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The Cutting Edge

The Society of American Fight Directors

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## **The Cutting Edge, August/September 1997, Vol. 8 Issue 3**

The Society of American Fight Directors

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# The Cutting Edge

Newsletter for the Society of American Fight Directors



Volume VIII, Number 3 • August-September 1997



## ADDRESS CHANGE

The editor of this publication has moved. My new vital statistics are:  
David 'Pops' Doersch  
109 Tendril Court  
Williamsburg, VA 23188  
(757) 220-5033  
ddoersch@hrfn.net

## NEW BOOK!

If you haven't had a chance to peruse Dale Girard's new text *Actors On Guard*, do so! It is a wealth of wonderful information and is obviously one of the very best books on this subject out there. The book offers extensive step-by-step instructions of each phase of learning Rapier & Dagger as well as wonderful historical information and many lovely illustrations. Dale has done a thorough job with this. The book is available through Routledge/Theatre Arts Books.

## TENNESSEE WORKSHOP!

Drew Fracher will be teaching a couple of workshops at the Tennessee Theatre Association's annual convention this October 25. Unarmed workshops in the morning and R&D in the afternoon. Cost is \$30.00 and includes registration for the entire convention. For more info call the APSU theatre department at (615) 648-7378.

## LIST YOUR WORKSHOP...

If you're planning an event, just drop me a line with the info and I'll include it in the Cutting Edge.



## Voting Results, News and Nominations for Membership Reps!

Well, here's the latest update on the new bylaws and amendments...

The changes voted on by the membership passed with flying colors and the officers of the SAFD have met to put these changes into practice by adopting them into the policies and procedures of the organization.

These changes are critical to the growth of the organization and for those of you who voted, your participation in this process is much appreciated. We urge those of you who did not vote to please do so in the future. The organization will only be as strong as its member-participation.

Michael Anderson has sent out a card to all members requesting current contact information and status within this organization. Please take a few moments and respond to his request. We are making every effort to upgrade our database and keep it absolutely current. Your response to this missive is critical to that process.

In that vein, if you have not yet paid your dues for 1997, please do so. Only members who are current in their dues payments may vote and gain the benefits of membership in this society. Our executive committee is moving us forward towards some very exciting developments that you will want to be a part of and that we need you to be a part of. So just do it. Mail all dues payments to:

Paul Denhardt  
2014 E. Taylor St.  
Bloomington, IL 61701

Finally, and this is the most important item, we are issuing a call for nominations for membership representatives. Any member in good standing (paid up dues) may nominate an individual from their level of status (and only that level) to serve as their membership representative for a period of two years. The nominations will be submitted to the nominating committee and those qualified and interested will be brought before the membership for a vote by year's end and begin

servicing their term in January of 1998.

Nominations will be taken from the ranks of Actor/Combatants, Certified Teachers, Fight Directors and Fight Masters. They will serve with the officers as the voting body of the organization, and will have a voice in any and all decisions of policy and procedure that happen annually. Nominations should be simply called into the hotline 1-800-659-6579 with the following information: Name and phone # of nominator and level of status (Actor/Combatants please include the date and location of your test). This should be followed by the name and phone # of the nominee. Deadline for all nominations will be October 15, 1997. Once all the nominations are in, the committee will create a ballot and the next issue of this newsletter will include a ballot for your vote.



# David Engel Honored

Recently I received a lovely letter from one Mary Shen Barnidge notifying me of a significant happening in the upper midwest. Here is the contents of that letter edited somewhat...

On June 9, 1997, David Engel was awarded a Joseph Jefferson Citation (the Chicago Theatre equivalent of New York's Obie award).

What is significant about this? Well, there's no awards category for Fight Choreography -- but four times in the past, the Jefferson Committee has created one in order to commend outstanding work in that field. In 1987, they gave David Woolley the local equivalent of a Tony (N.B., the *Jeff Awards* are for Equity productions and the *Jeff Citations* are for non-equity ones) "for consistent excellence in stage combat choreography." In 1992, Joe Dempsey

received a citation for his work in *Victims*, and in 1995, Ned Mochel and Scott Cummins each took one home for their work in *The Fair Maid of the West* and *Never Come Morning*, respectively.

So, it is much harder to be recognized for Fight Choreography than it is for acting, set design or directing. That's why David Engel's accolade for his creative violence in *The Kentucky Cycle* (a seven-and-a-half hour epic with somebody abusing somebody else almost every third scene) is a significant honor, indeed.

Congratulations David and thanks for representing the SAFD so well in Chicago.

Arma Virumque Cano,

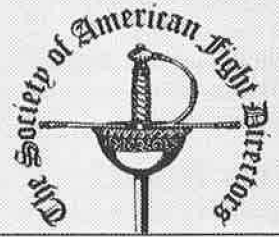
Mary Shen Barnidge

## The Cutting Edge

is concocted by David Doersch,  
printed by Joey Costello  
and mailed by Michelle Ladd

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