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The Cutting Edge

The Society of American Fight Directors

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## **The Cutting Edge, March/April 1995, Vol. 6 Issue 2**

The Society of American Fight Directors

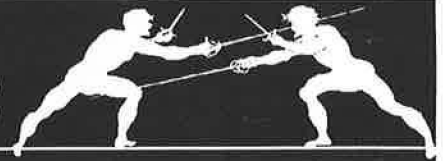
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# The Cutting Edge



Newsletter for the Society of American Fight Directors

Volume VI, Number 2 ♦ March/April 1995

## National Stage Combat Sweet 16!

DON'T MISS THE SWEET 16! There is still a chance to make:

The Sixteenth Annual  
National Stage Combat Workshop  
and Teacher Training Workshop  
in Las Vegas, Nevada  
July 10 - 28, 1995

The Teacher Training Workshop is \$1,500.00 with a \$50.00 discount for members of AEA, AFTRA, or SAG or a \$100.00 discount for SAFD members of three years or more. Again, Campus housing fee is \$237.50



Call Mark Guinn, NSCW Coordinator, at (318) 255-6823 (h) or (318) 257-2930 (w) or Linda McCollum, On-Site Coordinator, at (702) 895-3662. They will be happy to provide you with any necessary details or to help register you for either the Actor Combatant Workshop or the Teacher Training Workshop.

Actor Combatant Workshop tuition is \$1,000.00 with a \$50.00 discount for members of AEA, AFTRA, or SAG or a \$100.00 discount for SAFD members of three years or more. Campus housing fee is \$237.50.



Don't delay! Make plans to attend the Sweet 16 Today!

## 1995 Webster Movement Institute

The Webster Movement Institute will be held July 10-29 at Webster University in St. Louis. The Institute is dedicated to providing intensive movement study and training for movement educators and specialists. The teachers and classes will be:

**Jean Sabatine** will teach **Essence Theory** exploring the **Organic Connection** of the mind, spirit and body including the basic elements of movement - time, space and energy.

**Jennifer Martin** will teach **Theatre Movement Pedagogy: Strategies in Teaching Movement for Actors** including specific exercises for teaching alignment, breath and release and physical characterization.

**Tom Casciero** and **Karen Bradley** will co-teach a week of classes based

on the **Bartenieff Fundamentals** and **Laban Movement Analysis** which will fulfill the pre-certification requirements for the **Laban Certified Movement Analyst** training/

**Tim Carryer** will teach a course based on **Keith Johnstone's improvisational process** incorporating **Lecoq techniques** and focusing on **physical comedy**

**Joan Schrire**, an Artistic Director and founding member of the **Dell'Arte School of Physical Theatre**, will teach a workshop based on **Ann Bogart's "seven viewpoints"**.

For more information contact SAFD member **Theresa Mitchell** at (314) 961-2660 extension 7503, or at home (314) 963-9078.



### DUES ARE Past Due!

If you have not yet paid your 1995 dues and wish to continue as an SAFD member in good standing and to continue receiving the many fine benefits of the SAFD including *The Cutting Edge* and *The Fight Master*, please send your dues to:

Mark Olsen  
Secretary SAFD  
School of Theatre  
University of Houston  
Houston, TX 77204-5071  
(713) 743-2195

(Dues are \$25.00 annually,  
\$30.00 for overseas and  
Canadian members.)

### CHANGES OF ADDRESS

should be sent to:

Mark Olsen  
Secretary SAFD  
School of Theatre  
University of Houston  
Houston, TX 77204-5071  
(713) 743-2195

### REPEAT 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. ♦♦♦


  
*Profile*
  
 Actor / Combatant
   
**Linda Carlyle McCollum**
  
 by Dale Anthony Girard

SINCE THE SAFD'S inception in 1977 there might be no female member who has been more active than Linda McCollum. Over her thirteen year's with the organization, she has served as the first female officer, chief editor for *The Fight Master*, National Workshop Coordinator and has written dozens of articles and reviews for SAFD publications. For her numerous contributions and oblations, Linda was honored with the 1990 Paddy Crean Award.

Born and raised in California, Linda earned her BA at Berkeley and her Masters in Theatre Arts at Humbolt State. It was at Berkeley that she was first introduced to the sword and the stage. She learned the elements of sport fencing and their immediate application to the stage in a "theatrical fencing" class which captured her attention enough that she joined the fencing team during her last year at Berkeley. Through graduate school and for the ten years that followed, Linda continued to fence and began to help set the fights for a

**"For her numerous contributions and oblations, Linda was honored with the 1990 Paddy Crean Award"**

variety of productions. "Having fenced competitively in college, you're always called upon when a theatre group is doing *Macbeth*, *Hamlet* or *Cyrano*," she explains. Her focus was the theatrical, but her initial training was in sport fencing so her actors started with jackets and masks, then learned the routine, and removed the protective gear to add the costumes of the characters. "That's

kinda how I had been trained in the 60's," she says.

Not until 1982, five years after its founding did Linda hear of the SAFD. In a copy of *Dramatic Arts Magazine* she came across an article about the SAFD and its upcoming summer workshop. One thing led to another, and Linda found herself at the second annual National Stage Combat Workshop. There she met Fight Masters David Boushey, Erik Fredricksen and Joseph Martinez. She also had the opportunity to work unarmed combat and Aikido with prominent SAFD member Craig Turner. "It was an eye opener," she says, "totally different. The safety things

they were doing The historical accuracy they were going for." After three weeks of "eating, drinking and sleeping violence," Linda passed the certification test. "Everything hurt afterwards," she says, "even my ear lobes!"

Linda now saw the world in a new light. She had never really paid much attention to historical armor, weapons or fencing— and now she was captivated by it. "Suddenly I was totally immersing myself, reading everything I could get my hands on – and writing."

Her first article appeared in 1983, and by 1984 she had advanced to Editor of *The Fight Master*.

For six years she then



labored to raise the academic standing of the journal and the SAFD. Linda wrote reviews of various

productions staged by members of the SAFD and penned over fourteen separate articles concerning various aspects of historical swordplay, weapons and warfare. In these endeavors she is eternally thankful to her advisers and friends Richard J. Gradkowski and the late Leonid Tarssuk. This friendship led to the SAFD's publication of Dr. Tarassuk's monograph *Parrying Daggers and Poniards* which Linda also edited.

During her term as Editor, Linda also became the National Workshop Coordinator as the NSCW moved to the University of Nevada where she serves on the Theatre faculty.

*(Continued on page 3)*

# McCollum

(CONTINUED)

In 1990 Linda passed the editing baton on to Margaret Raether, but she continued to be active. 1991 saw her receive her Fencing Coaches Diploma from the USFCA and in 1993 she earned a diploma in the Academie d'Armes Internationale.

Still busy with the SAFF, Linda serves on several committees and continues to offer her knowledge in various articles and letters. Active with the SAFF since 1982, Linda is one of the most venerable members of the organization. A hard working, dedicated individual, Linda is one of the reasons the Society is where it is today, and an excellent example of commitment for today's membership.



## Fight Workshop

FLORIDA ACADEMY  
OF STAGE COMBAT

### SWASHBUCKLING 101

*"All things pertaining to  
Rapier and Small Sword"*

Taught by: David "Pops" Doersch

April 17-23, 1995

Miami, Florida

Contact: Alex Daye  
(305) 439-3423



**Dale Anthony Girard** staged the fights for *Romeo & Juliet* for the Lyric Opera of Kansas City and for the Augusta Opera, *Twelfth Night* for the Yale Rep., *Goodnight Desdemona* for Muhlenberg College and several student productions for the Yale School of Drama. He also staged the violence for the Center Stage production of *SLAVS!* and restaged the encounters with new cast members at the Yale Rep. Completing his classes with the Yale School of Drama and School of Music, Dale is now in Colorado to teach the skills classes for the National Theatre Conservatory. Most recently he was seen performing the fire stunt for Superbowl XXIX's Half-Time Show.

**Teresa Brown** has moved to:

15 Lansdowne Gardens  
LONDON SW8 2EQ UK  
[tel: 0171-622-3290]

Teresa passed the Society of British Fight Directors fight test at the intermediate level in Rapier & Dagger and Unarmed and is studying for the SBFDF Advanced Test in June.

**Gillian Bagwell**, Artistic Director of the Castle Green Shakespeare Company in Pasadena CA presented a series of free monthly readings in February (*Romeo and Juliet*) and March (*As You Like It*). The Castle Green Shakespeare Company is a non-profit professional theatre company presenting its first full season this summer. For more information about the company or its readings, or to be added to the company's mailing list, please call (818) 564-8564. The company also provides Sonneteers and Duel-A-Grams.

**Nicolas Sandys** just finished choreographing machetes and

chicken knives for the world premier of August Wilson's *Seven Guitars* at the Goodman. He is currently teaching the MFA students at DePaul's Theatre School. His wife Patrice is currently choreographing fights and dance's for the Theatre Schools *Romeo and Juliet*.

**Brian Byrnes** is finishing up his MFA at the University of Pittsburgh. He will be assisting at the "International Stage Combat Workshop" in London this April. This summer he is Fight Director for the Three Rivers Shakespeare Festival, and the K. C. Renaissance Festival (where he is directing a "Pirate Show Extravaganza"). Then its on to teaching at the Univ. of Iowa (Fall '95).

**Julia Rupkalvis** is completing her doctoral thesis and hopes to graduate this fall. Her full-length play, *Glory*, has its first dramatic reading Saturday March 4. Julia can currently be found at:

1640 Franklin Street  
Johnstown, PA 15905  
(814) 288-3040

or on the Internet at:  
JDRup@ix.netcom.com

**Eric Fredricksen** recently choreographed *Romeo and Juliet* at the Indiana Repertory Theatre where he is also performing as the Narrator in *Dancing At Lughnasa*.

**Jim Brown** has moved to 2033 East 4th Street / Montgomery, AL 36106.

**THE NEW YORK FIGHT ENSEMBLE** has scheduled a Certification Skills Test for Saturday May 20th. If you're in the NYC area, contact Ralph H. Anderson at (212) 247-5393. We'd love to have you drop by for the test or to workout with us!



# Editor's Note

## Changes of Address, ETC.

I am happy to print changes of address for you here so that everyone gets the word, but to be sure the SAFD Official Roll has your correct address you must send them to:

Mark Olsen  
Secretary SAFD  
School of Theatre  
University of Houston  
Houston, TX 77204-5071  
(713) 743-2195

All official SAFD information should be sent to the above address. This includes dues.

## Submission Timing

Figuring out the lead time for editing, printing and mailing *The*



*Cutting Edge* seems to border on rocket science. I try to keep as close to a publication date of every two months as I can (6 issues a year). There are many circumstances that conspire to make this difficult, including, but not limited to: having enough material to print, getting the most recent and accurate mailing list from the Secretary in Houston, time in the print shop, coordinating the mailing from our non-profit third class mail permit in Illinois (I'm in NYC), and the fact that third class mail can take up to three or four weeks to be delivered! (Not to mention sudden business trips out of town for the Editor!)

Next Issue should get to members by mid to late June (or later). Please plan any submissions accordingly,



# 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



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