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The Cutting Edge

The Society of American Fight Directors

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## **The Cutting Edge, February/March 1998, Vol. 9 Issue 1**

The Society of American Fight Directors

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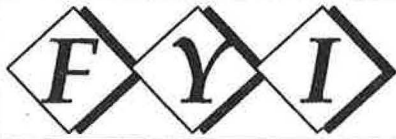
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# The Cutting Edge

Newsletter for the Society of American Fight Directors



Volume IX, Number 1 - February \* March 1998



## DUES

1998 Dues are due. If you are not current (and you know who you are) send \$35 to our good Secretary right away so as not to experience any interruption in membership. Make checks payable to the SAFD and send them to:

Paul Dennhardt, SAFD Secretary  
307 E. Carroll Street  
Macomb, IL 61455



## THE VIRGINIA TEA PARTY

The Virginia Tea Party, a stage combat and voice workshop, is scheduled to take place in Williamsburg, Virginia from April 24-26, 1998.

Instructors include: **Brad Waller, David Leong, Joseph Martinez, Colleen Kelly, David "Pops" Doersch, Elizabeth Wiley** (VASTA). In

addition to this fine array, the Society of American Fight Directors is pleased to host:

**Jonathan Howell** (BADC) and **Mark Shelley** (BADC, Ireland).

The workshop will be held at historical William & Mary.

Tuition is: \$150 or \$65 per day. SAFD. Recertification is available for an additional \$75.

For more information, call Pops at: 757-220-5033 or via e-mail at: ddoersch@machine1.hrfn.net

## Voting for Membership Reps!

Once again the SAFD is holding elections for membership reps. The nominations are in, and here are the individuals nominated for each category. Please note that you may ONLY vote for a representative at your level of membership (\*Fight Directors, please vote only for a Fight Director rep, even though you technically hold dual membership). Fill out the ballot completely. Please use the enclosed pre-addressed envelope (Post Office will not deliver without proper postage) to return ballots no later than March 21, 1998. Here are the candidates (we have included brief statements of intent from the Actor/Combatant reps since they are, perhaps, not as well known to the general membership.

### FIGHT MASTER:

Erik Fredricksen

### FIGHT DIRECTOR:

Ricki Ravitts

Geoff Alm

### CERTIFIED TEACHER:

Lewis Shaw

Timothy Pinnow

K. Jenny Jones

### ACTOR/COMBATANT:

Dan O'Driscoll -

"I want to be more involved with the workings

of the S.A.F.D. I would like to facilitate the dissemination of information to the rank and file; to address their problems and concerns; to help the majority of members feel that they really have a voice in how their organization is being run. I feel that I represent a cross-section of the majority of the members: I've been in the 'fight' business for ten years - theatre, opera, renaissance faires, special events, stunt shows... as an actor, fighter, director, choreographer - I've done a lot, and I've seen a lot - and I feel that I can make a valuable contribution to this organization!"

### Angela Bonacasa -

"I've been a member of the SAFD since 1994.

While serving as a journeyman at the 1997 NSCW, I was able to attend the annual SAFD meeting. I was amazed

by the number of actor-combatants (including myself) who, even though they were members, knew very little about their organization. Since then, I have often been reminded (usually by other actor-combatants) that, considering our numbers, actor-combatants as a whole have one of the smallest voices in the SAFD. If elected, I would do my best to not only make our voice heard, but to keep actor-combatants up on what's going on in their organization. It's important that we all get involved; I would like to be a major part of that process."

## United Stuntmens Association Stunt Workshop Gears Up Again!

**David Boushey** and his remarkable cadre of Stunt Professionals are once again gearing up for a dazzling workshop in the Pacific Northwest. The United Stuntmens Association Annual Stunt Workshop is a robust workshop of practical, useful and damned fun offerings, including: rappelling, equestrian stunts, rock climbing, high falls, precision driving, fighting skills, and lots more.

The workshop will run from June 8-27. The tuition is \$1600 with a \$500 deposit due no later than May 1 to secure a place. Interested

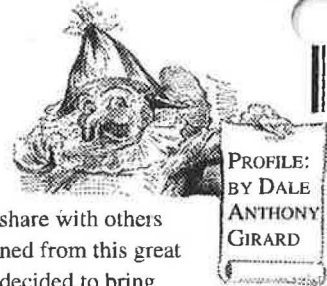
parties may contact the coordinator of the workshop, Maestro David Boushey at:

David Boushey  
2723 Saratoga Lane  
Everett, WA 98203  
(425) 290-9957

or via e-mail at: BUSHMAN4@prodigy.net  
or try the website at: www.stunt.simplenet.com

This is a fine workshop, offering skills not found in any other workshop setting. For the price it is an unbeatable bargain!

## CERTIFIED TEACHER BRAD WALLER



PROFILE:  
BY DALE  
ANTHONY  
GIRARD

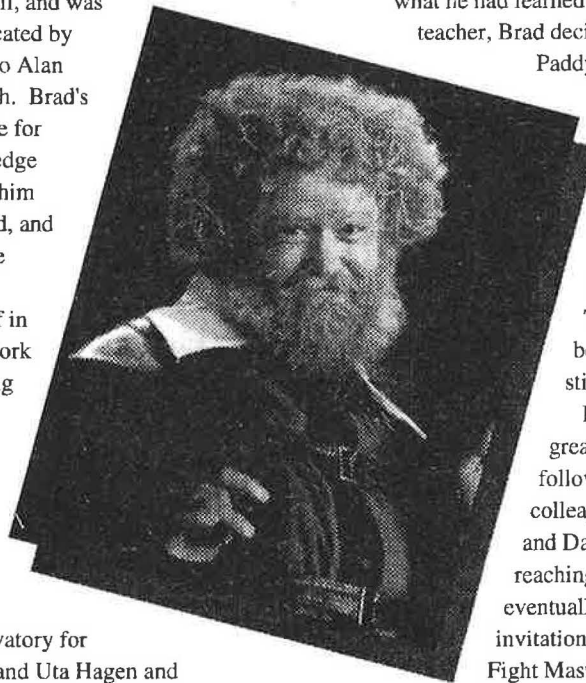
You may not know who invented sliced bread, but you more than likely use it a great deal. In a sense, Brad is like the inventor of sliced bread, we have all gained by his contributions and somehow (actually by his choice) he has remained a bit anonymous. Although he is not responsible for sliced bread, Mr. Waller has certainly contributed a great deal to our art and organization. Here then is the man who founded the now legendary Paddy Crean Workshop, helped open the door to the international community of stage combatants, inspired Payson Burt to their extensive efforts in footwork, and helped develop a strong link between the historical and the theatrical; Certified Teacher, Mr. Brad Alan Waller.

If you were to ask anyone who had met Brad what they thought of him, they would all have the same answer-- Teddy Bear. In fact, I have heard many people refer to Mr. Waller as "Pooh-ky" or "Spanky" For a man who has made violence his life, he couldn't be more gentle, friendly or kind hearted. Over the years I have had the pleasure of working with Brad in several capacities, and have always found him to be the most courteous and generous of men. Continually wearing a smile, Brad seems to draw people to him. He is both friend and mentor to many of his students. His genuine love of people seems only to be matched by his love for his family, love of the theatre, and love of the sword.

**If you were to ask anyone who had met Brad what they thought of him, they would all have the same answer -- Teddy Bear.**

An actor first, Brad receiving his BA in theatre in 1979 at University of Wisconsin. Being a highly motivated student, he went on to Temple University to earn an MFA in acting. It was at Temple that Brad had his first exposure to

stage combat. He studied the art under the tutelage of Chuck Conwell, and was adjudicated by Maestro Alan Suddeth. Brad's appetite for knowledge pulled him forward, and soon he found himself in New York studying acting with Stella Adler at her



conservatory for acting and Uta Hagen and Herbert Berghof at H.B. Studios. He even spent a summer overseas continuing his actor training with the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art.

After his return from England in 1982, Brad was serving as an acting company member at American Players Theatre when he first met Paddy Crean. Brad was to be fight captain for Paddy on a production of Hamlet. In the course of rehearsal Paddy was overwhelmed with Brad's practical and historical knowledge,

and his command of technique. Brad was, in turn, amazed by the skill and grace of this fine master of the white arm. From this

production developed a strong friendship that went beyond master and student and grew into true comrades in arms. Brad had the opportunity to work on several more productions with Paddy, and even made a couple of road trips to Canada to

study with him. In an attempt to share with others what he had learned from this great teacher, Brad decided to bring Paddy down to

Washington, DC to teach a series of workshops. This devotion to his teacher led to the first "Paddy Crean Workshop." These workshops began in 1991, and are still going strong today. Because of Brad's great love of the art, he followed the lead of his colleagues Larry Henderson and David "Pops" Doersch in reaching overseas, this eventually led to the invitation of some of the British Fight Masters to the US to teach. Several of them, including Henry

Marshal and Jonathan Howell joined the staff at the Paddy Crean Workshop, exposing many students to the great diversity and variety in our art form. In fact, I believe that it is Brad's efforts that helped develop the open line of communication between the American, British and Canadian Societies of stage combat.

One of the things that Paddy found intriguing about young Mr. Waller, was his knowledge of historical swordplay. Within the SAFD, Brad was one of the first to work at bringing the knowledge of past masters to the choreographic choices of today. It was Brad who first turned SAFD CT Payson Burt down that path of historical footwork. Brad had been exploring the mechanics and movements of the historical manuscripts, and introduced Payson to his work. The two spent several years exploring the mysteries of the Magic Circle of the Spanish school

*Con't on last page*

# Additional News...

./F Performer Needed as a replacement/understudy cast member for an established, successful, two-person swordplay comedy show. Performances both local & nationwie. Great pay and Travel. 1998 Performances in Florida, California and Atlanta currently, more possible. Performer must be personable, have strong Improv skills, and a good work/practice ethic. Swordplay and Renaissance Festival or Comedy experience preferred. Send Full body photo and resume to:

Physical FX  
5791 Dora

Clarkston, MI 48348

Or call 1-888-242-2036 for further info.



## EMPIRE WORKSHOP

A new workshop is going to happen in London this year. The Empire Workshop. Featuring Drew Fracher and Richard Ryan as instructors. It will be held the 4th-5th April 1998, and the tuition is 100 GBP for the two days. There is an SAFD discount available of 10% and an early enrollment discount of 15% (if enrolled by 28th of February). Assistance with accomodation during the workshop is available with early enrollment.

For info contact:

Bret Yount

e-mail: swordsman@compuserve.com

phone: 0181-881 6725

## Workshop Report: The Paddy Crean Workshop

The 1997 Paddy Crean Workshop was held this year in Stratford, Ontario. I'd never been to Stratford. Its a beautiful little town in southern Ontario, around 70 miles out of Detroit. The Stratford Shakespeare Festival is situated in a park very near the city center, on a hill overlooking a river where rowing competitions are held. Altogether it was one of the most picturesque settings one could have for a fight workshop.

Our hosts, John and Ina Brogan, met us Thursday night. The US contingent arrived piecemeal during the week, so the task of gathering us and getting us situated was complicated. Most of us stayed on a farm outside of Stratford. Our first night, and every night thereafter, featured a large bonfire and several cases of Canadian beer.

The instructors this year included John Brogan, David "Pops" Doersch, Brad Waller, Tim Klotz, Myself, Steve Whilsher, and, of course, Paddy. We kicked off with a rapier class with Pops. I'd never worked with Dave, and it was an eye opener. Pops has a very athletic style; one might even say its acrobatic. It confounded my mind and punished my body, but the class was well worth it.

Paddy came in for a brief lecture, and then Brad taught his "pressa" techniques gathered primarily from Marozzo. After lunch, I taught a class in knife fighting. As part of the class, I demonstrated how to mix stage blood, fill blood bags, and construct stab pads. We then concluded with a hand-to-hand class taught by Pops.

That evening, several of our number went to the play at the Stratford. I personally racked out. Pops and his damned choreography had done for me.

Saturday morning we started with a rapier and dagger class taught by Brad. Then, John Brogan and Paddy taught sabre. What a treat! Though Paddy is getting on, as are we all, he has managed to remain spry

and alert. His sabre is still impressive, though for my money, his anecdotes are the best.

After lunch, I was again thrown around indiscriminately in hand-to-hand. We were fortunate to have several guest speakers. One, Terry Fisher is a professional corrections officer and senior instructor with the RCMP. He went over with us polic procedures, baton fighting, and the proper use of handcuffs. The next class was by the Hapkido Master Wayne Martin, a seventh dan, who taught bo staff.

At the end of the day, I was well and truly whupped. But, after a quick dinner, we rallied once again for a class in case-of-rapiers taught by Pops and assisted by Tim Klotz. This was the first time I'd ever seen Tim work, and his grace and acting were truly impressive. The evening concluded with a lecture on historical research methodology which I delivered. As a result of the lecture, we all slept soundly.

Pops had to catch an early flight Sunday morning, so I drove him to Buffalo. Of course, with Pops as navigator, we went by way of Montana, but I've few complaints. In our absence Tim taught a class in smallsword. Steve Whilsher taught fisticuffs, which turned out very well. Then Wayne Martin taught knife and baton. After a farewell lunch with Paddy, the workshop concluded.

A few notable developments came of this workshop. In a meeting with Robert Seale, John Brogan and Brad, it was decided to create a non-profit corporation to sponsor the workshop annually. Brad was appointed the artistic director. In my absence, I was

nominated as executive director and Pops is Treasurer/Secretary. We'd love your input, so call me at 513-821-6134 or via e-mail at Lloyd@fuse.net. I look forward to hearing from you.



REPORT  
BY  
LLOYD  
CALDWELL

**BALLOT**  
**FOR THE ELECTION OF MEMBERSHIP REPRESENTATIVES**  
**PLEASE VOTE FOR ONE MEMBERSHIP REPRESENTATIVE**  
**FROM YOUR LEVEL OF MEMBERSHIP ONLY.**  
(Fight Directors should vote for the Fight Director Representative only.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
NAME (Please Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
MEMBERSHIP LEVEL

\_\_\_\_\_  
I VOTE FOR: (Choose one nominee)

\_\_\_\_\_  
MEMBERSHIP LEVEL OF NOMINEE

Once again, the nominees are:

**FIGHT MASTER**

Erik Fredricksen

**FIGHT DIRECTOR**

Ricki Ravitts

Geoff Alm

**CERTIFIED TEACHER**

Lewis Shaw

Timothy Pinnow

K. Jenny Jones

**ACTOR/COMBATANT**

Dan O'Driscoll

Angela Bonacasa

**FILL OUT THE APPROPRIATE PARTS OF THE BALLOT AND RETURN THIS PAGE IN  
THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE NOT LATER THAN MARCH 21, 1998**

**ONLY MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING ARE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE.**

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



Well, in the last issue, I asked for descriptions explaining the activity pictured to the right. While several of you ventured forth with explanations, one definitely wins the prize. This submission by my old friend, Paul Reyburn from St. Paul, Minnesota describes the image as:



It's obviously a designer's sketch of "The Birnham Wood Reel" from *MacB! The Scottish Musical*. Text by Shakespeare, Words & Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber. Note MacDuff in his fox disguise carrying a brick from his recently destroyed castle. This short-lived romp featured such musical classics as "Dunsinane-What a Name," "Well, Prick My Thumbs!", "The Furious Sound of Nothing" and of course, "Out, Out Already!"



Thanks to Paul for clearing this up. And, for our next question. Please explain or give a caption to the picture to the left. Again, the explanations need not be factual or serious. You can drop me an e-mail at: [ddoersch@machine1.hrfn.net](mailto:ddoersch@machine1.hrfn.net), or via snail mail at: David Doersch, 109 Tendril Court, Williamsburg, VA 23188



On another note, I have been receiving information on a variety of workshops and classes and so forth. This is great! The only thing that I ask is that the instructors for the workshops that we advertise and mention be SAFD folks. This isn't intended to be any kind of snobbery, merely that there is limited space in this publication and we therefore want to only advertise folks who are making a contribution to the SAFD.

### Crawfish Boil in Louisiana

The Rat (Mark Guinn) is preparing the ever-popular Crawfish Boil yet again. This is a recurring workshop that has proven to be a wonderful opportunity for students and teachers alike, besides, its damned fun! The workshop is April 10-11. The fee for the workshop is \$100. The artists scheduled to appear are:

- Drew Fracher
- Richard Ryan
- Scot Mann
- Brian Byrnes
- Michael Anderson
- Michael Chin
- Mark Guinn

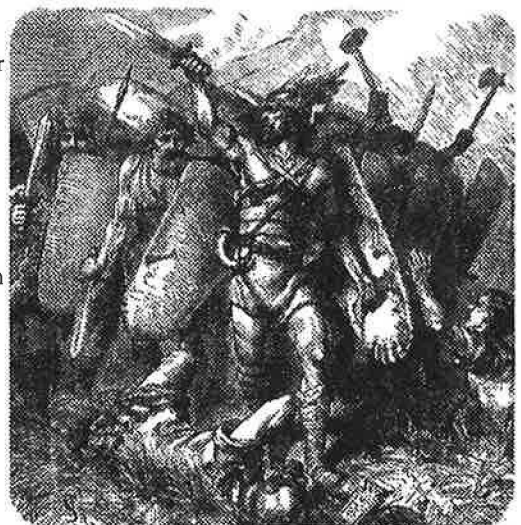
and many other Certified Teachers.

The workshop is held on the campus of Louisiana Tech University in Ruston, Louisiana. Ruston is 30 minutes west of Monroe and one hour east of Shreveport. The nearest major airport is Monroe, Louisiana. The classes will be held in the Lambright Intramural Center. The center is a state of the art facility with ample space and dressing rooms with steam and sauna. The workshop is sponsored by Tech Theatre Players and reservations for the workshop can be obtained by phoning 318-257-3942 from 1-5 pm Monday through Friday.

There are many hotels in Ruston with rates ranging from \$25 to \$45 per night. The actual crawfish boil is Sunday 12 April. Fee for the boil is \$25. Any Certified Teacher or Fight Director who wishes to attend this workshop and teach, may do so free of charge (still gotta pay for the crawfish boil, though). This is intended to be an opportunity for teachers to teach.

### Los Angeles Workshops & Classes

Robert Chapin and Anthony DeLongis have joined forces to offer what sounds like a dynamite series of classes in Stage Combat. The classes will start March 1st and will run Sundays from 1-4 pm. Classes are ongoing and will cover a wide range of topics. Call (310) 821-1496 for more information and to reserve a space.



# Brad Waller, continued

of fence as well as Marozzo and Di Grassi before their passions diverged. Payson followed his feet, and Brad labored to develop the first practical translation of Marozzo's Opera Nova. Although still in rough form, he has given many amazing lectures and demonstrations on his findings.

An active member of the SAFFD, Brad joined as an Actor/Combatant in 1982. Brad earned his Teaching Certificate in 1988. Constantly working for the art and the Society, Brad served many years as the Regional Representative for the DC area. In that capacity he organized hundreds of workshops, lectures, activities and events to promote the safe and effective use of stage combat in the performing arts. In fact, he personally helped organize displays at the Folger Library and the Smithsonian, and was guest curator of an exhibit at the Folger Library called: "The Sword and the Pen" in 1995. As an instructor of stage combat he has taught all levels of the craft all over the world. At present, he teaches at the

Shakespeare Theatre, George Mason University and the Catholic University of America. He also runs the classes for his performance troupe, the Globe Fighters.

For his efforts in fight direction, Brad was honored with a Helen Hayes nomination in 1996. Quite an honor for a fight director.

When Brad's day is done, he hangs his hat in Springfield, VA where he spends his copious free time with his lovely wife Jane Limprecht, and his two children, Lillian Kathleen and Alan Gregory. Still busy with the Society, Brad serves on several committees and continues to offer his knowledge in various articles and letters. Active with the SAFFD for over 16 years, Brad is one of the most time-honored members of the organization. He may not be responsible for slicing bread, but he is a hard working, dedicated individual, and in many respects, a cut above the rest.

## *The Cutting Edge*

is concocted bimonthly by  
David Doersch.

*The Cutting Edge*  
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Submissions should be sent to:

David Doersch  
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Williamsburg, VA 23188



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