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The Cutting Edge

The Society of American Fight Directors

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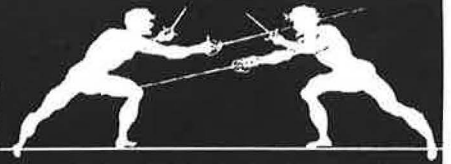
The Society of American Fight Directors

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Newsletter for the Society of American Fight Directors

Volume VI, Number 5 • OCT/NOV 1995



1996 NSCW TA'S

Mark Guinn, Coordinator for the 1996 National Stage Combat Workshop is looking for Teaching Assistants and Journeymen. Applications should include a Letter of Intent and a Resume. Please mail them to Mark ASAP.

Mark Guinn
Louisiana Tech. University
P.O. Box 8606
Ruston LA 71272-0034
(318) 257-2930

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

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

1996 SAFD DUES

. Please send to Mark Olsen at the above address.
Dues are now \$35.00 annually
\$40.00 for overseas and
Canadian members.

SAFD MERCHANDISE

Tank Tops \$12.00
(Angelo or William Duelist)
All white, M, L, XL
T-Shirts \$10.00
(Angelo or William Duelist)
White or black, M, L, XL
Embroidered Hat \$15.00
Black - one size
Coffee Cup \$8.00
Send Check or Money Order to:
Barbara Burgess
1206 W. Cumberland St. Apt #9
Allentown, PA 18103

Delivery Time 4-6 weeks
Postage and Handling
up to \$12=\$3.50, to \$20=\$4.50,
to \$30=\$5.00, to \$40=\$5.50, to
\$50.00=\$6.00, to \$60=\$6.50,
over \$60=10%

Special Election Issue!



Ballots Due BEFORE January 15, 1996
See Back Page for Official Ballot
Statements from all candidates included in this issue!

CANDIDATES FOR SAFD
OFFICERS are:

President
Drew Fracher

Vice President
Geoffrey Alm
Colleen Kelly
Dale Anthony Girard
Richard Raether

Presidential Candidate Statement

Drew Fracher
Fight Master

MY FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES,

I am honored and flattered to be nominated to run for the office of President for a second term. The support and hard work that you, the membership, have exhibited throughout the last three years has been amazing, and truly the only reason I can view my first term as successful in any manner. I eagerly accept the

nomination and I vow to continue to move forward in a positive manner. I

believe that the SAFD is becoming the force to reckon with that we all know it should be and I am proud to be a part of it. Thank you all for your continued support and know that I will strive to serve with the common good in mind. Let me hear from you regarding what has been happening and what is to come. Thank you again for your vote of confidence. ◆◆◆

Vice-Presidential Candidate Statements

Geoffrey Alm Certified Teacher

As the Certified Teachers Representative for the past three years, I've enjoyed the opportunity to witness a new growth in the Society. A growth that has been the result of better communication and the sharing of ideas. From the president and officers, to the fight masters, certified teachers, actor-combatants and friends, this is fast becoming the strength of our Society. I want to continue the dialogue and serve the membership as Vice President. We are all integral parts of the Society. Growth is not easy, but this is an exciting time. I will do my best to represent the membership as the Society continues to change and grow. Thank you.

Dale Anthony Girard Fight Master

Having been active in the SAFD for the past 11 years, I feel I am now ready to channel my efforts and energy toward the politics of our organization. For the past six years my efforts have been directed towards the Society's publications, providing written material for its membership in the likes of *The Pen and The Sword* and the "Profile" column in *The Cutting Edge*. As Vice President, I would continue my efforts to reach every member of the Society and in this capacity help develop a communication system that allows everyone to be an active part of our growth and development. My belief is that if the governing body of the society does not take an

active interest in its membership – its membership will lose interest in the Society. With your confidence and support, I would be honored to represent our membership and help take the voice of the SAFD into the professional and academic arenas of the next century.

Colleen Kelly Certified Teacher

I have been a member of the SAFD since 1983. During that time, I have moved from Friend, to Actor/Combatant to Certified Teacher/Choreographer and am currently serving as a Regional Representative. I have attended four NSCW's assisting at two. Sometimes I feel my personal journey in the Society parallels the history of the Society itself – I have been an integral part of the past, an enthusiastic participant in the present and am especially interested in helping to shape the future.

In preparation for writing this bio/platform statement I read the duties of the VP as stated in the SAFD Bylaws. In essence, the VP is supposed to work in cooperation with the President, so I pulled out my July/Aug 1992 newsletter and read what it was that Drew Fracher had pledged to do three years ago – build communication within the organization, empower the rank and file, extend the SAFD's voice in both industry and academia – he has done this, he continues to do so, and it would be my privilege to help him continue to continue. These are some ways I feel I can contribute:

1. Practical: Under Drew's leadership, the SAFD has grown

toward a member energized and a member driven organization. To facilitate the continuance of this growth, our current Bylaws and Rules will need to be examined. If revisions are to be made, they will need to reflect the new voice of the membership, yet still honor the mission statement of the society. They will also need to be "officially" documented. As a Founding Board Member of the Association of Theatre Movement Educators, I have experience articulating and writing Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws for a not-for-profit organization. I am familiar with both parliamentary procedure and Robert's Rules of Order, and have held offices and/or served on the Board of Directors of the Virginia Theatre Association, the Southeastern Theatre conference and the Association of Theatre Movement Educators.

2. Philanthropic: I am not rich. If I were rich I would give away money. I'm not, so I don't. I do however, give time and attention. I have simple humanist core beliefs such as "do unto others" and "don't litter." I enjoy creating environments that allow others to do their best work. Sometimes this means I get the coffee, other times it means I direct the show. As VP, my time and attention will be given to listening and responding to the diverse voices of the membership; as well as given to the business of the organization so the members are free to enjoy the privileges (and responsibilities) of membership.

3. Professional: Because of the training and (continued next page)

VP Candidate Statements

(continued)

(KELLY continued) support I've received through the SAFD, I have been able to specialize in an area of theatre theatre movement that has helped to establish my professional credibility as a teacher and choreographer. I have had the opportunity to explore stage combat in many diverse ways: integration into actor training programs, gender issues, relationships between dance and combat, and most recently, field trips to the UVA School of Engineering to play with the equipment in the computer research/virtual reality program. Stage combat has been very, very good to me. I would like to help define the ways it has been good to others and perhaps more importantly, what potential it holds for all of us in the future.

If answering questions and/or discussing society issues will assist you in making your election decision, please call me at my office at the University of Virginia: (804) 924-8963 or at home (804) 293-9170.

Richard Raether Fight Master

I was Secretary-Treasurer for five years under three presidents. During that time I witnessed the SAFD more than double in size. What began as a small fraternity of combat enthusiasts became a sizeable non-profit corporation with members worldwide. The (unpaid) workload for officers grew proportionately. Yet, too often, the SAFD still operates like that small fraternity. I'd like to take a hand in the necessary restructuring and thinking that I believe is necessary.



Geoffrey Alm has just finished choreographing *Naomi's Road* for Seattle Children's Theatre, an account of Canada's internment of its Japanese citizens. the professional U. S. premiere of *The Language of Flowers*, an Hispanic version of *Romeo and Juliet*, and *Carmen* for Seattle Opera. He also did the stunts for the film *Expert Witness* shot in Seattle.

Ralph H. Anderson is teaching unarmed stage combat for The New York Film Academy's new Acting for Film intensive class.

Dale Anthony Girard is presently choreographing the USA premiere of *Pentecost* for the Yale Rep, *Oklahoma* for Muhlenberg College, *Romeo & Juliet* for Tower Hill School and *Hamlet* for the Yale School of Drama. He recently choreographed the fight for the National Tour of *Tommy* and taught Master Classes for Brigham Young University and Muhlenberg College.

John Robert Beardsley worked with the Nordic stage fight Society Workshop last summer with Drew and folks. He is directing and staging the fights for a traveling *Romeo and Juliet* in Norway, staging and directing a Viking production to tour Denmark, and in the spring will direct a *Three Musketeers* or *Romeo and Juliet* main stage production in Sweden. He worked in Copenhagen teaching a few workshops and covered **Tina Hansen** in *Atlantis*, a main stage production that is a rock opera. He will also be teaching workshops in Tangen outside of Oslo and in the far north of Norway.

Mark "Rat" Guinn is directing the violence for the Southwest regional premier of Bill Cain's rap-drama *Stand-Up Tragedy*. Directed by **Brad**

Baker, and presented by the Quad C Theatre at Collin County Community College in Plano, Texas, this play looks at troubled kids in inner-city high schools, and the teachers who are struggling to reach them. For additional information regarding this project, please call (214) 881-5679

Erica Bilder finished her studies in Drama Therapy at NYU. she did an internship at Brooklyn House of Detention for Men in the Spring. Meanwhile, she also did a production of Beckett's *Cascando* and *Eh Joe* at La MaMa ETC's Annex Theatre which will also play at the Teatro dell'Angelo in Rome. She also spent time in Turkey teaching workshops and conceiving and directing a site specific theatre piece for the Assos Festival. ◆◆◆

Attention SAFD Members

NEW AND OLD SAFD MEMBERS are invited to contact their Regional Representatives and become an active part of the Society within their community. Everyone is encouraged to take a few moments out of their busy schedules and introduce themselves to their local SAFD Representatives and find out how they can help establish Regional Meetings, Newsletters, Social Gatherings, Workshops, etc. If you don't know your Regional Rep, you can look them up in the current issue of the Fight Master and give them a call or write them a letter and let them know who you are and what all you have been up to.

SAFD HOTLINE

Ricki G. Ravitts
(800) 659-6579
9 AM - 5 PM EST

1995 SAFD Officers Official Ballot

Please Vote for SAFD President and SAFD Vice President. Candidate Statements are included with this issue.

Votes should be mailed to:

Jeff Koep, Dean
College of Fine and Performing Arts
4505 Maryland Pkwy
Box 455013
UNVL
Las Vegas NV 89154

Votes must be received by Jeff
BEFORE January 15, 1996

VOTE FOR SAFD PRESIDENT
(Circle One)

DREW FRACHER

VOTE FOR SAFD VICE PRESIDENT
(Circle One)

GEOFFREY ALM

DALE ANTHONY GIRARD

COLLEEN KELLY

RICHARD RAETHER

SAFD Member

Name (Print)

Signature

The Cutting Edge

is edited nearly bimonthly by
Ralph H. Anderson .

The Cutting Edge
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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



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