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The Cutting Edge

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

Membership has its rewards

WWW.SAFD.ORG Opens New Members Only Section

As of February 1st, 2001, the new members only area of www.safd.org is online. Dues paying members can now access this section to maintain your own contact information,

Bulletin Board: Each membership level has it's own Bulletin Board. You can post a comment or observation, or simply follow the various threads that will no doubt ensue.



Oi! Me Aorta!

download SAFD documents, participate in online discussions, post questions on the bulletin board, and much, much more.

Publications: You can download back issues of the Cutting Edge and Fight Master. There are also many issues of the Cutting Edge available in PDF format. The latest Fight Master will soon be available as well and new & old FMs as they are released.

Forms: You can download PDF files such as: The latest Policies & Procedures, Glossary of Terms, Adjudication forms and CT/FD renewal forms. You are always guaranteed to have the latest updated forms available to you at a click of a button.

Update your Info: Here you can view your vital contact information; the actual data that is in the SAFD database about you (only you can access this info on the site - with your unique user name and password). If you move, or if something needs to be updated, you can now do it directly on this page.

Member pages: Here, you can get announcements about your membership level on pages hosted by member reps. If you have not been sent a password, go to the Members section. On the sign in page you will see a link to create your password. After completing an online form, you will be e-mailed your access information.

SAFD DUES

It's that time of year again: time to pay your dues.

In this edition of the Cutting Edge, you will find all the necessary paperwork (page 4). In addition to money orders and checks, the SAFD now also can take credit card payments online! Just log on to www.safd.org under *membership* and follow the instructions.

If you prefer to pay by check, please send your check for \$35 to our new address:

SAFD
1350 East Flamingo Road #25
Las Vegas, NV 89119

Photocopy and fill in the enclosed update form and send it to the above address. The SAFD has gone through a great deal of effort in the last year to update the record keeping, but it does not do much good if the information isn't current. Even if you have been receiving publications and believe your information is correct, return it anyway; roughly 20% of SAFD publications are being returned by the post office for invalid addresses, and we need to cut that number down.

Please, please, PLEASE be sure to update your address when you move! This can now be done online in the SAFD members only section or by contacting your regional rep. I try to update every address that is returned by the post office, however, each time a new publication is mailed out; there are 200 more addresses to change.

If all else fails, contact me directly at goodhouse@hotmail.com and I will handle it ASAP.

As always, if there are questions, feel free to drop me a line. Thanks for your help.

Angela Bonacasa, SAFD Secretary

News from Around the SAFD

Summer Intensive Training Available

Several exciting training opportunities are coming up this summer. The National Stage Combat Workshop in Las Vegas, Nevada has a three-week program for basic stage combat training or SAFD teacher certification. The Celebration Barn Theatre in South Paris, Maine has a two-week course with classes for the actor who is looking for an opportunity to mesh acting with stage combat and a fight director training program for you up-and-coming fight directors. More information on the NSCW & Barn (including dates, cost and applications) can be found at:

NSCW: <http://www.safd.org/nscw.html>

BARN: <http://www.safd.org/fdw.html>

NSCW Scholarship Applications Due April 1st!

The SAFD annually offers one full ride scholarship (tuition & housing) to the National Stage Combat Workshop to an Actor/Combatant or Advanced Actor/

MFA Education Opportunity

Potential graduate students interested in acquiring an MFA Degree in Theatre Pedagogy with an emphasis in Movement and/or Fight Choreography should contact Theatre VCU Chairman David Leong at dsleong@saturn.vcu.edu. Theatre VCU is a NAST accredited institution in direct collaboration with Theatre Virginia (LORT C). Six semesters of graduate work include courses in Movement Analysis, Mime, Mask, Physical Comedy, Unarmed Stage Combat, Period Weaponry, Choreographic Seminars and Business of the Theatre.

Graduate students also have the opportunity to participate in productions as Movement Coaches, Fight Choreographers or Assistant Directors at Theatre Virginia once they finish their first year of study. Off campus opportunities to assist Fight Master Leong exist throughout the three-year course of study. Financial assistance is available. Requirements for admission include a GPA of 3.0 or higher at the



"Can't we all just get along?"

Combatant that qualifies. Applications are due April 1st, 2001. For information on applying, go to:

SCHOLARSHIP: <http://www.safd.org/scholarship.html>

Reaching Out

The SAFD recently hit the \$10,000 mark for donations to Broadway Cares Equity Fights Aids in its Fighting For Life campaign. This money was raised by donations, tee shirt sales, raffles, and other voluntary contributions over the years. This is an important cause, and we would like to ask everyone to join us in supporting this nationwide effort. For more information, or to make a donation yourself, link onto their website at www.bcefa.org

E-mail Changes

SAFD Treasurer Julia Rupkalvis' old DSL Company has gone belly up ("Not my fault!" she swears). Her new fully functioning e-mail address is courage@telocity.com.

Cutting Edge editor and Actor/Combatant Representative Geoffrey Kent has dropped his MSN account (down with MSN!) and switched to Earthlink in the search for perfect customer service. Please update your address books to reflect his new address: GeoffKent@Earthlink.com.

undergraduate level and a minimum of 30 hours in theatre related courses. Evidence of successful completion of SAFD skills test on at least three weapons is also required. Further details about the Theatre VCU program can be obtained at www.vcu.edu/artweb/theatre.

Marketing Help

Jeff A.R. Jones and the Publicity and Marketing Committee are looking for some help with the new SAFD Brochure that is being created.

First, if you have any pictures that you think would be useful in the promotion of the Society's work (i.e. action shots from stage productions across the country), teaching and/or personality (i.e. pictures of happy times and smiling faces) please send them directly to Mr. Jones or notify Robert Westley (CRose1109@aol.com). If you know of a theatre that has these pictures, Mr. Westley would be happy to contact them directly.

Second, P&M are trying to suggest more benefits of becoming members. Theatre discounts across the country has been a suggestion that has been getting a lot of atten-

(Continued on page 5)

Regional Roundup: Words from your Regional Rep

Arkansas/Oklahoma

Since moving into this region and coping with the demands of a new position at the University of Oklahoma, I am currently in the process of establishing links to the membership in the area. My thanks go out to those who have contacted me and I hope to get more regional activity happening here as I settle in.

Skills Proficiency Test classes at the University of Oklahoma are slated to begin in the fall of 2001 and I hope to offer some workshops to the membership in both Oklahoma and Arkansas to increase the visibility and presence of the SAFD. Right now it looks like we have eight members in the area with some new people inquiring about membership through the web site (thanks to Payson and the web site team).

Joe Falocco has moved from the Chicago area to teach at Arkansas State University and Kristin Larson has contacted me about having the department at Southern Arkansas University join the SAFD.

SAFD Friend Jerry Benson continues to teach at Redlands Fencing Center in Oklahoma City. One of his students, Susan Gilmore, was one of eight wheelchair athletes to earn a position on the U. S. Paralympics Fencing Team. Ms. Gilmore, prior to the Sydney games, was ranked second in the nation among female wheelchair fencers. She has competed nationally and internationally in Charlotte, Atlanta, Palm Springs, Cleveland, Hungary, Spain, and Italy. We send our congratulations to both Susan and Jerry.

-Paul Steger

Colorado/Kansas

The Denver Center for the Performing Arts recently hosted the third annual Rumble in the Rockies with over thirty students attending (see workshop report page 5). Plans are already underway for next year's

workshop.

SAFD A/C Benaiah Anderson played Valentine in Shakespeare's Two Gentlemen of Verona at K-state and also choreo-

graphed two slapstick swordfights for the show. In addition, he helped teach a short class on falls for the program.

AA/C Geoffrey Kent completed a Swashbuckling 101 class for the Denver Center Theatre Academy and classes with the National Theatre Conservatory and Opera Colorado. He also worked on several shows in Denver/Kansas City including Verdi's MacBeth for the Kansas City Lyric Opera, Three R&J's and Private Lives for CCD. Geoff is currently visiting the North Carolina School of the Arts teaching stage combat as a guest artist for their winter 2001 term.

If any other members in the area are up to anything, please shoot me a line so I can include you in future reports.

-Geoffrey Kent

Illinois/Missouri/Wisconsin

As the steady influx of fighters into the Chicago area continues, there is a lot to see and do. Aside from the ongoing university programs at Columbia (Woolley and MacFarland), Roosevelt (Coyl, ably assisted by Bonacasa), Champaign-Urbana (McFarquahar), and DePaul (Sandys), there are also various classes around town, notably at Actors' Gymnasium (small sword, knife, et.) and Looking Glass, both of which are taught by Mr. Coyl.

Current fight shows include: Defiant's MacBeth (McFarquahar), Lyric Opera's Great Gatsby (Sandys), National Pastime's Julius Caesar (R&D Choreography), and Shakespeare's Motley



Crew's Duchess of Malfi (Mochel), as well as Mr. Coyl's Hard Knocks fight extravaganza at Roosevelt. This is just a selection.

Also a plea, for those of you choreographing in and around Chicago, or in the other areas under my representation, e-mail me your events and credits, so I may include you in my next posting.

-Nick Sandys

Montana/Wyoming

As of October 1999, Montana and Wyoming had three active SAFD members. Leigh Selting, Peter Maier from Missoula, MT, and Rian Jairell, a junior at the University of Wyoming. Jairell was awarded the scholarship to the 1999 NSCW at the National Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship Competition held at the John F. Kennedy Center in Washington, DC.

No regional workshops to report, although several levels of stage combat classes are regularly offered as part of the theatre curriculum at the University of Wyoming.

Leigh Selting, Regional Rep. for Wyoming and Montana, spent the summer in Jackson Hole, WY as the Equity Production Stage Manager for a new production of Petticoat Rules, working with Broadway veterans Mary Murfit, Pam Drews-Phillips, Keith Phillips, and award-winning Los Angeles-based director Sha Newman.

-Leigh Selting

(Continued on page 6)

SAFD Membership Application/Annual Dues Form

Please complete the entire form. In order for the SAFD to maintain accurate records, it is important that all your information in the database be current. You can either send in payment with this form, or you may pay online with a credit card at www.safd.org.

Reasons to join the SAFD:

- * Subscription to The Fight Master, a color journal published twice yearly
- * Subscription to The Cutting Edge, our quarterly newsletter
- * Access to back issues of both publications and online discussions in the members only section of www.safd.org
- * Discounts to national and regional stage combat workshops
- * The right to vote for members of the executive committee and governing body
- * And much, much more...

Amount Enclosed (\$35.00/year USA, \$40.00/year Outside US) \$.00	Check #
General Information			
Name		Membership Level (Friend, Actor/Combatant, Certified Teacher, etc.):	
Address (Permanent)			
Home Phone		Cell Phone	
Work Phone		Fax Number	
Voicemail		Pager	
E-mail Address (es)			
Website		Union Affiliations (SAG, Equity, etc.)	
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Employer		Work Address	
Publications should be mailed to (please circle one):		Permanent	University Work
I would prefer to receive the Cutting Edge via e-mail:		Yes	No
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Current Skills Proficiency Test Results (Please list most recent SPT for each weapon)			
WEAPON	Month/Year	Instructor	Adjudicator
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Quarterstaff			
Rapier & Dagger			
Single Sword			
Small Sword			
Sword & Shield			
Unarmed			

*Photocopy & Mail with payment to: SAFD
1350 East Flamingo Road #25, Las Vegas, NV 89119*

News from Around the SAFD Cont'd

(Continued from page 2)

tion. If you know of any theatres that might be interested, please pass the information along to Mr. Westley and he will contact them. The discounts would be up to the theatre's discretion as well as proof of membership, but it would allow us to promote yet another benefit to becoming a member of our wonderful organization. –Robert Westley

Health and Safety update

The American Red Cross has improved its CPR/ECC (Emergency Cardiovascular Care) training to include training in CPR/AED (Automated External Defibrillator) as a part of their Workplace Programs. This AED device can help restart a heart that has stopped beating.

The CPR/AED training is currently offered through the American Red Cross. As for updating your Com-

munity CPR and First Aid, we will keep you updated if the SAFD Policies & Procedures changes to include this training. In the meantime, it's not a bad idea to look into this for the sake of your students, colleagues, programs, and theatre companies. For more info: www.redcross.org –Brian Byrnes

Let's Get Ready to Boil!

The Crawfish Boil is just around the corner on April 13 & 14 2001 in Ruston, LA. Cost is \$100. Late registration (after April 1) is \$125.00. Please send a \$25 nonrefundable deposit by March 16th to:

Tech Theatre Players
Stage Combat Workshop
School of Performing Arts
PO 8608 TS
Ruston, LA, 71272

Instructors will include SAFD Certified Teachers Aaron Anderson, Michael Anderson, John Bellomo,

James Brown, Mark "Rat" Guinn, Bill Lengfelder & Lewis Shaw; SAFD Fight Directors Michael Chin, Chuck Coyl, k. Jenny Jones, Bob MacDougall & John MacFarland. Fight Masters Dale Girard & Brian Byrnes will also be in attendance. In addition, Carl Fleming from the Congress of American Knife Fighters, Don Stevens - Moniteur D'Esclime and Michael Donahue, D.C. Fight Director, will be offering classes.

For more information: (318) 257-2930 or mguinn@latech.edu

Training Across the Pond

The British Academy of Stage & Screen Combat is hosting the fourth annual Empire Strikes Back workshop in London, England April 7-8, 2001

Cost is \$150.00 American and SAFD Fight Master Drew Fracher will be on hand to join BASSC instructors Brent Gibbs, Richard Ryan and Bret Yount.

For info contact: info@bassc.org

SAFD Regional Workshop Reports: LA & Denver

The Hollywood Clash

Los Angeles Fight Academy's first regional workshop: "The Hollywood Clash" was a great success! From Friday, November 17th through Sunday night November 19th, actors in the LA area pounded themselves for the camera.

David Boushey came down from Seattle to teach classes on fighting for the camera, Payson Burt and the rest of the LAFA staff members taught classes on body mechanics and angulations.

On Saturday afternoon of the workshop, David adjudicated six students who were testing for an SAFD skills test. Everyone passed! Congratulations to Julia Rupkalvis and Nick Erickson for renewing their Actor/Combatant status, Spike Steingasser and Carlo Aceytuno for passing unarmed and rapier & dagger and Melanie Ewbank and Patrick Lawlor for passing unarmed.

Later that evening, LAFA hosted a dinner at a local restaurant where more friends came to visit and network in what can be a very busy and isolating town. We are hoping to make The Hollywood Clash a yearly event so keep your calendars open for Mid-November of 2001! Check out a short QuickTime movie on our web page:

www.4lafa.org
Payson Burt

The Rumble in the Rockies

Blood squirted, firearms blasted and Shaolin's kicked at the third annual Rumble in the Rockies hosted by the Denver Center for the Performing Arts. The December 16-17 workshop boasted international staff; including David Boushey, Dale Girard, Chuck Coyl, Aaron Anderson, Mike Chin, Geoffrey Kent, Angela Bonacasa, Bret Yount, Robert Westley, Joeseeph Manussier & Neil Massey. Aply interned by Robyn Rae Donner, Dane Torbenson, Don Preston and NTC students John Pieza & Khris Lewin.

The workshop boasted some of the standbys as well as some new classes in blood effects, police techniques, brush with greatness, firearm safety and kung fu for film. Students had over twenty classes to choose from ranging from basic to advanced and three different choices in each of the eight sessions.

From the classic moments category: Chuck Coyl started his blood effects class by spreading out a sheet of plastic, laying out bowls of stage blood, snapping on rubber gloves and asking his students to, "please step forward onto the tarp." This reporter is sad to say that all of the participants complied.

Hope to see you here next year!
Geoffrey Kent

Regional Roundup: Words from your Regional Rep Cont'd

(Continued from page 3)

New Mexico

Actor/Combatant Jennifer Watkins was the fight captain and Witch #2 in El Paso's Shakespeare on-the-Rocks production of MacBeth, directed and choreographed by SAFD Fight Director Tim Pinnow. The production also featured Actor/Combatant Shane Bennett as Ross and Actor/Combatant Stephen Bradley as Banquo. Actor/Combatant Amber Hammonds starred as Kate in the Durango Shakespeare Festival's production of The Taming of the Shrew also directed and choreographed by SAFD Fight Director Tim Pinnow. Tim, under his Equity name of Timothy Dayne, is currently playing Captain Hook and choreographing fights for the American Southwest Theatre Company's production of Peter Pan, where he is the Artistic Director. The production also features Actor/Combatant Daniela Vestal as Wendy and its costumes were designed by Actor/Combatant Tamara Carruthers and built

by Actor/Combatant Leah Lynnae.

In the last three years, over 35 students have passed skills tests in New Mexico including a knife and quarterstaff class last spring. We are looking forward to another skills test in the spring of 2001 with single sword as the third weapon.

-Tim Pinnow

Texas

Texas has approximately 35 SAFD members. SAFD Certified Teacher Bill Lengfelder, CT Mark Gu inn, and Fight Master Brian Byrnes are looking to host a workshop in the Spring/early Summer of 2001 in Dallas - stay tuned!

In Houston, we are re-establishing "Monthly Workouts" (usually one Sunday a month for a 2-3 hour session). These are open and free to dues paying members of the SAFD. These workouts give us the opportunity to continue to train in current skills, and explore a variety of other styles.

Bill Lengfelder's theatre company (Kitchen Dog) has a new facility. AA/C

Leraldo Anzaldua has been performing in The Alley Theatre's production of A Midsummer Night's Dream, and is also signed on to play one of the horses in the Alley's production of Equus. Brian Byrnes directed Deathtrap, the first main stage show at the University of Houston; worked as movement coordinator for the Alley's production of Midsummer Night's Dream and was Fight Director for Houston Grand Opera's production of Carmen. - Brian Byrnes

The Cutting Edge

Is entirely generated using three six-sided dice by Geoffrey Kent

The Cutting Edge
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