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The Society of American Fight Directors

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The Society of American Fight Directors

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The Cutting Edge



DEDICATED TO IMPROVING THE QUALITY & SAFETY OF STAGE COMBAT

WWW.SAFD.ORG

Member Rep Elections Part Deux

Due to a publishing house/mailling list snafu (now corrected), the first issue of the Cutting Edge for 2000 was waylaid and many members did not receive a copy. Therefore, the SAFD officers have declared the first run of the membership representative elections null-and-void and we are re-running those elections in this issue.

Please look over the electees below for your membership level: Actor/Combatant and Friend, Certified Teacher, Fight Director or Fight Master. The elected members will serve terms and represent your concerns to the SAFD through December 2002.

Please remember, only SAFD members with dues in good standing can vote and you should only vote for your membership level.

To place your vote simply fill out the ballot below (or photocopy this page) and mail it to: Jeff Koep, Dean of Fine Arts University of Nevada - Las Vegas 4505 Maryland Pkwy, PO Box 455013, Las Vegas, NV 89154-5013.

Due to the overdue date, your vote is needed ASAP. Please get your ballot postmarked into Jeff Koep by Friday, May 12th for your voice to be counted.

REP ELECTEES:

(Please circle one)

Actor/Combatant & Friend:

Geoffrey Kent
Robert Westley

Certified Teacher:

John Bellomo

Fight Director:

Geoff Alm
K. Jenny Jones

Fight Master:

Erik Fredricksen
David Woolley



Vote or wear the SAFD skirt of shame!

NEWS From around the SAFD

Mark your calendars:

This summer marks the 21st annual National Stage Combat Workshop in Las Vegas, NV (July 10-28). Six SAFD Fight Masters and seven SAFD Certified Teachers/Fight Directors will be on staff.

In addition, the wonderful celebration barn theatre workshop in Maine (June 11-23) has joined the NSCW fold.

Staff at the barn includes J. Allen Suddeth, Erik Fredricksen, A. C. Weary and k. Jenny Jones.

Both workshops have tons of ideas and techniques to share. Contact NSCWboss@aol.com for Vegas information and NYFGTDIRECTR@aol.com for Celebration Barn information.

(Continued on page 3)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Meet the new VP	2
Paddy 2000 review	2
Regional Rep Reports	3

WEB PAGE UPDATE

Yahoo.com©, Amazon.com© and now www.SAFD.org! The SAFD Website is undergoing significant changes to better serve our members and the fight and theatre communities at large. Current changes:

- A new home page
- Bios and photos for Fight Masters, Fight Directors, Certified Teachers and Regional Representatives
- Links to stage combat related publications available at Amazon.com (The SAFD receives a small cut from any books sold via these links).

If your bio/photo is not listed, you can send your information and photos to webmaster Al Foote III by e-mail (webmaster@safd.org) or snail mail (179 E. 78th Street, #4B New York, NY 10021-0462). In addition, if you are an author and have a book sold on Amazon, let the SAFD webmaster know, so he can add it to the bio window and the new "Members' Books" page.

Coming soon: a "Members Only" area with bulletin boards, a chat room as well as on-line copies of the "Cutting Edge", the Policies & Procedures and the new improved Glossary. See you on-line!

Get to know your new V.P. Paddy Crean 2000

by Angela Bonacasa, SAFD Secretary

A native of Chicago, Illinois, Chuck Coyl has been a member of the SAFD for the past twenty years.



A pleasant blend of kung-fu and cool

His initial experience with stage combat came at the inaugural National Stage Combat Workshop in 1979, where he met Fight Masters David Boushey, Erik Frederickson, and Joseph Martinez. The following fall he entered his senior year at Southern Methodist University, and continued stage combat training under Maestro Boushey.

It would prove to be a turning point in Chuck's young career; about a month before graduation, David

asked if he would like to be a part of a production of *Three Musketeers* that he was fight directing at Actor's Theatre of Louisville.

Chuck to played Biscarat and was also co-fight captain for the production. He has since done several productions of *Musketeers*, including a production at Dallas Theatre Center where actor (now Fight Master) Richard Raether played d'Artangan.

In addition to ATL and DTC, Chuck has also performed at Kentucky Shakespeare Festival, Colorado Shakespeare Festival, and the Chicago Lyric Opera, among others.

Since becoming a certified teacher in 1990, Chuck has taught stage combat and other movement disciplines at National-Louis University, Northwestern, DePaul, Roosevelt, and Columbia Universities, and the Actor's Gymnasium in Evanston, IL.

His extensive Aikido background has also allowed his students to experience a different approach to forward rolls, unarmed, quarterstaff, and sword techniques.

As a fight director, Chuck has choreographed the original productions of *Killer Joe* and *Point of Honor* (the stage version of *The Duellists*), and the Chicago premier of *The Manchurian Candidate* at the Shattered Globe, among many others.

As a CT/FD of the SAFD, Chuck has taught at regional workshops across the country. In addition to being Vice President, he has served as a Regional Representative, is the previous coordinator for the Winter Wonderland Workshop in Chicago, and is presently assistant NSCW coordinator.

“packed with ZA!”

by Geof Alm, SAFD Fight Director

Back in 1986, at my first NSCW in Memphis, I had the honor of meeting Paddy Crean when he came to spend a week with us. He was, by all accounts, the remarkable man I had heard so much about. His teaching, his philosophies on fight directing, and his down to earth decentness, are things I have never forgotten. Unlike many of my colleagues, I have only seen him once since then. I had always wanted to attend the Paddy Crean Workshop, but over the years something always came up. This year I packed up my truck drove thirteen hours from Seattle, saw more snow than I have seen in years, and arrived in Banff, Alberta for the January 2nd-9th 2000 Paddy Crean Workshop.

In brief, I had a GREAT time! The spirit, faculty, and facilities were all top notch. I was challenged by the content of the classes, did some things I have been afraid to do (a high fall -ok, it was from six feet, but for me, it was plenty high enough!) and met many friends, old and new.

The Faculty was international by it's make-up, and had those qualities that drew me into this business in the first place, the sharing of knowledge and skills, combined with good fellowship. There were so many classes offered that I can't list them all, but I will mention a few that stood out for me.

“We weren't exactly a crack unit by the end, but when we could stop laughing, we gave a good show of ourselves!”

The Art, Science, and Philosophy of Spanish Swordsmanship, taught by Mr. Ramon Martinez. He is the only person in the world teaching the Spanish school, and I found the class very challenging and interesting. For someone like me who trained more theatrically than competitively, it opened many possibilities. To begin to understand a form of Swordplay that changed very little in 300 years was very exciting. Mr. Martinez teaches in New York City and I would highly recommend people look him up.

A high point for me was taking part in the 18th and early 19th century Close Order Drill class, in which we were yelled at, marched about, and flummoxed by Sergeant Robert Seale, resplendent in his red uniform. We weren't exactly a crack unit by the end, but when we could stop laughing, we gave a good show of ourselves!

For the first three days of the workshop, research papers were presented. I found this very interesting and fun. The papers were wide ranging and dealt with many subjects relating to violence (both historical and modern). The facilities at the Banff Center for the Arts were fabulous. It didn't hurt to look out each morning and find yourself surrounded by the Rocky Mountains! We were fed wonderfully, and had full use of the gym, and as the week progressed, our favorite place became the hot tub and the steam room!

Finally I want to say a few words about Brad Waller, David Dorsch and Lloyd Caldwell. I've known them for years, and I would like to commend them for the work they did on this workshop. To be in such a beautiful place, with artists from all over the world, who share the love of this Art Form, representing so many organizations, was inspiring. There was plenty of Za for all!

Regional Roundup: Words from around the SAFD

Illinois/Iowa/Missouri/Wisconsin:

My apologies to those in the other states covered by my jurisdiction, but I can only pass on information that I have. Contact me with future gigs.

The Chicago area has, as usual, been extremely busy on the fight front in terms of both teaching and performance. The usual conveyor-belt of SPT graduates from the local colleges under Messrs. Woolley and MacFarquhar have now been supplemented by classes at UWM under Dennhardt and DePaul under Sandys, as well as a test class at Actors' Gym under Coyl.

As ever (it seems), the Chicago Winter Wonderland Workshop graced the Superbowl weekend, this year under the able auspices of John McFarland and relocated to Oak Park.

The weekend was dedicated to the special memory of James "Finnipot" Fin-

ney and Rogue Steel provided the dagger for the fund-raising raffle.

Instructors included Messrs. Woolley, Coyl, Gray, MacFarquhar, Sandys, McFarland, and the Anderson Twins, Michael and Aaron (sharing horrific accident stories and measuring scars) all ably assisted by Messrs. Preston, Westley, Bonacasa, et al.

Of all the choreographed extravaganzas this season, highlights (because they provided much employment for SAFD fighters) include: Woolley's stupid sword stunts in small spaces for About Face's "Xena Live"; MacFarquhar's "Cyrano" for Rivendell; Sandys' "Carmen" for Lyric Opera of Chicago; Coyl's "Richard III" for Shakespeare on the Green; Dennhardt's "Three Musketeers" for UWM; and productions at Defiant, Red Hen, Shakespeare's Motley Crew, and others.

Here's to more growth and good publicity in the coming summer months! -Nick S.

Texas/Oklahoma:

Currently, Texas and Oklahoma have approximately 35 people on the books, and about 10 people who have paid their dues that need to be added to official lists.

With Bill Lengfelder working and teaching in Dallas, and myself in Houston, the SAFD population and reputation is growing.

There have been some performing opportunities for people with fight skills with companies in Houston such as Theatre Under the Stars, Houston Grand Opera, The Alley Theatre, Main Street Theatre, New Heights Theatre, and others. I've also been told that Dallas, Austin, and San Antonio have had some stage fight opportunities.

The closest Regional Workshop for us is the Crawfish Boil in Ruston, LA.

(Continued on page 4)

SAFD News Continues: Babies, Dues, E-mail and the BFB

(Continued from page 1)

The SAFD grows up...

Please join us in congratulating some new members to the ranks. They may not be wielding swords and shields just yet but reports have it that they brandish their pacifiers like true swashbucklers. The new SAFD cast, in order of appearance:

Delia Marie Kerr-Dennhardt
Born: May 17, 1999
Mom: Jean MacFarland Kerr
Dad: Paul Dennhardt

Matthew Sung Girard
Born: August 29, 1999
Adopted: February 25, 2000
Mom: Janine Hawley-Girard
Dad: Dale Anthony Girard

Medelyn Elizabeth Mann
Born: November 11, 1999
Mom: Laura Southern Mann
Dad: Scot J. Mann

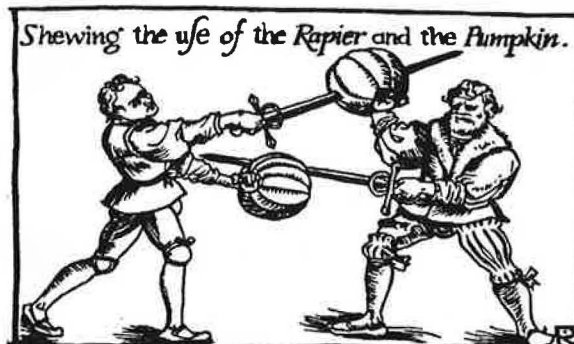
Kaliska Virginia Wiley
Born: February 28, 2000
Mom: Elizabeth Wiley
Dad: David Doersch

Show me the money!

SAFD Financial statements are available to any member who is inter-

Calling all E-mail...

The SAFD secretary is collecting member e-mail addresses. Please shoot e-mail to the new secretary at goodhouse@hotmail.com with your name and e-mail address. While you are at it, let us know if you have a new address or phone number too!



ested. Please contact Treasurer Julia Rupkalvis by e-mail: ripper@flashcom.net or snail mail: 4335 Van Nuys Blvd #117 Sherman Oaks, CA 91403 if you would like to receive a copy.

Reworking the Teacher Text

The BFB as we all know and love it is going to be reorganized to make it more useable both for those teaching as well as for those being taught.

Part of this newer, better BFB will be a list of required and recommended reading for those attending the next Teacher Training Workshop.

If you would like to have your opinions included, please contact committee head, Aaron Anderson via e-mail (aarona@nwu.edu) or snail mail (940 Beau Dr #105, Des Plaines IL 60016) to receive the survey.

Regional Representative Reports Cont'd

The Back Page

(Continued from page 3)
Each year a good number of people from Texas and OK travel to attend the workshop. People have come away with nothing but good things to say about The Boil.

In Houston, we are holding monthly "Workouts." These free-of-charge "Workouts" are an opportunity for dues paying members of the

SAFD to continue to work on skills and keep up-to-date with SAFD news. -Brian B.

Wyoming/Montana/Idaho:

SAFD activity in the region remains minimal. University of Wyoming student Rian Jairell received a scholarship to attend the NSCW in Vegas at the 1999 Kennedy Center Irene Ryan Acting Competition.

Denver Center Theatre Company.

SAFD members Dale Girard, Mark "Rat" Guinn, Michelle Ladd, Michael Chin, Chuck Coyl, Aaron Anderson and Harris Smith instructed. Angela Bonacasa, Joe Manussier, Neil Massey and David "Donkey Show" Hastings assisted.

Class highlights included "Embracing Mother Earth," "Domestic Violence" and the infamous "Shaolin Kicks." The Rumble hopes to be bigger and better next year. Stay tuned!

This summer, The Denver Center is offering classes in stage combat. Check out www.denvercenter.org for more information.

An SAFD skills proficiency test for unarmed may also be offered in the fall. Contact kentge@msn.com for more information. -Geoffrey K.

Let me take a moment to bring you up to speed on a few recent changes in the SAFD.

Mr. Michael Anderson has stepped down as secretary to concentrate on local activities. We thank him for his work and welcome new SAFD secretary and former Actor/Combatant representative Angela Bonacasa to her new post.

In addition, this issue marks the passing of the editorship of this newsletter from SAFD Fight Director David Doersch to Advanced Actor/Combatant Geoffrey Kent. I'd like to thank Pops on behalf of the organization for the long hours and excellent issues he has produced. We wish him luck as he begins round two as a new father.

That is all for now. Look forward to meeting some of you this summer at the National Stage Combat Workshop in Vegas.



Dale Anthony Girard
SAFD President

-D.A.G.

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Geoffrey Kent
E-mail: Kentge@msn.com
3047 West 47th Avenue, #512
Denver, CO 80211

I'm looking for an SAFD certified teacher close to Ekalaka, Montana. A "comrade in arms" who lives there is interested in training. -Leigh S.

Colorado/Kansas:

1999 finished with a bang with the 2nd annual SAFD regional workshop, the Rumble in the Rockies, hosted by the



6321 N. Lakewood
Chicago, IL 60660



We're on the Web!
WWW.SAFD.ORG

10011-2731

