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The Cutting Edge

The Society of American Fight Directors

1998

The Cutting Edge, June/July 1998, Vol. 9 Issue 3

The Society of American Fight Directors

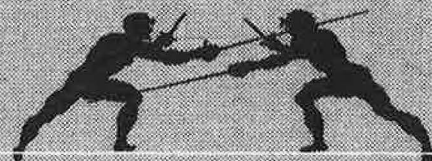
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The Cutting Edge

Newsletter for the Society of American Fight Directors



Volume IX, Number 3 - June-July 1998



A WORTHY CAUSE

(This note came in from a California member)

Here's the deal:

I have volunteered as a runner for the Arthritis Foundation in the 1998 Dublin Marathon. While slightly intimidated (I haven't run a marathon since 1991) I am running in honor of my grievously ill father (a 45 year arthritis sufferer) and a young child with arthritis that I will be assigned through the Foundation.

All I have to do is train for and run a marathon. Oh yes, and raise \$3,500 in sponsorships or the deal is off. No pressure, right?

Now, I know there are SAFD members who have had friends and family members who have been afflicted with this disease (which, due to having watched my father suffer, I consider a personal enemy). Potentially, many of us will join the ranks of arthritics (unfortunate, but true) before all is said and done.

So this is a personal and professional issue that affects us all. Please contact me if you wish to help or donate:
MELODEE M. SPEVACK
c/o SWORDS OF GLORY
2219 WEST OLIVE AVENUE
(SUITE 255)
BURBANK, CA 91506-2648
I would really appreciate your help on this. Thanks!!!
Melodee

Regional Roundup

(a new feature of the Cutting Edge)

In an effort to make this publication more pertinent to the needs of its readers, we will be including a new section in each issue called: "Regional Roundup." The focus of this section of the newsletter will be to try to alert the membership of upcoming events in their region in a timely fashion so that they might have the opportunity to avail themselves of the wonderful training opportunities that are in many cases ongoing or seasonal.

Here's some info that has come in thus far: The SAFD annual business meeting is happening on Sat. July 11th at 1:00 pm. All members are welcome and should communicate with their member reps if they have issues to put on the agenda.

What's going to happen?

From Ohio...Plans are in the works for a Regional Workshop sometime this Fall.

Contact k. Jenny Jones if interested.

What's been happening?

Drew Fracher directed WILDOATS for the Ensemble Theatre of Cincinnati with a bunch of SAFD folks. Drew also just finished directing and staging fights for HENRY IV, pt. 1 at the Georgia Shakespeare Festival. In February, **k. Jenny Jones** produced and directed a production called LOVE AND WAR: featuring the works of Shakespeare and the Art of Stage Combat. It was so successful, that a local theater, The Ensemble Theatre of Cincinnati has picked it up for a tour next school year.

The more information I receive about upcoming events, the more I can include in this Regional Roundup. So, get in touch with me and let me know if a workshop is happening in your area. Let's keep this pro-active and useful.

Summer Sling '98

New York Regional Workshop

Pace University Department of Theatre & Fine Arts together with Fights4 proudly presents the second annual SAFD Sanctioned New York Regional Stage Combat Workshop. Thursday, August 27 through Sunday, August 30, 1998 at the Manhattan Campus of Pace University in New York City, NY.

Tuition is as follows:

\$250.00 for all four days or \$85.00 per day.

15% Discount to SAFD members.

10% Discount if registered by July 1 (only one discount is valid).

This workshop looks to be a wonderful

experience with a very impressive slate of instructors, including: SAFD Fight Masters: Dale Girard and Allen Suddeth. SAFD Fight Directors & Certified Teachers: Geof Alm, David Brimmer, Brian Byrnes, Michael Chin, Chuck Coyl, Mark "Rat" Guinn, Michael Johnson, Bob Macdougall, Scot Mann, Ricki Ravitts, Richard Ryan, and Robert "Tink" Tuftee (this roster may be subject to change).

Contact:

Michael G. Chin at Kleemcchin@aol.com
or call the Fights4 hotline: (212) 330-6868.





For this month's Coyote Query, I have received an entry from SAFF member, Arthur Jolly. I hereby submit it for your pleasure.

For future reference, here are the deadlines for upcoming issues of the Cutting Edge: **August 1, October 1, December 1.** Please submit items, stories, pictures, etc. to me via e-mail at: ddoersch@machine1.hrfn.net or via standard mail at:

David Doersch
109 Tendril Court
Williamsburg, VA 23188

MAESTRO, PER FAVOR! By Arthur M. Jolly.

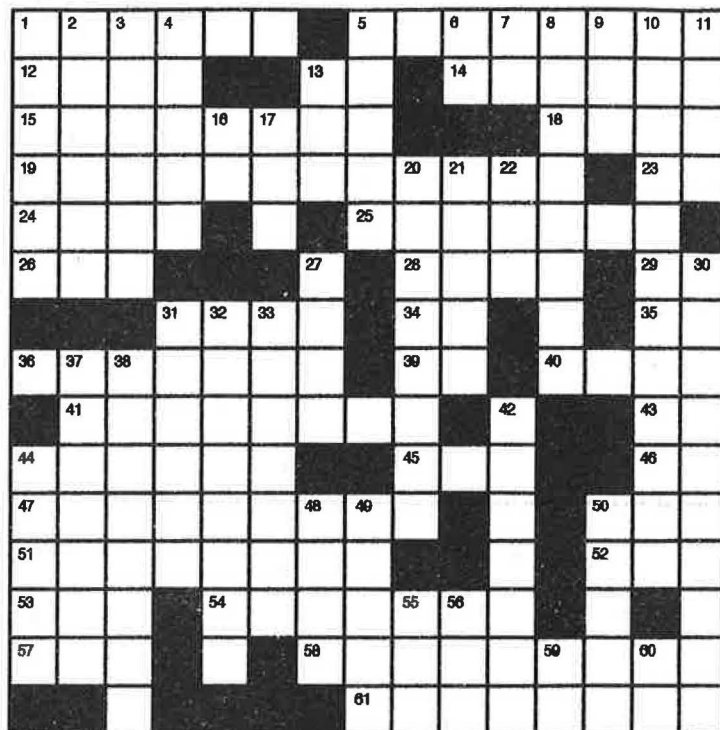
ACROSS

1. Military order
5. Boar's thrust
12. Sheltered
13. Elem. Gold
14. Spada
15. Makes noise
18. Paris greenspace
19. "___, Cappuccino per Uno."
23. Panache
24. Young adult
25. Guard position
26. Modern V.D.
28. Mail
29. ___ Chesterton, Author.
31. Gore
34. Chicago train
35. Verbal hesitation
36. "___ sound"
39. ___ Cool J.
40. Look through
41. "Schwing!" producer?
43. Elem. rare metal
44. Smart
45. Pres.
46. Arc ___ Triomphe
47. Traditional stage projectile?
50. Space station

51. Near
52. Talk
53. Resort
54. Slang addition: bountiful
57. Layer
58. Firsts among animals?
61. Root vegetable.

DOWN

1. Sides
2. Ready
3. Left the brink
4. "___ old man embrace thee..." *Troilus & Cressida*
5. Ponders
6. Film rating, in a way.
7. Cockney thanks
8. Adjunct
9. Actress Peeples
10. Offensive position
11. Whale
13. Dadaist Jean ___
16. NFL Score
17. Partake
20. Choose again
21. Battery type
22. Particle ending
27. Mother of Helen of Troy



30. Site of British massacre, 1842
31. Counter type
32. Flynn's first words in "Captain Blood"
33. Remove a harness
37. Italian sword master
38. Not serious
42. Upcoming sequel
44. Overconfident
48. CA College
49. "So ___."
50. Christmas gift
55. Gun org.
56. Hearing Impaired Telephone
59. Word used twice in a simile
60. ___ Huy Quan, *The Goonies* Actor

This just in from Dale Girard...a newly discovered photo proving that our fearless leader really met the King!



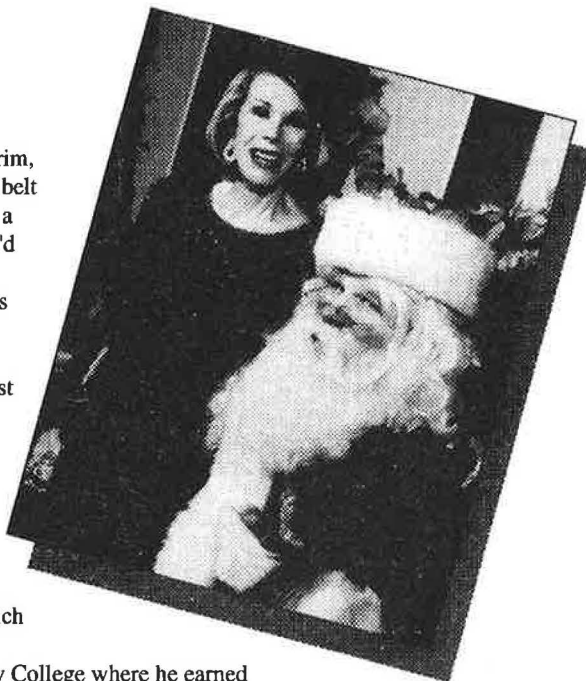
Certified Teacher J. David Brimmer

PROFILE

CERTIFIED TEACHER

J. David Brimmer

by Dale Anthony Girard



Although he can be found dressed in a red fur suit with fluffy white trim, sporting long white hair, mustache and beard, this jolly old elf has a black belt that does more than hold up his pants. He's J. David Brimmer, Santa with a sword (pictured here with Joan Rivers). When I first met David in 1990, I'd already heard a great deal about him and his teaching ability. He had the reputation of being a big, jovial fellow who enjoyed swordplay, theatre, his family and a good laugh. Upon meeting him, I found it all to be true, and remember saying to myself- "now here's a guy who could make a mint playing Santa Clause." Funny how things go, now David is one of the most sought after holiday talents in New York. Kris Kringle, however, was not David's first role, nor his only venture into the performing arts. Born and raised on the East Coast, David has always had a love for the theatre. He remembers play acting as a child, often taking on the roles of his heroes, Robin Hood and King Arthur. Reflecting back, he says, "I always was interested in sword fighting, I don't know if it was acting that led me to stage combat or swordplay that led me to acting." This chicken or egg analogy causes him to laugh a hearty laugh. No matter which came first, the theatre became his goal.

After high school, David went on to attend Bucks County Community College where he earned an Associate of Arts Degree in theatre. Before Bucks, he started taking fencing lessons at Phillips Exeter Academy and then continued at Bucks where he found he enjoyed more than playing swashbuckler. In fact, it was at Bucks that David choreographed his first stage fight. "It was everything I tell my students not to do," he says. Using fencing foils from the school club, David set a swashbuckling encounter for a holiday madrigal feast. "One fighter got hit just outside the eye in rehearsal," he recalls, "and in performance a blade snapped and flew out into the audience-landing at a women's feet." Luckily no one was injured, and David says he learned a valuable lesson-a little knowledge is a dangerous thing!

Inspired rather than discouraged, David decided to seek further training and learn how fights are supposed to work within the theatre. While studying acting at NYU, he met Al Borer, who taught their stage combat classes. Unable to register for the class, David found the time in his hectic schedule to audit it, learning unarmed and rapier techniques. This was his first taste of actual "stage combat." To further quench his appetite for swordplay, David continued his training in fencing, working out with the NYU team. After the mishap at Bucks, he wanted to get as much training as possible before stepping back into the choreographer's seat. That day, however, came a little before David had planned. While rehearsing a role in a production of "The Sword of Glass" (he says not to ask), it was discovered that he had more training than the director, and was thus put in charge of the fights. To his relief David found his training over the past few years had paid off-the fights went well, and were safe! The lesson from Bucks was not lost, however, and David was inspired to further his training even more.

The years that followed NYU read like a who's who of the New York fight community. Teachers include Fight Masters Alan Suddeth, Richard Raether and David Leong as well as people like B.H. Barry, Ramon Martinez and T.J. Glenn (to name a few). "It seems that the more I learned," he says, "the more I realized how much more there was to know." Therefore, he ventured into the martial arts. Along with countless seminars and workshops, he studied Kendo, Iado, Tai Chi and Tae Kwon Do.

As he trained and studied, David also continued to choreograph and perform. As a working actor his smiling face has been seen on stages from off, off, off, Broadway houses in So-Ho to the New York Shakespeare Festival and the Metropolitan Opera stage at Lincoln Center. He has also acted in various corporate and industrial productions, stunt shows, renaissance festivals and murder mysteries. In films and television I have seen his visage several times, including a recent episode of "Law & Order." As a choreographer his list of accomplishments and productions is just as long. His fights have graced the stages of such theatres as the Public, Circle in the Square and Playwrights Horizons. Amidst his busy schedule David also finds time to teach combat at NYU, the New York Fight Ensemble (NYFE), Fights 4 (along with fellow CT's Michael Chin, "Tink" Tuftee and Ricki Ravitts) and privately on his own. And you thought Santa's delivery schedule was hectic.

A member of the SAFD since 1988, David has been an active contributor. He has assisted many of our Fight Masters, served as a TA at the NSCW and is presently co-authoring the "Acting Tough!" column for the Fight Master and working with Michael Chin as Regional Representative for New York City. He is also a past President of NYFE and has assisted in coordinating numerous workshops in New York including last summer's popular "Summer Sling!"

Despite his pages of credits and credentials, David remains modest and quite personable. In fact, when ask what he felt were his greatest accomplishments he laughed his hearty laugh again and said, "being a dad!" He truly dotes on his two girls (Caitlin Lee, 6 and Rachel Blair, 2) and wife Amy. At work and in the theatre it is obvious that David loves the craft, but at home he seems to find a reason to smile and laugh that goes beyond himself. Perhaps that is what I saw in him when we first met. If you were to ask me what the "J" stands for in Mr. Brimmer's first name, I'd have to say "Jolly!"

Paddy Crean International Workshop Coming of Age...

In 1991, Brad Waller organized the first Paddy Crean international stage combat workshop. It was a small workshop boasting just over 30 students, and featuring the teaching talents of various teachers from America and Canada. Every year since, the Paddy Crean workshop has continued to happen, some years larger than others, but always keeping true to the spirit and vision of Paddy Crean, expanding its international outreach.

This year Brad is proud to announce the 8th annual Paddy Crean workshop to be held January 2-9, 1999 at the Banff Theatre Center in Banff, Alberta. While this year marks many great advances for the Workshop, most notably, it will serve as the inaugural event for the **International Order of the Sword and the Pen**, a global stage combat association.

This year also marks the growth of the workshop from a modest 3 day event to 7 days and 8 nights of intensive study of stage combat, history

and voice, featuring lectures and papers from noted historians and scholars, a symposium on the subject of "Violence in Stage and Screen," and most importantly, 14 Master Teachers from around the world teaching their particular styles of stage combat! Countries represented at this workshop will hopefully include: Great Britain, the United States, Canada, Ireland, Sweden, South Africa, and Australia. And, of course, our own dear Paddy Crean will be present to lend us his inspiration and wisdom.

Tuition for this monumental event is only \$750 (Canadian) approximately \$530 US (based on double occupancy). This price includes workshop, housing, AND food. There will also be the opportunity for workshop participants to audition for regional theatres (pending). For more info: Call the Banff Centre for the Arts at 1-800-565-9989 to register for the Paddy Crean International Stage Combat Workshop..

The Cutting Edge

is concocted bimonthly by
David Doersch.

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Submissions should be sent to:

David Doersch
109 Tendril Court
Williamsburg, VA 23188



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