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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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The Cutting Edge

Newsletter for the Society of American Fight Directors

Volume V, Number 2 March/April 1994



F Y I

CERTIFIED TEACHERS

Check your certificates; if you are certified or recertified in 1991, it is time for you to apply for recertification by sending to the vice president:

- A. A letter of intention.
- B. A \$50 non-refundable fee.
- C. An updated resume showing that the teacher has continued to work and hone his/her skills.
- D. Information on (and results of) any and all actor/combatant proficiency skills tests they have held during the three years, including adjudicator and date.

OR

A half-inch VHS video (unedited) from a stationary camera of the candidate teaching two students fight choreography from actor/combatant proficiency skills tests of their own (not to exceed seven minutes).

OR

A written evaluation from a fight master who has seen said choreography live.

A certified teacher who fails to renew every three years will have that certification revoked. Send your recertification materials to:

Susan Eviston
7411 Moredale Rd
Louisville, KY 40222

BEARDSLEY HAS MOVED

His new address and phone are:
P.O. Box 891
Inverness, CA 94937
(415) 669-1710

NSCW UPDATE

Assistants and journeypersons for the 1994 NSCW have been selected. Those who did not receive a letter of agreement are on the backup list in the event that anyone drops out.

SAFD t-shirts and caps on sale now!

WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE that Barbara Burgess has taken over the job of Director of SAFD Promotional Products.

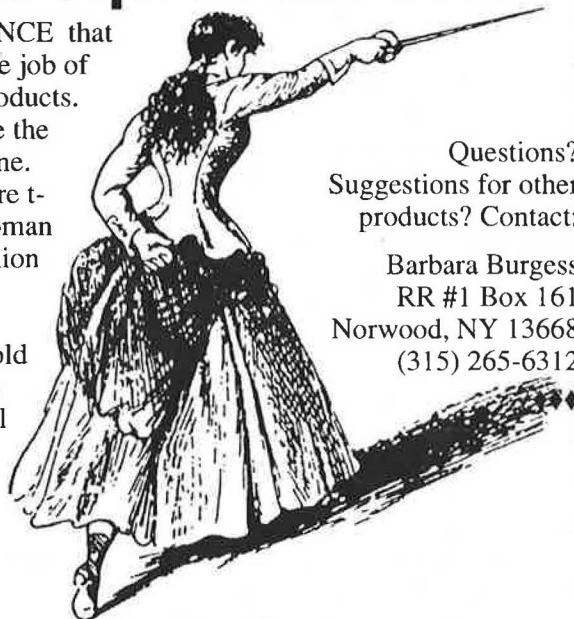
Barbara is working to improve the quality and increase the product line. Brand new at the company store are t-shirts and tank tops featuring a woman duelist. This is the perfect companion to the popular Angelo shirts.

The SAFD cap now sports an embroidered logo rather than the old silk screen style, and Barbara says that SAFD coffee cups and enamel pins will be available soon.

"Where can I get mine?" you ask. Fill out the order form on page four and update your SAFD wardrobe!

Questions?
Suggestions for other products? Contact:

Barbara Burgess
RR #1 Box 161
Norwood, NY 13668
(315) 265-6312



Performers needed at Camelot

CAMELOT, A NEW 582 ACRE entertainment complex and resort, will open July 2, 1994. It is located ten miles south of Branson, Missouri in the beautiful Table Rock Lake area. So where does the SAFD fit in?

SAFD member Martin English is the Director of Entertainment at Camelot. He wants SAFD members to know that Camelot is seeking full time and part-time employees of all kinds including: actor combatants, joustiers (training available), various stage acts, and street performers.

Camelot is much more than a Renaissance Festival. When

completed it will include a 3,000 seat indoor jousting arena, a 7,000 seat outdoor amphitheater, a replica of the Globe Theatre, apartments, RV park, resort hotel, an equestrian center and golf course. Please send picture and resume to:

Martin English
Camelot
HCR1, Box 78
Blue Eye, MO 65611

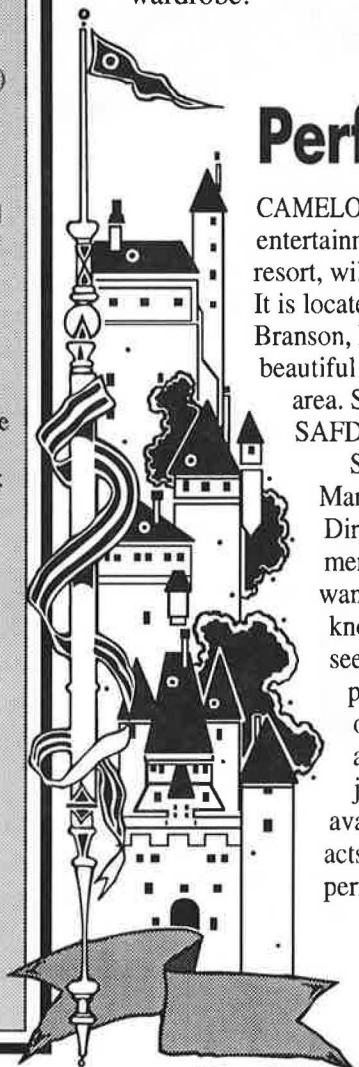
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Warehouse Theatre seeks professional journeymen

THE WAREHOUSE THEATRE, SOUTH Carolina's only year round Equity Theatre, is looking for 10 young theatre artists for its Professional Journeyman Program.

Artistic Director Jack Young is looking for actors, directors, designers and technicians for the 1994-95 season. For more information contact Jack Young P.O. Box 454, Greenville SC 29602.

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Profile

ACTOR COMBATANT

DARLA MAX

by David "Pops" Doersch

Darla Max has been involved with the SAFF since 1988, earning honors, recommendations and the respect of fellow members.

Born in Taiwan, educated in Iowa and Illinois, married and working in Philadelphia, Darla has lead a colorful life. Early on, she displayed some rather tomboy-ish traits (beating up fellow first graders, etc.) and her mother decided to "make a lady of her." When the family moved to England, Darla's mother enrolled her in dance class. Darla excelled, but made the difficult decision to withdraw from dance when her teacher began urging her to go professional which would have meant a boarding school for young Miss Max. But Darla knew then that her calling, whatever it might be, would be physically demanding.

Back in the states, Darla got involved in theatre. Regardless of how often the family moved, and how many different schools she enrolled in, she managed to be in every play in every school. In college, she pursued her dream of theatre, still feeling that something was lacking. At the University of Iowa, where she was working on her MFA, she got her first taste of of stage combat, and knew she had found her niche.

"The control, precision, focus, center, and energy required to be successful in combat is more fun and fulfilling than anything else I have ever experienced."

"In combat, I find the most demanded of me, both physically and mentally; more than any other aspect of theatre, or anything else for that matter. The control, precision,

focus, center and energy required to be successful in combat is more fun and fulfilling than anything else I have ever experienced."

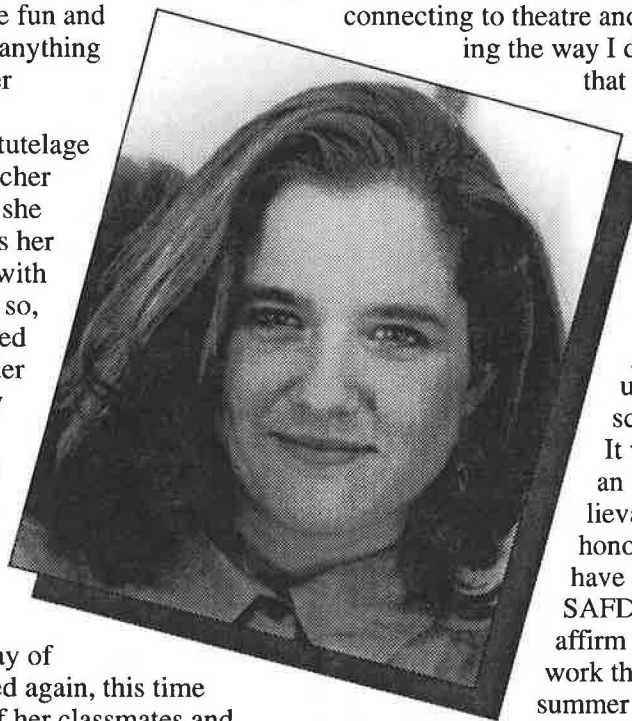
Under the tutelage of certified teacher James Finney, she moved towards her first fight test with ease. So much so, that James asked if she'd consider taking an early test to help a classmate on a different schedule. Darla agreed and passed in December of 1988. In May of 1989, she tested again, this time with the rest of her classmates and earned a recommendation.

Although these experiences were grand fun and very fulfilling, Darla assumed her involvement with stage combat was probably at an end, since her only real connection with the art was James Finney and he had gone abroad.

After graduation, Darla and her husband moved to Philadelphia, where she met certified teacher Payson Burt who suggested that she attend the National Stage Combat Workshop in Las Vegas.

"Although that first week I had never been in so much pain in my entire life, I had also never been so

happy. I was rediscovering my passion for combat ... I was re-connecting to theatre and acting the way I did that first



year in graduate school. It was an unbelievable honor to have the SAFF affirm my work that summer with the 'Best

Female Combatant' Award."

Her appetite whetted for the combat life, Darla now lives for the summers. "It seems like the only time when I get to focus on my performing combat skills. Choreography opportunities continue to appear, and assisting Certified Teacher Charles Conwell at the University of the Arts has been wonderful."

To pay for continued training, Darla choreographs for young theatre companies and high schools. Her primary frustration is in trying to find the time and people with whom to fight. "I long for the days when I don't have to pay someone else to fight ...that someone will pay me." If Darla continues working as hard as she currently is, those days may not be so far off.

WORKSHOP INFO.

Rapier and Dagger Technique & Crawfish Boil

April 1-4 Ruston LA
Contact: Mark "Rat" Guinn
(318) 257-4200

♦♦♦

Minnesota Academy of Stage Combat Skills **The Dance of Death**

June 6-11
Minneapolis, MN
Contact: David Doersch
(612) 823-8028

♦♦♦

United Stuntmens Association **Stunt Workshop**

June 6-25 Seattle WA
Contact: David Boushey
(206) 542-1649

♦♦♦

Webster University **Webster Movement Institute**

July 6-26 St. Louis, MO
Contact: Theresa Mitchell
(314) 961-2660 ext.17503

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Celebration Barn Theatre **Fight Choreography Workshop**

June 19-July 1
South Paris, ME
Contact: Carol Brett
(207) 743-8452

♦♦♦

Minnesota Academy of Stage Combat Skills

The Spirit of the Sword

June 20-25
Minneapolis, MN
Contact: David Doersch
(612) 823-8028

♦♦♦

SAFD **National Stage Combat Workshops**

July 1-29 Las Vegas NV
Contact: Linda McCollum
(702) 895-3662

♦♦♦

The Globe Fighters **Patrick Crean Workshop '94**

September 26-27
Washington, DC
Contact: Michael Johnson
(202) 291-4565



Martin English has left Kansas City to become the Director of Entertainment at the new Camelot entertainment complex and resort located in Branson, Missouri.

Bob Walsh got out of Boston for a while to direct *As You Like It* and visit old friends at Purdue.

Jamie Cheatham choreographed *Measure for Measure* with Kevin Kline at the N.Y. Shakespeare Festival, directed *Little Shop of Horrors* and got to assist **David Leong** with the fights in *Cyrano* at the Alley Theatre in Houston. He is playing Paris in an upcoming *Romeo and Juliet* at the Actors' Theatre of Louisville, with **J. Allen Suddeth** as fight director.

Richard Buckingham-Clark has decided to set up shop in Rome after teaching a stage combat workshop in Slovenia and touring Italy in *Don Quixote*.

Michael Kamtman played Edgar with Earle Hyman in *King Lear* at the North Carolina Shakespeare Festival, fight choreography by **J. Allen Suddeth**. Mike also got to choreograph *Twelfth Night* at N.C.

Mark Olsen has just been named Vice President of the Association of Theatre Movement Educators. Congratulations, Mark!

Robin MacFarquahr spent his sabbatical visiting stage combat classes in England and choreographing *Richard II* at the Goodman Theatre.

Payson Burt just choreographed *Cyrano* at the Walnut St Theatre

Donna Kane finds working in a foreign country a challenge since none of the Turkish students she is directing can speak English.

Keith Gavigan wants to thank **Susan Eviston** and **Drew Fracher** and let them know that their training got put to use when he performed the S.S. Captain in *Bent*, choreographed *Grease*, and performed in *Reckless*.

Tim Thillman played the role of Fred in *A Christmas Carol*, and is currently acting in *Grapes of Wrath* with **Richard Raether** at the New American Theater.

Ricki G. Ravitts is also performing at New American Theater as Agnes in *Dancing at Lughnasa*.

Joe Bostick has just been named Treasurer of Fight Directors Canada.

Liz Zazzi has been playing the Maid of Honor in the long-running hit *Tony-N-Tina's Wedding* as well as being fight captain. And in a case of life imitating art, Liz recently celebrated a wedding of her own to SAFD member **Michael McGuinness**. They met in J. Allen Suddeth's stage combat class!

Nick Sandys is choreographing and playing the lead in *The Count of Monte Cristo* at Ball State University, then is off to Madison Repertory for *Dancing at Lughnasa*.

Drew Fracher just finished directing *The Illusion* at The Ensemble Theatre of Cincinnati and staging fights for *Othello* at the Alabama Shakespeare Festival.

Get your red-hot SAFD merchandise now!

Tank Tops (Angelo or Woman Duelist) all white M, L, XL \$12.00
T-Shirt (Angelo or Woman Duelist) white or black M, L, XL \$10.00
Embroidered Hats black one size \$15.00



Questions?
 Call Barbara Burgess
 (315) 265-6312

POSTAGE AND HANDLING COSTS

Up to \$12.00	\$2.50	\$30.01-\$40.00	\$4.50
\$12.01-\$20.00	\$3.50	\$40.01-\$50.00	\$5.00
\$20.01-\$30.00	\$4.00	\$50.01-up	10%

Item	Color	Size	Quantity	Price	Total

Send check or money order to: Barbara Burgess
 R.R. #1 Box 161
 Norwood, NY, 13668

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TOTAL

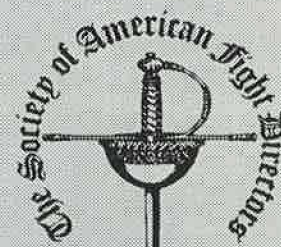
The Cutting Edge

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 Margaret and Richard Raether

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Submissions should be sent to:

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 Rockford, IL 61103



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