

Marshall University

**Marshall Digital Scholar**

---

The Cutting Edge

The Society of American Fight Directors

---

11-1994

## **The Cutting Edge, November/December 1994, Vol. 5 Issue 5**

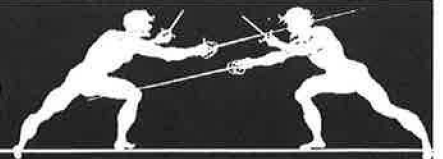
The Society of American Fight Directors

Follow this and additional works at: <https://mds.marshall.edu/cutting>



Part of the [Acting Commons](#), [Other Theatre and Performance Studies Commons](#), [Performance Studies Commons](#), and the [Theatre History Commons](#)

---



## FREE BOOK PREVIEW

Attention all Fight Masters, Certified Teachers and active Actor/Combatants that teach a regular college or university class in stage combat. Routledge Press is preparing its list for inspection copies of Dale Anthony Girard's new book *Actors on Guard* which deals with the use of the Rapier & Dagger for stage and screen. (Due out in August, 1995). If you are interested in a FREE preview copy, please contact Dale immediately (hopefully before January 15, 1994). He will need your Name, Title, SAFD affiliation, Course Title, Department and School, School mailing address and Phone number. Mail to: Dale Anthony Girard / 10-01 47th Road / Long Island City, NY 11101.

## NEW ADDRESS FOR SAFD SECRETARY

Mark Olsen, Secretary SAFD  
School of Theatre  
University of Houston  
Houston, TX 77204-5071

## COMPUTER NEWS

Anyone who is on any of the computer networks, please contact:

David "Pops" Doersch  
Route 5 Box 169  
Oxford, Mississippi 38655  
(601) 236-2733

Compuserve: 75111,3100

David is head of the Computerization committee and would like to know which SAFD members are already network members. Soon, information will be posted on CIS and will be accessible through other networks.



## National Stage Combat Workshop Teacher Training Workshop in Las Vegas, 1995

FROM THE DESK of the NSCW's Coordinator:

### Journey People/Teaching Assistants

Anyone interested in a Journey Person or Teacher Assistant position for the 1995 NSCW's please send a resume and letter of intent to workshop coordinator:

Mark D. Guinn  
School of Performing Arts  
P.O. Box 8608  
Ruston, LA 71272

Deadline for application is 2/2/95  
(Groundhog's Day).

Currently Journeypeople will be responsible for all expenses incurred in attending the workshop including housing. Teacher Assistants will be provided with a travel stipend and housing.

Teacher's Workshop Applicants  
Applicants for Teacher's Workshop

must submit the following materials by April 1, 1995 to be considered for admission. Admission is limited to fourteen candidates. Materials received later than April 1 will not be considered.

1. Complete professional resume including all teaching experience and stage combat/allied disciplines.
2. Two letters of recommendation:
  - a. One from a former employer
  - b. One from a former student or trainee.

Send all materials to:

Drew Fracher / Abiding Grace Farm  
780 Bushtown Road,  
Harrodsburg, KY 40330

Candidates will be notified by April 15, 1995 and deposits, etc. will be accepted. ◆◆◆

## SAFD Regional Representatives

### Certified Teacher Representatives

#### West Coast

*Northern California*  
Larry Henderson (510) 444-2949  
*Southern California*  
John Cashman (213) 669-7950  
*Nevada / Mid California*  
Gregory Hoffman (415) 703-7150  
*Washington, Oregon, Idaho*  
Geoffrey Alm (206-361-5179  
*Alaska*  
Michael Hood (907) 562-4047  
*New Mexico / Arizona*  
Brent Gibbs

#### East Coast

*New York*  
Rick Sordelet (201) 509-0569

#### Upper New York State

Michael Donahue (202) 686-6369  
*NH, VT, ME, RI*  
Bob Walsh (617) 244-7838  
*Washington DC / Delaware*  
Brad Waller (617) 323-7233  
*Maryland*  
Lewis Shaw (410) 539-1706  
*Eastern Pennsylvania*  
Payson Burt (215) 584-6716

#### Mid West

*Ohio / Indiana*  
Randy Bailey (606) 491-4751  
*Colorado / Utah / New Mexico*  
Timothy Tate (303) 830-7916  
*Wyoming*  
Lee Selting (307) 766-3287  
(Continued Back Page)



# Profile

Actor / Combatant  
**Lewis Shaw**

by Dale Anthony Girard



YOU'VE SEEN THE ADS, you've slung the steel, now meet the man; Lewis Shaw – Armorer to the Stars. Actually the title is a bit of a fallacy; A nick-name that seems to have stuck without confirmation of the facts. In truth, Lewis is the proprietor and driving force of Vulcan's Forge, a twentieth century supplier of "fine duelling supplies". And, along with being the chief peddler of his arms, he is also one of his biggest customers.

Starting as a double threat talent, actor/technician, Lewis was introduced to the sword and stage combat during a production of *Romeo and Juliet*. Playing the part of Romeo he had a hands on experience with the craft. During the fight with Tybalt he was accidentally kicked off an eight foot riser, falling to the stage below. "I'm not one of those people who was injured and said 'there has to be a better way!'," he says, "I wasn't hurt, and besides, I was having a great time." From

**"The correlation of form and function is important. Knowing how the weapon is actually used has been a great help in the development of my swords."**

there Lewis found himself working in more and more productions where he was asked to sling steel. That's where the fascination started.

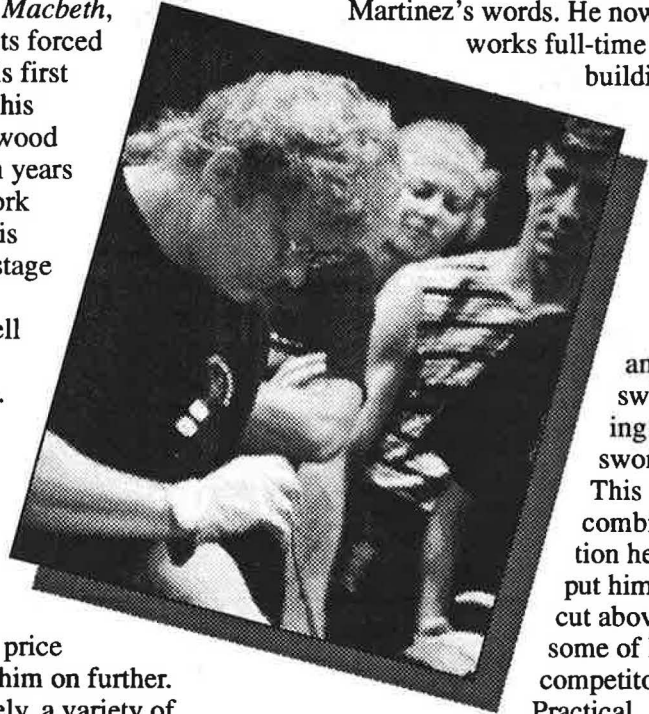
Not aware of the SAFD, Lewis used the information he gained as an actor and fight captain to

develop his own style of stage combat. In 1983, while working on a *Macbeth*, budget restraints forced him to make his first swords. Using his knowledge of wood and metal from years of technical work coupled with his knowledge of stage combat the hammer first fell on the future Vulcan's Forge. The product? Well, "they were big, heavy, nasty things," says Lewis. But the quality of weapons in his price range prodded him on further. Slowly but surely, a variety of Shaw originals appeared in productions throughout Baltimore.

During a performance of his original fight piece, *An Illustrated History of Violence*, he met SAFD members Brad Waller and Payson Burt. Although already teaching stage combat for the University of Maryland, Baltimore country, Lewis linked up with Brad and continued developing his craft. In 1991 he passed his Actor/Combatant skills test and met Maestro Martinez. Martinez encouraged Lewis' weapon work and prodded him to continue his efforts.

As a swordcutler, and as a

practitioner of stage combat, Lewis has heeded Maestro Martinez's words. He now works full-time building



and swinging swords. This combination helps put him a cut above some of his competitors. Practical experience has

shown him what will withstand an actor's abuse and still balance well in the hand. It is important to him to work with his swords, not just work on them. "Unless I want to use it—I won't sell it to somebody," he says. "The correlation of form and function is important. Knowing how the weapon is actually used has been a great help in the development of my swords."

Lewis lives in Baltimore with his lovely wife Norah and his son Lewis M. Shaw IV (*Buddy*). Over the past fifteen years he's come a long way. The fact that the stars aren't really pounding down his door doesn't seem to bother him.





**Dale Anthony Girard** staged the fights for Lyric Opera of Kansas City's *Otello*, New Orleans Opera's *Macbeth*, and Tulsa Opera's *Faust*. He trained fellow CT Michael Donahue to do the fire stunts for a live burning at the stake for the Pocono *Poe Festival*. Dale is presently teaching stage combat for the Yale School of Drama and Yale's Opera program. He has two projects at the Yale Rep., and is now in production for the new Tony Kushner play *Slavs*, being staged at the Center Stage, Baltimore.

**David Engel** has moved to:  
David Engel  
2435 West Logan Boulevard #2D  
Chicago, Illinois 60647  
(312) 252-9600

**Keith Gavigan** has moved to:  
Keith Gavigan  
3170 North Sheridan Apt. 806  
Chicago, Illinois 60657

**The New York Fight Ensemble** is offering classes from Jan. - May in R & D, Unarmed and Broad-sword culminating in a Certification Skills Class for the SAFD Certification Skills Test in May. If interested, please contact:

Ralph H. Anderson  
465 West 49th Street #1-B  
New York, NY 10019  
(212) 247-5393

Classes will be taught by SAFD Certified Teachers Michael G. Chin, Ralph H. Anderson and J. David Brimmer.

**The New York Fight Ensemble** meets Monday evenings in Manhattan. So, if you are in the area and would like to work out with us please give us a call, we'd love to see you! Call Ralph H. Anderson at (212) 247-5393

**Erica Bilder** has been keeping busy doing fights for *Henry V* for the Company of Women at Smith College, *Macbeth* at the Brooklyn Stage Company and acting in the role of a crazy psychiatric nurse at La Mama E.T.C.

**David Engel** is now teaching basic unarmed and single rapier at the College of DuPage. He is performing with the Buffalo Theatre Ensemble in *The Real Thing* and is also performing as a variety of characters for corporate America.

**Stephen Gray** is teaching stage combat in the Master's program at DePaul University's Theatre School and for the Studio at Impulse; staging violence for *The Women* and preparing for *The Prince and The Pauper*, also at DePaul. This summer he staged for *West Side Story* at Drury Lane Oakbrook and for Impulse Theatre (which he and his wife founded). Five of his students passed their SAFD Test Fights at Impulse.

**James Finney** is teaching stage combat at the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee. He recently staged fights for Tony Kushner's *Angels In America: Perestroika and The Millenium Approaches* at the Royal George Theatre and *Ivanhoe* at the Ivanhoe 2. He is currently performing in *Ivanhoe* as well as playing a weasley, torturous killer in an independent film, *Lady Mary* (Tiffany Productions).

**Danny Robles** choreographed *Cyrano DeBergerac* at the Bog Theatre in DesPlaines and is staging *Good Night Desdemona*,

*Good Morning Juliet* for the Straw Dog Theatre.

**Dr. Robin McFarquhar** is still teaching at the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, (this years class consists of 14 women and no men)! Robin has been busy driving up to Chicago to stage violence for *Clockwork Orange* at Steppenwolf and *Richard II* and *I Am A Man* for the Goodman Theatre.

**David Woolley** is finishing up the '94 season with **Douglas Mumaw** and *Dirk & Guido: The Swordsmen!* (32 weeks this year). He is also teaching full time at Columbia College of Chicago, choreographed fights for: *The Rise and Fall of Little Voice* at Steppenwolf, *The Elvis* for the Raven Theatre and *Jesus Christ Superstar* at Columbia. Then it's "*The Royal Rascal*" filming for Candlelight's *Singing In The Rain* and *Macbeth* for Purdue University. Then the '95 tour of *D&G* and a swing to London for the International Stage Combat Workshop.

Those of you in **Chicago** should check out **The Roughhouse**- a SAFD Clubhouse. Contact Carl Campagna, Geoff Coates or Corinna Bryan at:

The Roughhouse (312) 640-0320

**Charles Conwell** will direct a completely non-violent production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for the University of the Arts in April. The production, conceived as the erotic dream of Queen Elizabeth I, will be staged in Philadelphia's new Arts Bank Theatre.



# SAFD Regional Reps (Continued)

(Continued from Page 1)

*Nebraska / Kansas / Oklahoma*

Paul Stegar (402) 477-6819

*Illinois / Missouri*

Gray Stevens (312) 404-7972

*MN/SD/ND/Upper WI/Upper Michigan*

Michael Anderson (612) 479-1191

## **South**

*Louisiana / Mississippi / Arkansas*

Mark "Rat" Guinn (318) 257-2930

*Alabama*

James Brown (205) 262-3396

*Georgia*

Scott Mann (404) 412-6159

*Mississippi / South Florida*

David "Pops" Doersch (601) 236-8963

*Virginia / West Virginia*

Colleen Kelly (804) 924-8963

*Texas / Oklahoma*

Micahel Kirkland (409) 763-6551

## **COMMITTEES**

**Compuserve** - David Doersch

**Library** - Linda McCollum

**Code of Ethics** - Larry Henderson

**Grants** - Greg Hoffman

**Donations** - Michael Anderson

**Regional Workshops** - Bob Macdougall

**Research** - Dale Girard



## The Cutting Edge

is edited bimonthly by  
Ralph H. Anderson .

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

Submissions should be sent to:

Ralph H. Anderson  
465 West 49th Street #1-B  
New York, NY 10019



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



465 West 49th Street #1-B  
New York, NY 10019

Non-Profit  
US Postage  
PAID  
Rockford, IL  
Permit No. 434