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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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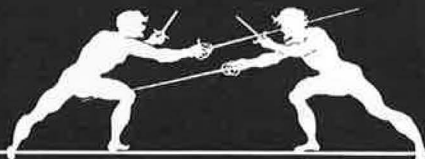


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The Cutting Edge

Newsletter for the Society of American Fight Directors

Volume IV, Number 4 • July/August 1993



NEW CERTIFIED TEACHERS!

Congratulations to Michael Chin, Larry Henderson and Michael Kirkland who have just certified as teachers, bringing the total of SAFD certified teachers to 39.

LOOKING TO 1994

Now that the 1993 NSCW is almost a month in the past, it's time to get cooking on 1994. (You weren't planning on any down time, were you? Of course not.)

The 1994 NSCW will again be at UNLV, July 11-29. The Actor/Combatant Workshop (ACW) will accept a maximum of 40 students; the Advanced Actor/Combatant Workshop (AACW) is limited to 16 students. Richard Raether will be workshop coordinator and Linda McCollum as on-site coordinator.

Certified teachers interested in assisting and actor/combatants interested in being journeypeople, please send a letter and resume to:

1834 Camp Ave.
Rockford, IL 61103

DIRECTORY UPDATE

Certified Teacher Dexter Fidler can now be reached at:
635 Judah St.
San Francisco, CA 94122
(415) 564-6040

LAUNDRY

In the May/June *Cutting Edge* Mark Guinn was mistakenly given credit for the fights in *Blue Jacket*. Randy Bailly choreographed those fights. Sorry, Randy.

Metropolitan Opera seeking 21 actor/combatants for *First Crusade*

THE METROPOLITAN OPERA NEEDS twenty one actor combatants! Charles Conwell will be directing the battle in Verdi's *The Lombards at the First Crusade* at the Metropolitan Opera this season. Luciano Pavarotti will star, under the direction of Mark Lamon and James Levine.

Auditions will be in September with rehearsals from Oct. 28-Nov. 29 and again on January 3 and 4. Performances are Dec. 2, 6, 11, 14, 17, 21, and January 7, 12, 15, 20.

Interested actor combatants should send a picture and resume to:

Charles Conwell
112 Merlin Rd.
Phoenixville, PA 19460

No phone calls please.



THE WORD FROM YOUR MEMBERSHIP REPS.

Actor/Combatants

SAFD ACTOR/Combatants: Did you know you have a national SAFD Actor/Combatant Representative, and I am she?

From 1993-1995 you may bring me any silly or serious questions, weighty or minor concerns, and brilliant or very brilliant inspirations regarding the SAFD and its actor/combatants. I will answer your questions where possible or direct you to those who can. I will also communicate your concerns, etc. to the SAFD officers during the course of the year, and especially at the annual meeting.

You also have a regional representative



Ricki G. Ravitts, A/C Rep.



Certified Teachers

CALLING all certified teachers. Many thanks for the responses I have received. I am processing the information gathered at the NSCW pertaining to concerns that were brought up.

After Drew and I have had a chance to talk, I will be forwarding that information to you all. Please continue to use me as your liaison to the fight masters. I want to hear about anything you have to say. This dialogue is important; it gives all a voice and your input is much needed. Again, thanks.



Geoff Alm, Teacher Rep.

Geoffrey Alm.

Continued on pg. 3

Profile

CERTIFIED TEACHER

DALE GIRARD

"I was right out of high school when I got hired to play a barbarian at the Colorado Renaissance Festival," recalls Certified Teacher Dale Girard. "They handed me a broadsword and turned me loose."

That was Dale's introduction to swordplay. However, he had heard of the Society of American Fight Directors at a high school thespian festival where David Leong conducted a workshop.

A football player in high school, Dale was set on a career as a high school drama teacher and went to college with a major in drama education. He also settled into a regular summer job as a broadsword-wielding barbarian.

However, during his second summer another barbarian split Dale's face open with a sword. He still bears a faint horizontal scar. Not surprisingly, this event proved thought-provoking and Dale ended up writing a letter to David Boushey saying he understood there was some kind of SAFD workshop where you could learn about fighting without getting hurt. "Why, yes there is..." replied David.

"... during his second summer, another barbarian split Dale's face open with a sword. ... Not surprisingly, this event proved thought-provoking."

Shortly following his twentieth birthday, Dale found himself at Salem State College attending the 1984 NSCW. He fell in love with stage combat, which combined his enthusiasms for physical action and the theatre.

Another after-effect of the face-splitting incident was Dale's formation of his own company, On Edge Productions, originally

organized to supply trained fighters and ready-to-go fight shows to renfests across the country.

"Essentially, I put myself through college working the renfest circuit each summer," remarks Dale.

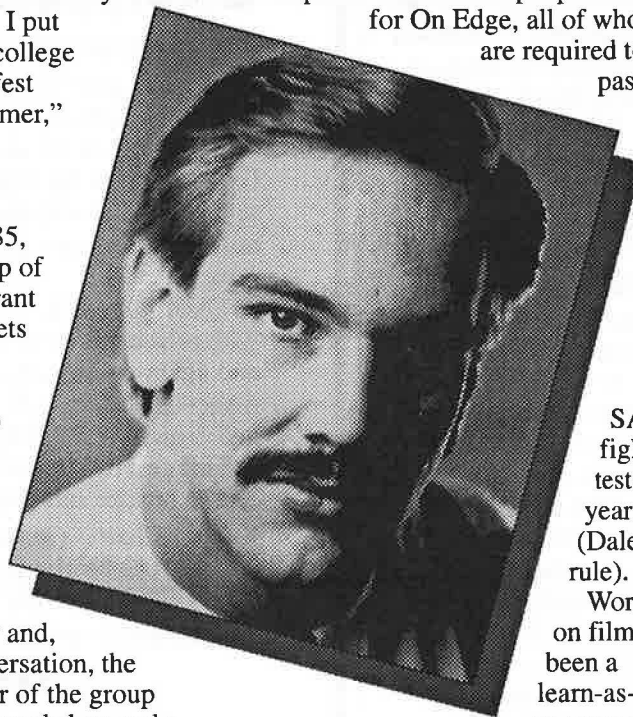
In Boulder conducting a workshop in 1985, Dale saw a group of guys in a restaurant all wearing jackets that said *The Physical Effects Group*. "I had to find out what it was all about," he laughs. They turned out to be stuntmen based in Denver and, after some conversation, the stunt coordinator of the group attended Dale's workshop and a quid-pro-quo relationship quickly evolved with Dale tutoring the stuntmen in swordplay and learning stuntwork from them.

As he began to learn the ropes, Dale began getting more film work. "Lots of Grade Z

marital arts films that no one's ever heard of, at first" he recalls. But more recently, Dale's worked on the *Father Dowling Mysteries* series and several of the *Perry Mason* films and he now has some SAG credits as fight arranger under his belt.

These days, On Edge specializes in action entertainment ("cartoon violence" says Dale) geared to a family audience. They

send out a western extravaganza, a Zorro show, and a Key-stone Cops slapstick show. Nine people work for On Edge, all of whom are required to pass an



SAFD fight test each year (Dale's rule).

Working on film has been a learn-as-you-go apprenticeship for Dale, who now does burn

work and high falls. He's also acquired a fund of stories. There was the time he was filming a brawl and the principal actor broke a chair across Dale's back. In his excitement, the actor in question forgot to wait for the balsawood chair to be substituted for the real McCoy. Which explains why the chair didn't break. That's okay, it broke the second time he smashed it down on Dale.

Dale is now the Colorado regional rep. for United Stuntmen's Association (David Boushey's group) and teaches high falls and various other stunt techniques, as well as swordplay and unarmed. As for his plans to teach high school drama, they derailed after a disillusioning bout of student teaching. After all, perhaps that was too tame a career for an ex-barbarian.

Ravitts letter/cont'd

Continued from pg. 1

(usually an SAFD certified teacher).

These teachers are a resource of vast knowledge and experience, and they like to share what they know. Contact them; talk to them.

You can participate in committees to further the work and goals of the SAFD. If you are interested, contact me or the committee chair listed below. This is a wonderful way to learn about the society from the inside and to meet some very talented and dedicated members. Take advantage.

Ethics Committee - Larry Henderson

750 Rand Ave. #4
Oakland, CA 94610
(510) 444-2949

Library - Linda McCollum

4505 Maryland Parkway
Las Vegas, NV 89154-5044
(702) 895-3662

Grants - Gregory Hoffman

171 Pier Ave #257
Santa Monica CA 90405
(310) 396-8389

Donations -

Jamie Cheatham

230 W. 79th St #1A
New York, NY 10024
(212) 724-9502

Computers -

David Doersch

4724 12th Ave South
Minneapolis, MN 55407
(612) 823-8028

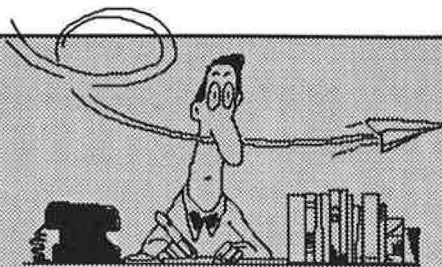
Regional Workshops -

Bob MacDougal

PO Box 23078
Seattle, WA 98102
(206) 522-2201

Actor/Combatant Rep. is a new position, so we have the chance to explore and create what works best for us. I look forward to hearing from you by phone or mail or in person as we try to figure it out together.

Ricki Ravitts
2350 Broadway #423
NY, NY 10024
(212) 874-7408



Las Vegas, Nevada • July 10, 1993

Drew Fracher, President
Susan Eviston, Vice President
Richard Raether, Secretary/Treasurer

Fight Masters present: J. R. Beardsley,
Erik Fredricksen, J.D. Martinez, and
Christopher Villa

A Bigger and Better SAFD

The SAFD is growing steadily with over 350 active members and 45 training programs currently offering the SAFD proficiency skills test. Despite increased spending in recent years (weapons purchase, etc.) the treasury remains healthy.

The Patrick Crean Collection

The library committee reports progress. They hope to have a home for the library by next summer.

New Fight Test Regulations

To keep closer tabs on the hours of instruction and syllabus of combat classes being adjudicated, the following was added to Policies & Procedures:

8.02

M) The instructor will send the adjudicator a letter of agreement that will include date and time of the test, travel arrangements, fee and per diem, plus the number of hours the students have spent with the instructor prior to the test and the dates of the training.

Testing in a Single Weapon

To encourage continued studying and testing in new weapons, the SAFD has added the following to the fight test rules and regulations:

a) Combatants who have a *current* SAFD actor combatant certificate may test in individual weapons without including unarmed and rapier and dagger. The combatant must show the adjudicator current actor/combatant certificate at the time of the test.

1993 SAFD OFFICERS' MEETINGS

THE MINUTES OF THE OFFICIAL BIZ.
AS REPORTED BY THE SECRETARY

Retesting at the NSCW

The NSCW may be used as part of the retesting process, with the following addition to policies & procedures:

9.02 Students who have previously passed a skills proficiency test may use the ACW or the AACW as a retesting workshop to renew their actor combatant status in rapier and dagger and unarmed.

A) Students who have previously passed a skills proficiency test and use their class work to re-up in rapier and dagger and unarmed may test in optional weapons without rapier & dagger and unarmed in their scene.

New Requirements for Teachers

All certified teachers must have a current Red Cross Certification. This also applies to teachers who are up for recertification.

The Actor/Combatant Rep.

Newly elected actor/combatant rep Ricki Ravitts commended the SAFD's efforts to encourage female actor/combattants, teachers and choreographers. She requested more focus on the specific style of fighting most women are asked to perform on stage (generally realistic and dirty - often difficult and dangerous).

Registering Complaints

As a means for anyone to register a grievance against a member of the SAFD, the officers have initiated the following policy. The officers stand ready to investigate any professional misconduct by any of its' members.

6.03 The following is the system for registering complaints or grievances against any member of the SAFD.

A) A written grievance regarding any SAFD member may be submitted to any officer, membership representative, regional rep., or fight master.

Continued on page 4

Minutes from 1993 Officers' Meetings

- B) If no resolution is possible through dialogue, a written grievance will be submitted to the officers with name, date, and signature of complainant.
- C) The officers will notify the accused of the complaint and investigate the grievance from all perspectives.
- D) Given reasonable cause as a result of the investigation, officers will have the grievance (in writing with a name, date and signature) submitted to a quorum of fight masters.
- E) The quorum of fight masters may, by a majority vote:
1. Dismiss the grievance if they feel it is unfounded or unsubstantiated.
 2. Reprimand the accused.
3. Censure the accused.
4. Call for a vote of expulsion.
- F) Expulsion may be done only by a unanimous vote of all current fight masters, with the exception of the accused.

*Richard Raether
Secretary-Treasurer*

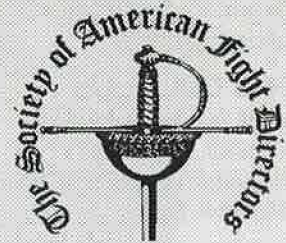


The Cutting Edge

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Submissions should be sent to:
Richard Raether
1834 Camp Avenue
Rockford, IL 61103



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