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The Cutting Edge

The Society of American Fight Directors

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The Society of American Fight Directors

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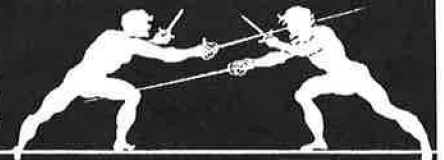


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The Cutting Edge

Newsletter for the Society of American Fight Directors

Volume III, Number 4 ♦ July/August 1992



F Y I

ACTOR/COMBATANT AND TEACHER REPS WANTED

To give a stronger voice to all SAFD members, the officers voted to invite representatives from the actor/combatants and certified teachers to participate in the annual officers' meetings.

These representatives will be nominated and elected by their peers. Nominations and election will take place in upcoming issues of the *Cutting Edge*. If an elected rep. is unable to attend the officers' meetings, he or she may appoint a surrogate.

WINDS OF CHANGE

After coordinating nine (count 'em, nine!) National Stage Combat Workshops, David Leong is stepping down as workshop coordinator. He will, however, coordinate the 1994 NSCW to ease the transition.

"I am pleased to announce that Dan Carter has agreed to take over as workshop coordinator," reports David.

A certified teacher based in Florida, Dan is a familiar face at the NSCW, having either attended or assisted at nine of them. Most recently, Dan was head assistant at the '92 NSCW.

Because of this appointment, Dan has withdrawn his name as a candidate for vice president in the coming election. (For more on the election, see page two.)

You heard it here first: Results of 1992 SAFD Officers' Meetings

EACH YEAR FOR SEVERAL DAYS prior to the start of the National Stage Combat Workshop, the SAFD officers hold their annual meeting to address issues of importance to the group.

Deadlines for Teachers

Last year the officers imposed a limit on non-certified teachers, allowing them three years from the date of their first fight test to seek certification as teachers. If, in that time, the teacher has not certified, the SAFD will no longer adjudicate his or her students.

That regulation was expanded this year to include schools and organizations. Organizations employing non-certified fight masters or teachers have a grace period of three years from their next fight test. After that, the organization in question must employ a SAFD-certified teacher or fight master to teach stage combat if they wish the SAFD to adjudicate their students.

Minimum Class Hours

To improve the quality of stage combat instruction and cut down on crash-course fight tests, the SAFD now requires a minimum of 80 student contact hours to qualify for an actor/combatant proficiency test class.

Resumés

For too long, too many people have misrepresented their standing in the SAFD. To combat this, the SAFD has established an official policy for presenting one's qualifications on resumés. If reference to the SAFD is made, the status currently held must be stated, including the year of tested. This information must be on the same line (in the same sentence) that the SAFD reference occurs.

For example, a reference to being recommended by the SAFD must

contain—within the line of that acknowledgment—the nature of the category in



which one is recommended. For example:

Recognized actor/combatant by the SAFD, 1992

Recommended actor/combatant by the SAFD, 1992

Certified as a teacher by the SAFD, 1992

Red Cross First Aid Certification

This year's Teacher Training workshop included Red Cross first aid certification. It was such a success that the officers voted to make this a mandatory requirement for teacher certification and recertification.

Teacher Certification

Each year due to career-related activities, there are members who, although they wish to become certified teachers, are unable to attend the Teacher Training Workshop.

—Continued on page three

92 ELECTION



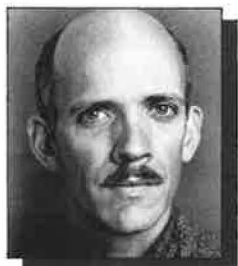
Drew Fracher
Candidate for President

As vice president for two terms, I feel very much aware of the demands of

the office of president and I can assure you all that I am ready to give it my best shot.

Further, building communication within the organization, empowerment of the rank and file in the workings of the SAFD, and continued expansion of the SAFD's voice on all levels of the industry, both professional and academic; these are issues that must be pushed ahead in the next three years.

With your confidence and support I will do the best I can to listen and respond and carry the torch. Thank you all. Peace.



J. Allen Suddeth
Candidate for President

The SAFD is increasingly respected in professional and academic arenas. This

recognition comes from hard work and from setting and sticking to our guidelines.

During my tenure as president, I have worked to solidify our image nationwide through publications, scholarships, lectures, creating an advanced workshop, the Patrick Crean library, and a board of directors.

I would be honored to continue this important work to further develop these professional relationships and to represent the members.



John Robert Beardsley
Candidate for Vice President

As vice president, I would first pledge my support for

the SAFD president and his endeavors — to help him and the membership realize goals and aspirations, including:

- ◆ help regional representatives and certified teachers to achieve a stronger involvement in the SAFD.
- ◆ a stronger voice for all members, especially women.
- ◆ continued growth of library and efforts to find a place to house it.
- ◆ encouraging grant applications
- ◆ communicate and encourage the SAFD to mobilize thru computers
- ◆ look for ways to establish stage combat as a recognized art form.

I pledge to serve all, to work with an open mind, to help create a code of ethics that will establish a closer relationship between all members, regardless of classification.



Michael G. Chin
Candidate for Vice President

I was first certified as an actor/combatant in 1988 at the NSCW in Memphis.

Since then I have journeyed or served as a teacher's assistant in

three successive workshops.

I feel that the practical knowledge and experience that I gained about the workings of the SAFD over these past years are a valuable asset. And I think that I have a lot to offer this organization.



Susan Eviston
Candidate for Vice President

Susan is on the theatre faculty at Northern Kentucky University.

With the SAFD, she is a certified teacher, regional representative for the Ohio/Kentucky area and the director of promotional products.

Professionally, her choreography has been seen at a number of universities and regional theatres around the country. Her most recent work was seen at Actor's Theatre of Louisville, where she choreographed two of the Humana Festival productions, including Marsha Norman's new play, *D. Boone*.



Steve Vaughan
Candidate for Vice President

The reason I became involved with the SAFD is that I believe

in its fundamental concepts. The only way to promote these concepts is to continue to grow, maintaining our high standards of quality.

As vice president, I will endeavor to maintain these goals through hard work and dedication to our founders and policy makers.

SAFD Regional Workshops

BECAUSE OF THE SUCCESS of the National Stage Combat Workshops, there have been frequent inquiries about the possibility of SAFD-sponsored regional workshops.

This year the officers set guidelines for such workshops. Policy for SAFD-endorsed regional workshops is as follows:

1. Only an SAFD-certified fight master may sponsor an SAFD regional workshop.
2. Regional workshops must employ a minimum of one fight master and one certified teacher.
3. Only certified fight masters and certified teachers may teach at an SAFD regional workshop.
4. Anyone wishing to produce a regional workshop must submit an application which includes the following to the officers (copies sent to the president, vice president and secretary/treasurer):
 - a) Workshop dates/location
 - b) Teachers
 - c) General curriculum
 - d) Estimated number students
5. If the application is accepted, the vice president will notify the applicant.
6. Each workshop will provide the SAFD treasurer with a preliminary budget (before the workshop) and a final budget (after the workshop).
7. The SAFD will provide free advertising in the *Fight Master* and *Cutting Edge* and a graphic layout for a flyer.
8. Each workshop will pay the SAFD 10% of the net profits for the use of the name.
9. The SAFD assumes no responsibility for debts or losses incurred by a regional workshop.



T H E C U T T I N G E D G E



Gillian Bagwell played the title role in "The Marklianne Johnston Story" segment of *America Behind Closed Doors* August 6 on CBS.

James N. Brown has kept busy at FSU during the past year, staging fights for *Macbeth*, *Loot*, *Catch 22*, and *The Real Inspector Hound*. He also taught a stage combat course under **Dan Carter's** supervision and assisted Dan with a University of Alabama adjudication class.

David Leong was co-director for *A Comedy of Errors* at the Delacorte Theatre in New York this summer.

Steven Levine staged the violence for *Brilliant Traces* at the Trustus Theatre in South Carolina. In October Steve begins classes at the Dell Arte School of Physical Theatre, which feature a great curriculum in which, he notes, stage combat is conspicuously absent. So SAFD travelers to the Southeast are invited to call Steve and save him from fighting with himself all year.

Richard Buckingham-Clark reports in from Tuscany in Italy, where he is choreographing and performing in *Don Quixote*.



SAFD PRESIDENT (three-year term)

- Drew Fracher
- J. Allen Suddeth

SAFD VICE PRESIDENT (three-year term)

- J. R. Beardsley
- Michael G. Chin
- Susan Eviston
- Steve Vaughan

Voter's Name _____

Send ballots to:

Jeff Koep, Chairman
SAFD Board of Directors
Department of Theatre Arts
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
4505 South Maryland Parkway
Las Vegas, Nevada 89154-5044

All ballots must be received by September 30, 1992.

Election results will be announced in the next issue of the *Cutting Edge*.

Terms of office begin January of 1993.

SAFD Officers' Meetings: Results

—Continued from page one

This year, the officers specified a process for certifying teachers outside the auspices of the TTW. Changes was made in the Policies and Procedures of the SAFD.

Briefly, teacher candidates send a letter of intent to the vice president, detailing the reasons that the candidate is unable to attend the summer TTW (while we're on the subject, the next TTW will be the summer of 1994).

The vice president accepts or rejects the application of the candidate. If accepted, the candidate will be given a list of fight masters from which he or she chooses two to act as adjudicators.

The two fight masters will observe the candidate's teaching skills both in person and through videotape. The candidate will prepare an actor/

combatant fight test incorporating required moves. And there's a ninety-minute written exam. And, just to add to the jollification, there's also an oral exam/interview. Sounds like fun, doesn't it?

Any member interested in pursuing teacher certification via this method is advised to contact the secretary/treasurer (who else?) at 1-800-659-6579 for more specific details on this entire procedure, including costs, and testing requirements.

American College Theatre Festival

To further heighten awareness and visibility of the SAFD, it was agreed to continue offering a scholarship to the NSCW through the American College Theatre Festival.



The Cutting Edge

is concocted bimonthly by Margaret and Richard Raether with sporadic help from Brian Anderson.

The Cutting Edge is a publication of the Society of American Fight Directors

Submissions should be sent to:
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