

Marshall University

**Marshall Digital Scholar**

---

The Cutting Edge

The Society of American Fight Directors

---

8-1998

## **The Cutting Edge, August/September 1998, Vol. 9 Issue 4**

The Society of American Fight Directors

Follow this and additional works at: <https://mds.marshall.edu/cutting>



Part of the [Acting Commons](#), [Other Theatre and Performance Studies Commons](#), [Performance Studies Commons](#), and the [Theatre History Commons](#)

---



## A NOTE FROM MICHAEL CHIN

Deadline for Applications for Journey people and Teaching Assistants for the 1999 NSCW (July 12 - 31, 1999) is January 30, 1999. All actor/combatants in good standing (ie. paid up dues) are eligible to apply for Journey Person positions. To Apply send to the NSCW coordinator:

- 1) a copy of your valid certificate, acknowledging that you have passed the Skills Proficiency Test.
- 2) A letter of Intent
- 3) Picture and acting resume
- 4) Stage Combat resume
- 5) A letter of recommendation

All Certified Teachers in good standing are eligible to apply for Teaching Assistant positions. To apply send to the NSCW Coordinator a letter of intent. Send all materials to:

Michael G. Chin  
SAFD / NSCW Coordinator  
531 Main St. #807  
Roosevelt Island, N.Y. 10044

Michael Hood has moved down from the Great White North (Alaska) to Indiana University of Pennsylvania not far from Pittsburgh. His e-mail will forward for the time being, and as soon as I get any new address or phone, I'll be sure to publish it here.

## Nominations Now Open for Officers

The Society of American Fight Directors will be holding elections this winter for officers. The positions which will be filled include: President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary.

Eligibility requirements for each of the positions are as follows: for President, any Fight Director or Fight Master in good standing may be nominated to run for President; for any of the other offices, any member in good standing may be nominated and stand for election. "In Good Standing" means that dues are paid and current, and that all membership requirements of the organization have been fulfilled. If you are curious about your current status with the organization, please check with Colleen Kelly,

Nominations for elections are **now open**. In order to be eligible for office, an individual must be nominated by the following process: Any member in good standing may nominate any other member in good standing to fill any

office, provided they abide by the appropriate eligibility guidelines mentioned above.

To make a nomination, a member need only call the SAFD Hotline at 1-800-659-6579. To complete the nomination, simply state your own name, your level of membership, the name of the nominee, his/her level of membership and what office you are nominating that individual for. **Deadline for nominations is September 20, 1998.**

The next issue of the Cutting Edge will carry a ballot with it, in which all appropriately nominated individuals will stand for election.



## Insurance Info

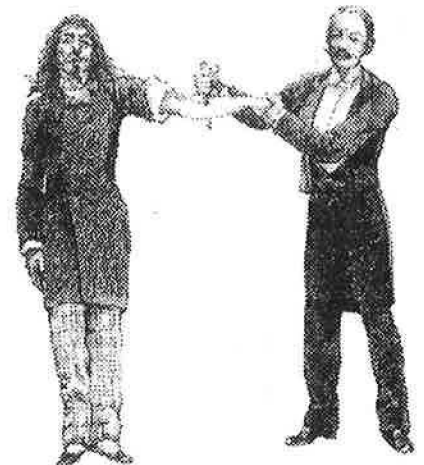
from Richard Lane

"The first thing we do, let's kill all the lawyers"  
- Dick the Butcher, *The Second Part of Henry VI*, Act IV, Sc. 2.

...But until that time, its most important that we protect ourselves. In this world it is crucial that we view what we do as professionals and adhere to the laws and climate of the times. Although, as far as we know, no SAFD Fight Master, Fight Director or Certified Teacher has been the defendant in a liability lawsuit (where one is at fault through negligence or bad advice) the possibility exists. A number of our members have actually served as Expert Witnesses for both prosecution and defense (although not in the same trial). For a more in-depth description of that experience look for Geof Alm's article in a forthcoming issue of the Fight Master.

And so, while no SAFD member has faced the prospect of being a defendant in a lawsuit involving instruction, performance or choreography of Stage Combat, the reality

exists. What can we do to protect ourselves? One is to adhere to all the safety procedures that the SAFD recommends; document your



choreography, insist on adequate training and rehearsal time for your combatants and understand the contract you are working under: are you an employee of the theatre

continued

or are you an independent contractor? The ramifications of these two arrangements are drastically different.

In order for SAFD Fight Masters, Fight Directors and Certified Teachers to be prepared for what seems like an eventuality, whether at fault or not, I have been searching for a Group General Commercial Liability Policy where members can receive protection, both legal and financial in a lawsuit. What I have found looks like this:

**Commercial General Liability**

Limits:

General Aggregate	\$2,000,000
Each Occurrence	\$1,000,000

**Participant Liability Coverage**

Limits:

Per Person	\$250,000
Per Accident	\$500,000

**Excess Medical Coverage**

Limits:

\$1,000

**COST**

Premium

\$750.00 per member assuming 60 members sign up.



This policy was discussed with the Fight Masters in attendance at the NSCW and while it was felt that this was a great step, there are still a few bugs to iron out. The actual policy itself is 15 pages long. If anyone is familiar with the legalese of insurance policies I would be happy to send you a copy; I am still seeking the best position we can get in the administration of this program.

Additionally, please note that the \$750 premium is predicated on 60 members participating. Last summer when I sent out the Insurance questionnaire I only received 35 responses to the 62 query letters. So, what I am requesting now, in order to move forward on this very necessary program is, if you have not yet replied, please do so now. Write me at:

Richard Lane  
587 Lisbon Street  
San Francisco, CA 94112

Or via e-mail at: [rjlane@flash.net](mailto:rjlane@flash.net) and let me know if you are interested, if you have insurance or if you think this current program is too costly. Or cut out the reply box below and send it to me. In order for this to fly, we all need to work together. I look forward to hearing from you.

Keep fighting the good fight and  
Fight Safely,  
Richard Lane

Yes, I am interested, tell me more about Group General Liability Insurance for SAFD Fight Masters, Fight Directors and Certified Teachers

No, I am not interested because:

I already have General Liability Insurance for Fight Direction

I could not possibly afford it.

Other Reason: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Print your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

**Responding to this poll DOES NOT obligate you to accept this insurance if it is indeed offered.**

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



For this month's Coyote Query, I am printing the solution to the puzzle put forward last issue by Arthur Jolly.

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

David Doersch  
109 Tendril Court  
Williamsburg, VA 23188



## A/C Corner by Angela Bonasca

Welcome to the first installment of the Actor/Combatant Corner! Before I go into any business, I want to thank everybody who voted for me. Being your representative is an important job, and I want you to know that I really appreciate your support and faith in me. My most important responsibility is to be your voice-if you have concerns, questions, an opinion that you want passed on to officers or anything of that nature, I'm here to do so. If I can help with anything, let me know. If I can't help, I'll find someone who can. I also have an excellent responsibility, which is new for the actor/combatant rep- I have a vote on the SAFD Governing Body! The Governing Body consists of 8 people- the four officers, and a representative from each status level (actor/combatant, certified teacher, fight director, and fight master). Each of us has an equal vote. For the first time, we actor/combatants have direct input in the workings of this organization! Which brings me to the point of this section....

With our large actor/combatant membership (over 250 of us now, thank you very much!), it is sometimes difficult to stay up to date on what is going on in the SAFD and how it affects us. Hopefully this section will help all of us to do just that. It's contents will vary each time; it's a place for us to voice our concerns, ask questions, tell people what we're up to, and just touch base. Having just come from my first National meeting, I can tell you that there is a lot of growth happening right now, and there are a couple of developments that we should all know about.

- As you may know, as of January 1 of this year, actor/combatants could no longer achieve the status of "recommended". In the midst of a great deal of debate, it was voted out during the 1997 SAFD National Meeting. It has been kept as a special mention on the day of the test. That is, it doesn't get listed on the certificate, but the combatant is publicly (by the fight master) acknowledged and it is given as a special recognition of great work done on that day. Effective immediately, the SAFD has initiated the "Examiner's Award for Excellence". It will be a special award given in the same situation that "recommended" used to be. It will be affixed to the certificate, and listed as an award on your resume. Those of you that currently hold a "recommendation" from past tests will continue to hold that status until your status needs renewing.
- General elections are upon us. We will be given the opportunity to vote for the offices of President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. In previous elections, the voter turnout has been, well, downright sad. It's really important that we all send in our ballots and keep our voices active; after all, we are the largest group in the SAFD. I know it's much easier to just look at your ballot and let other people do the voting, but why let other people make decisions for you?

I've talked to a lot of actor combatants in the past couple of months, and most feel that they have no voice-no one will listen to them. Well, here's a chance to make a difference. Send in your ballot and make your voice heard! And, of course, I am here to help in whatever way I can. In fact, I need your input. Please don't ever hesitate to contact me. My info is as follows:

Angela Bonasca  
10-37 51st Avenue #1  
Long Island City NY 11101  
Ph: 718/392 3098  
email: [mrrhead@erols.com](mailto:mrrhead@erols.com)

I hope that I get a chance to hear from you; the more we talk, the louder our voice!  
Angela

# Back - word

Jeff A.R. Jones (CT,FD, NC Regional Rep, Graphic Designer for the Fight Master) and Lisa M. Jones (SAFD Marketing Advisory Board Member) are moving. Effective July 30, our new address will be  
1240C Hamilton Court  
Cary, NC 27511  
(919) 388-8945

If you are planning a photo submission or ads for the next issue of The Fight Master, please send it to this address.

And...

Looking forward to next issue, anticipate the ballot, announcing who has been nominated and soliciting your vote. Also, look for a workshop report on The Empire workshop in London (sorry, but I ran out of room in this issue) as well as some other very important items. Deadline is October 1, and that

deadline is firm. In order for me to have time to get the ballots to all of you, have you vote, and send the ballots in in a timely fashion, and allow me to announce the results before January 1, 1999, we've got to stick to our deadlines this fall. Please, make sure you update your address with Paul Dennhardt if you have been experiencing any difficulty getting this mailing. Paul will update our mailing service.

Hope all of you are well and that this Autumn is bringing new opportunities to fight the good fight!

Fight Well and Safely,

Pops



## The Cutting Edge

is concocted bimonthly by  
David Doersch.

*The Cutting Edge*  
is a publication of the  
Society of American Fight Directors

Submissions should be sent to:

David Doersch  
109 Tendril Court  
Williamsburg, VA 23188



109 Tendril Court  
Williamsburg, VA 23188



Non-Profit Org.  
US Postage  
PAID  
Williamsburg, VA  
Permit No. 546

T H E F I G H T M A S T E R