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The Cutting Edge

The Society of American Fight Directors

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The Cutting Edge, January/February 2000, Vol. 11 Issue 1

The Society of American Fight Directors

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The Cutting Edge

Newsletter for the Society of American Fight Directors



Volume XI, Number 1 - January - February, 2000

Election Issue

This issue marks the election for Member Representatives. These new reps will serve from January 2000 thru Dec. 31st 2002. They can be voted on ONLY by members in good standing in their particular level of status. In other words, only Actor/Combatants and Friends can vote for A/C rep, only CT's can vote for John Bellomo for CT rep, and only FD's can vote for FD rep, etc.

Use the ballot enclosed within this issue to vote. Mark only one name within your category and please only vote within your specific membership level. Ballots should be postmarked not later than March 1, 2000 and should be sent in the enclosed envelope to Jeff Koep. If, for any reason, you are missing an envelope, please mail your ballot to:

Jeff Koep, Dean of Fine Arts
UNLV
4505 Maryland Parkway
PO Box 455013
Las Vegas, NV 89154-5013

The Candidates for Member Representative for each of the given levels are as follows:

Actor/Combatant-
Angela Bonacasa
Robert Westley

Certified Teacher-
John Bellomo

Fight Director-
K. Jenny Jones
Geoff Alm
Ricki Ravitts

Fight Master-
David Woolley
Erik Fredricksen

If you have any questions about this election process, please contact Drew Fracher, chair of the election committee at Vern10th@worldnet.att.net



Editor Stepping Down

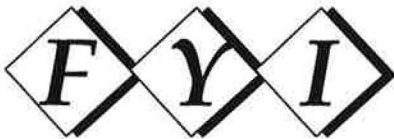
Over the four years of my tenure as editor of the CE, we have all witnessed the massive changes to the bylaws instituted under former President Drew Fracher and largely designed and written by former Vice President Colleen Kelly. Changes that, I think, will allow the organization to grow positively into the 21st Century.

We have seen terrible tragedies such as Michael Anderson's accident, Vita Andersen's accident, and the death of James Finnipot. We have seen an explosive growth of international training opportunities.

We have all seen many developments within the Society in the last four years.

vibrant, growing, dynamic organization that shows every sign of thriving and increasing our professional influence in the years ahead. As we move into the new year with a strong sense of possibility and the enthusiasm borne therein, let us not forget those who have taught us, and look back on the lessons we have learned from our masters.

I thank you all for the opportunity to serve as editor of the Cutting Edge and I know that Geoff Kent will do a brilliant job with it. Send all articles and info to him at: kentge@email.msn.com



NEW VICE PRESIDENT

Citing family and professional demands, Paul Denhardt has had to reluctantly step down as our elected Vice President. President Dale Girard, in consultation with Past-President Drew Fracher and other members of the executive committee has therefore appointed Chuck Coyl to step up to the plate and fulfill the duties of the Vice Presidency.

Many thanks go to Paul for his years of service to the organization, and of course our congratulations for the wonderful and exciting developments in his life. Many good wishes.

Likewise, let us all send our thanks to Chuck Coyl for stepping up and taking on the mantle of VP. As past VP's will no doubt attest, it is a relatively thankless job with many long hours and much tedious effort. But the organization couldn't work without it. Thanks, Chuck.

NEW ADDRESS

K. Jenny Jones has a new address. You can track her down at:

Bard Alley Studio
P.O. Box 141407
Cincinnati, OH 45250-1407
513.325.2924
NEW EMAIL:
jonekj@ucmail.uc.edu

Applications Now Being Accepted for NSCW TAs and Interns

Teaching Assistant Application

To apply for a Teaching Assistant position you must

- 1) be an SAFD member in good standing (i.e. dues paid in full)
- 2) hold Certified Teacher or Fight Director status within the SAFD

Please submit the following:

- 1) Proof of paid up dues
- 2) Letter of Intent
- 3) Picture and Acting resumé
- 4) Stage Combat resumé

Intern Application

To apply for an Intern position (formerly known as Journeyperson) you must:

- 1) be an SAFD member in good standing (i.e. dues paid in full)
- 2) hold Advanced Actor/Combatant Status (recognition in at least six out of eight weapons styles).

Please submit the following:

- 1) Proof of paid up dues
- 2) Proof of valid Advanced Actor/Combatant Status acknowledging that you have passed the Skills Proficiency Tests and are current in at least 6 weapons.
- 3) a letter of intent
- 4) picture and acting resumé
- 5) stage combat resumé
- 6) A letter of recommendation from any of the following: Fight Master; Fight Director, and/or Certified Teacher.

Priority for the seven available Intern positions will be given to SAFD members holding Advanced Actor/Combatant status. In the event that there are not enough applicants who meet this qualification, then choices will be based upon highest degree of skill proficiency.

Send your materials to:

Michael G. Chin
SAFD/NSCW Coordinator
260 W. 22nd St. #3
New York, N.Y. 10011-2731

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS: JANUARY 31, 2000



Regional Report from Michael Johnson

Jamie Cheatham and his family moved to the area this year. Before he went down to complete his masters at VCU (with **David Leong**), he assisted me in cleaning up the fights for **THE LAST ORBIT OF BILLY MARS** at Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company and teaching an unarmed class for me at the National Conservatory of Dramatic Arts. Both our classes are waiting for SPT results from **Dale Girard** at this writing. **Brad Waller's** organization, the International Order of the Sword and Pen (IOSP) held two wildly successful Paddy Crean Workshops this year. One in Canada and one in Britain. Two more are scheduled for January and June of 2000.

Between **Brad, Jamie, Michael Donahue, Lewis Shaw John Gerski** (a senior student of Brad's), certain members of the Noble Blades and myself, we choreographed the fights for all but three of the professional shows produce in the DC area this year. The other three were all produced by the Shakespeare Theatre - **KING JOHN** by Fight Master **David Leong** (assisted by Fight Director **Paul Dennhardt**), **KING LEAR** by **Dennhardt**, and the upcoming **CORIOLANUS** by Certified Teacher **Rick Sordelet**.

As for myself, I've either choreographed or consulted on several fights for Arena Stage this year and am currently in **THE ROYAL FAMILY** there. My biggest achievement was spear-heading the committee (aka **THE TWENTY**) that got the new Knife Fighting Discipline accepted into the SAFD's curriculum.

It's been a busy year in the DC area. I expect we'll be even more busy next year (or is that next millennium?). Stay cool, MJ

Regional Report from J. David Brimmer and Ricki G. Ravitts

NYC welcomes two CT's: **Timothy Tait** and **John Paul Scheidler**. Thanks for joining us, guys, we were getting so lonely out here.

Regional workshop "Summer Sling III" Aug. 23-26
Instructors included:

Dale Girard, Chuck Coyl, Rat Guinn, Brian Byrnes, Richard Ryan, Michael Johnson, Mike Chin, Robert Tuftee, J. David Brimmer & Ricki G. Ravitts

Regional Workshop featured

- SAFD membership meeting led by Member Rep. **Angela Bonacasa**

- fund-raising raffle for Fight for Life - BCEFA (dagger provided by **Lewis Shaw**)

University of Hartford Stage Combat Society (& **Dale Girard**) sponsored a Katana Workshop October 2nd - (taught by FD/CT **Chuck Coyl**, ably assisted by **Angela Bonacasa**)

In addition to numerous shows & classes choreographed, performed, taught and attended by SAFD members, there were also outreach programs to schools in Bedford Stuyvesant and the Harlem HS of the Performing Arts.

This joint is jumpin'.

Respectfully submitted,

J. David Brimmer & Ricki G. Ravitts - NYC/CT regional reps

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
David Woolley

FIGHT DIRECTOR

K. Jenny Jones
Geoff Alm
Ricki Ravitts

CERTIFIED TEACHER

John Bellomo

ACTOR/COMBATANT

Angela Bonacasa
Robert Westley

**FILL OUT THE APPROPRIATE PARTS OF THIS BALLOT AND RETURN THIS PAGE IN
THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE NOT LATER THAN MARCH 1, 2000**

ONLY MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING ARE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE.

SUPPORT THIS PUBLICATION

When I began serving as editor of the Cutting Edge, every issue used to include a Member Profile. These profiles were originally to be written by regional reps, but people often forgot their deadlines, or were simply too busy, so the duty eventually fell to one person so as to simplify the process. Dale Girard soon was writing all of the member profiles. You can imagine that now, as president, he has more important things to worry about. Of course, it has long been understood that the editor's hands are so full that he/she can't write the profiles (nor would it be appropriate as this publication should involve more than one voice). Consequently, no one currently writes member profiles.

This newsletter is intended as a voice for the membership and should be an opportunity for the membership to learn about each other and to learn what has been happening and what is coming up in the various regions of our country. As such, if the membership does not

submit information to the editor, there really isn't a newsletter. As the ball gets handed off to the new editor, Geoff Kent, please take this opportunity to support this publication and make the transition as easy as possible. Send Geoff e-mails or snail mails with your information. This newsletter is only as rich in material as you make it.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Geoff for stepping forward to accept this voluntary position for the good of the SAFD.

Finally, for those of you who may be wondering why I have chosen to step down... the demands of my career and the Paddy Crean Workshops have dominated practically every spare minute of my over-busy life. Now, my wife and I have the great joy to be expecting a new baby sometime in early March. So, as you can imagine, something had to give. I look forward to seeing all of you around various workshops in the coming years, and hope that you will all stay in touch, and should any of you be in the neighborhood, just call...

The Cutting Edge

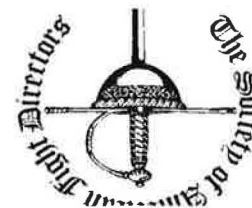
has been concocted bimonthly by David Doersch. Heretofore it shall be published by Geoff Kent.

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



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