those in know, they don't need me to say where things have led up, but just in case... He became world champion after Bob Backlund chose him to lose. Which led to Hulk Hogan beating the Sheik for the belt. These early days are very interesting to hear about, there are a lot of stories I didn't actually know about and the Sheic really did handle himself pretty well. It's true that if Hogan hadn't dropped his belt, things would have been quite different. The documentary also shows sheeic at the convention and seeing all the elders, and his face lights up with everyone, and their faces light up too. It's actually incredible to see the report he has with Hulk Hogan someone who on YouTube he doesn't have anything nice to say (but he plays a character). And incase you were wondering, this doco covers the drug bust with The Sheik and Hacksaw and I heard from both about it. She doesn't shy away from anything, and I think she does this one you have to see documentary. She doesn't show and go through some very dark days with the Sheic, where he's at his lowest, no money and drug addict, who really came to a head when his daughter Marissa was Despite helping him definitely struggle getting better, but eventually, after losing everything (including his wife), he starts fighting and begins the journey to get his back and have a family. Through social media (Twitter and YouTube), he becomes famous again, people have rediscovered him or discovered him and now he has so many more fans. He created a character that people love and find funny and was allowed to redirect that negative energy into something positive. In recent years you can see the profound change this had on him, he is happy! This is a rollercoaster of a ride, you will laugh and cry and want to give the Sheic a big hug by the end of it. The film is said extremely well, and is done with such passion you can feel it. There are interviews, of course, with the Sheik, but also Rock (hear the origins of the Jabrons), Mick Foley, Jake Roberts Nikolai Volkoff, Jim Ross and many more. For fans of the fight, sheic fans and people who love documentaries this is an SEE MUST! Rating: You can watch the Sheikh at this link Edward Farhat, best known as the Sheikh (or Original Sheik to differentiate from the Iron Sheik) died at the age of 76 of heart failure. Photo: Myspace When wrestling's roll call of villains is done, it is unlikely that they will be someone as fierce or as brutal as Ed Farhat, better known as the Sheic. The sheid made his opponents bleed night after night and made many of his opponents with his feared use of fire. While the shen's been operating in Detroit, he worked on a number of promotions. Unfortunately, his wild matches sometimes led to fast runs before he was shown the door. However, Farhat is considered one of the highest wrestling heels. Later in his career: The sheian with his nephew Sabu Edward Farhat fought in the golden age of struggle in the 1950s. Fans familiar with the bloody and brutal sheikh of the 60s and 70s could be surprised by the early sheik persona. As the sheist of Arabia, he portrayed more of the rich lysarab stereotype and fought, as well as sold for opponents. While he was still a rulebreaker, he spoke in a mysterious foreign language and fans infuriated with his actions in the ring, as well as his mistreatment of the slave. However, it was like the sheistthat Farhat became one of his wrestling icons. The sheid was nothing less than a savage, who struck his meaningless opponents with everything, but the fights have. He drowned, bit, shook his eyes. Inevitably, the Sheian produced a foreign object to open his opponent, leaving him a bloody mess. With his opponent ready for a trip to the emergency room, the Sheik locked them in his camel clutch, torturing them more and angering the fans even more. The other Mecca of Wrestling In 1964, Farhat bought the Detroit territory of National Wrestling from Jim Barnett. The promotion became known as Big Time Wrestling, with Farhat working on the territory as the main event of the promotion for 16 years. The sheian struggled with a who's who of babyface while fans looked forward to seeing who could defeat the sheist. The cabo hall of the promotion was the Mecca of the fight, the youei defending the United States Championship against various opponents. The sheian fought many of the most popular children's faces of the battle, but his conflict with Bobo Brazil was undoubtedly the greatest. The fight lasted for decades and he saw the two bleed enough plasma to keep the Red Cross running for months. Sheik and Streak The sheist's fame and drawing power were not limited to his promotion in Detroit. The sheian enters the ring at Maple Leaf Gradens in Toronto. Photo: @maple_leaf_wrestling_archives/Instagram Farhat enjoyed an extremely successful show in Frank's Territory Maple Leaf Wrestling, 150 performances main events from 1967 to 1974, including an undefeated series that ran over 100 matches. Each show attracted 10,000 or more fans, some other shows usually failed to do if the Sheic was not the main event. The drawing power of the sheist was based on the desire of the fans to finally see someone following the punishment they deserved. However, fans eventually had enough of the domination of the Jews, especially after Andre the Giant was brought in to end his reign of terror. To fans complete shock, the sheian defeated Andre thanks to the help of his mysterious ability to throw fire. Fans soured on the sheisafterwards afterwards, and the house's stakes collapsed. The sheis: He is not for everyone Edward Farhat transcended from a wrestling villain in, arguably, the most offended figure in the ring during the 60s and 70s. He lived the character in and out of the ring, and was known for slicing and dictating any fan stupid enough to confront him. Legend has it that the shen-like man held razor blades under his fingernails, allowing him to send whatever an attacker was. Outside the ring, the sheid was loved or hated by his colleagues. He was notorious for short-shifting fighters and employees on pay-outs, but he could also be a generous benefactor to a friend in need. The former Harley Race world heavyweight champion remembers giving him funds when he was set up for months following a near-fatal car accident. The sheid was also accused of not selling for opponents, always wanting to put himself on the spot. Teamwork: The sheik and his nephew, Sabu, terrorize Terry Funk with an open flame The sheist's violent and brutal style was not for everyone. The sheid found himself banned in New York after his penchant for chaos proved too much. Sam Muchnick's St. Louis Wrestling territory brought the Sheik for a match and that turned out to be a too much regarding the more traditional muchnick-based was concerned. The sheid was never called back to St. Louis. Although there are different views about Ed Farhat, few will dispute the design of the and well-deserved reputation as one of the most successful wrestling heels. His matches were usually short, violent, and he showed little fights. However, he knew to incite an audience and make people buy tickets to see him get his comeuppance. Legend continues the territory of the Detroit Sheis finally closed, as business fell with tiring fans of the Sheic's aging as the main promotional event, and the Sheic does not build new stars. However, the legend of the sheist continued. The saddle with Kevin Sullivan. Photo: reddit When Jim Crockett Promotions ran his Great American Bash in Detroit in 1988, the Sheik was invited to team up with Dusty Rhodes against Kevin Sullivan and Dick Murdoch. The show was an incredible success. In 1990, Japanese-based, ultra-violent Frontier Martial Arts Wrestling promotion, flew into the Sheic (now in his 70s) to participate in his violent over-the-top matches. The sheid received an elaborate retirement ceremony in Japan, a country where he proved a top draw. The sheist's work earned him numerous honors, including induction into the WWE Hall of Fame in 2007, the Pro Wrestling Hall of Fame and the Museum, and the Wrestling Observer Newsletter Hall of Fame. The Sheik Death On January 18, 2003, Edward Farhat died at the age of 76 from heart failure. Several publications, including the NY Times, note that Farhat was 78 at the time of his passing, but his serious stone disputes this: the tomb of the bishop in Williamston, Michigan. Photo: Terri vance Weston Farhat is buried at Mount Calvary Catholic Cemetery in Williamston, Michigan. He survived his wife Joyce, sons Edward and Thomas, and four grandchildren. What are your favorite memories of the Sheic? Leave them in the comments section below. Under.

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