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The Cutting Edge

The Society of American Fight Directors

10-2001

The Cutting Edge, August-October 2001, Vol. 12 Issue 3

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

2001 Election Issue



Secretary reports on July Meetings

By Angela Bonacasa

The 2001 Governing Body meetings took place on July 5-8 on the University of Nevada-Las Vegas campus. All officers and representatives (or their proxies) were in attendance for all four days. As the final meeting of the current administration, there was discussion about the past three years as well as new business.

The SAFD has made a great deal of progress in the past three years, but as is possible in periods of growth, we have grown so quickly that has been difficult to keep track of it all. With the Internet and the Cutting Edge, we hope to better notify all members of changes, and to continue improving all lines of communication.

There isn't the space to detail everything here, but below you will find an abbreviated list of all items discussed or voted on during the meetings.

Contact goodhouse@hotmail.com with any questions.

Items TABLED, but not voted on:

- Defining the SAFD Adjudicator
- Discussion of NSCS Ops Manual
- New SPT Paperwork (Geoff)
- Request from Allen for funds (\$1000) to shoot, edit, and distribute the 10 minute video commercial for the NSCW (will be discussed with Marketing committee)
- Discussion to separate FD and CT tracks
- Discussion of purpose of new SAFD Brochure: To promote or inform? (Went to committee)
- Proposal breaking down the job of Cutting Edge (Geoff)
- Proposed change to Bylaws that SAFD Friends can vote for their rep.
- Consideration of nominees for Fight Director Ex-Officio
- Proposal (Geoff) at later date addressing A/C Renewal & definitions.

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HELP WANTED!

SAFD GENERAL MANAGER

The SAFD is on the lookout for a part-time staff person, to handle day-to-day administrative duties, manage contracts and to continue developing its long-term managerial vision. The pay for this position will be determined by experience and specific job duties to be negotiated between the applicant and the SAFD governing body. The SAFD is an equal opportunity employer. If you wish to be considered, please send your resume and a letter of intent by 10/20/01 to:

Geoffrey Kent
Staff Search Committee
3047 West 47th Avenue, #512
Denver, CO 80211

NSCW COORDINATOR

The SAFD announces its search for potential NSCW Coordinator candidates. Individuals interested in applying for this position must have a working knowledge of the SAFD training and testing process, management/coordinator and accounting experience and effective people skills. The pay for this position will be determined by experience and the annual NSCW budget. If you wish to be apply for this position, please send letter of intent, resume, references and supportive material by 10/20/01 to:

Chuck Coyl, SAFD VP
6321 North Lakewood
Chicago, IL 60660

CUTTING EDGE EDITOR/DESIGNER

Work on the Cutting Edge is a great opportunity to help the SAFD. Applicants should have some basic experience with editing and design and some free time. The Editor compiles 4-6 issues a year.

Contact geoffreykent@home.com for more information.

Regional Roundup: Words from your Hometown

CONNECTICUT & NEW YORK (CITY)

By Ricki Ravitts

It's been another busy summer for the folks in the Big Apple and the surrounding Metro Area!

CONGRATULATIONS to new area CTs: Joe Travers and Nicole Callender (OK, she lives in NJ, but we see a lot of her, too), plus Angela Bonacasa and Ian Rose (who both started out here in NYC!).

Staff for the NSCW featured local FD Michael Chin, FM J. Allen Suddeth, FD Ricki G. Ravitts & A/C Robb Hunter, along with area students, including the Brooklyn boys, Anthony & Carlo, who made quite an impression on Fight Master Bou-shey.

We welcome the return of FD Jamie Cheatham to the area and say a hearty farewell to FM Dale Girard, who has left Connecticut for the slower, calmer climate of North Carolina.

AA/C Al Foote III taught stage combat for a summer theatre-training program at Play Group Theatre Co. in White Plains, NY. FD Robert Tuftee was in London taming the Lion in summer workshop. AA/C Ray Rodriguez is teaching at Harlem School of the Arts and will continue there in the fall. Ray also choreographed "Extremities," which played in Santo Domingo.

AA/C Nicole Godino has been appointed Company Manager of the NEW PERSPECTIVES Theater in NYC. Meanwhile J. David Brimmer continues at NYU and AMDA, FM J. Allen Suddeth at The Strasberg Institute, and FD Michael Chin at AMDA.

No room to list the many shows in and out of town which feature talented SAFD performers and fight directors from the NYC/CT area - stay safe everyone, and keep up the good work!



Attention Region II Representatives: Please submit your reports to the editor via e-mail by 11/15/01.

FLORIDA

By John Cashman

Interest and participation has increased since our last report and John Cashman will soon offer quarterly weekend workshops, which will hopefully lead to even greater interest. The hope is to build support so we can hold a SPT Test--which many are requesting. Look for the next workshop to be sometime in October.

CT John Cashman taught classes at the Orlando--UCF Shakespeare Festival and then choreographed "As You Like It" and "Romeo and Juliet" for their Season. He also staged "MacBeth" for Orlando Opera, and recently "The Scarlet Pimpernel" for Ocala Civic Theatre.

CT Jim Brown has left the University of Florida for greener pastures. Last I talked to him he was headed for Atlanta. Write when you get work Jim, lets us know how you're doing.

CT Bruce Lecure is still at the University of Miami. Besides staging numerous fights in the Miami area, he also presented a panel entitled, "Death by Committee: Creating Contemporary Violence through Collaboration" at the 2001 Association of Theatre in Higher Education Conference in Chicago, IL in August.

Ian Borden choreographed violence for "The Diary of Anne Frank" and

"Woyceck" at FSU. Most recently, he presented a workshop on alternative choreography for the Drey Summer Shakespeare.

Tim Bell from South Florida is currently performing as Daniel Boone in "Daniel Boone, The Man and The Legend," in Harrodsburg, KY.

MAINE, NEW HAMPSHIRE, RHODE ISLAND & VERMONT

By Richard Hedderman

While the SAFD network in these states remains fairly thin, there are nonetheless a few pockets of activity. Vermont A/C Paul Ugalde is busy in his state, having recently directed fights for "The Three Musketeers." FM Allen Suddeth's Fight Directors Workshop at Maine's Celebration Barn Theater was again a great success. CT Bob Walsh reports in from Massachusetts that he had another busy year both as Artistic Director of American Stage Festival in Nashua, NH, and the Stage Combat instructor for the MFA Theatre program at Brandeis University.

While assisting Bob Walsh in his Brandeis classes, Advanced Actor/Combatant Richard Hedderman also worked with MIT's Theatre Arts program directing fights for "Richard III" and "The Rover," and was Fight

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SAFD 2001 Election Ballot

It is easy to cast your vote for both your representation on the SAFD Governing Body and the proposed bylaws changes. You can visit the members section of www.safd.org and use the online form –OR– you can fill out the ballot below and mail it in the enclosed envelope. A short statement from each candidate as well as complete details on the ballot proposals are available in this issue. Remember, all members in good standing can vote for President, VP, Secretary, Treasurer and the Bylaws proposals. For membership representative you may only vote for your level of membership (actor/combatants can only vote for actor/combatant rep, etc.). Make sure to fill out the form completely, including your full name and membership level. Ballots received without that information will not be counted. Online voting concludes November 1st, 2001. Ballots mailed in must be postmarked no later than November 1st, 2001. Please feel free to contact the SAFD at membership@safd.org or 1-800-659-6579 with any questions. Stay tuned to the website or for the next issue of the Cutting Edge for election results. Thank you for voting!

President (circle one):

Chuck Coyl
David Woolley

Vice President (circle one):

Brian Byrnes
John McFarland

Secretary (circle one):

Angela Bonacasa

Treasurer (circle one):

Payson Burt
Andrew Hayes
Richard Lane
Mike Mahaffey
Robert Westley

Actor Combatant/Friend Rep (circle one):

Rob Ek
Ann Foldeak
Al Foote
Brian LeTraunik
Philip Raybourn
Jim Stark
Sandy Van Bremen

Certified Teacher Rep (circle one):

Nicole Callender
Gina Cerimele-Mechley
Geoffrey Kent

Fight Director Rep (circle one):

Michael Johnson
k. Jenny Jones
Scot Mann

Fight Master Rep (circle one):

Brian Byrnes
Drew Fracher
Dale Girard

Bylaws Proposal #1 (circle one):

Yes, I approve the change
No

Bylaws Proposal #2 (circle one):

Yes, I approve the change
No

Bylaws Proposal #3 (circle one):

Yes, I approve the change
No

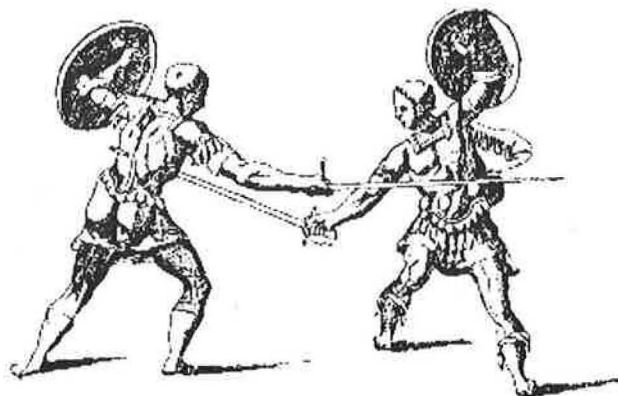
Voter Registration:

Full Name: _____

I am an (circle all that apply): SAFD Friend
SAFD Actor/Combatant ? SAFD Advanced A/C
SAFD Certified Teacher ? SAFD Fight Director
SAFD Fight Master

Complete and mail in the enclosed envelope to:

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



2001 Election: Candidate Statements...

PRESIDENT

Chuck Coyl, Fight Master

Recent years have been a time of growth and change for the SAFD. I would like to continue the work started by recent administrations by creating better channels of communication within the SAFD between all levels of membership, making continued training more accessible to our CT, FD and FM ranks, finding increased opportunities for our Actor/Combatant members to more actively participate in the SAFD and the aggressive pursuit of grant moneys and other outside income. I am very excited by the direction that the SAFD is taking and I hope that you will allow me to take a lead role in our progress as we head into the 21st century.

David Woolley, Fight Master

As President of the SAFD, I will work to increase the visibility of fight directors as part of the design team in the professional and academic worlds. I will urge members in both areas to train not just actor/combatants, but directors, stage managers, designers, pr directors and producers in the way fight directors work as part of the design team. I will urge members to insist on and receive title page credit, reasonable day rates/ fees, and royalties for long running commercial productions. I will continue the attempt to increase our membership through more re-testing by all our CT's, FD's and FM's. I will continue to explore our future relationships with other global fight organizations; SSSC and independent fight directors within the U.S.A. The SAFD has been a part of my life for almost twenty years. If I can be of service as its President, I will do my best to honor the office. Be Bold!

VICE PRESIDENT

Brian Byrnes, Fight Master

As Vice President, I offer an enthusiasm and commitment to the SAFD that I have had since 1986. The kind of progress this organization has made is encouraging, exciting, and crucial. I feel I can help guide the SAFD's progress, in order to ensure it's continued growth and success. My primary goal is to have our membership up-to-speed with what this organization "IS" and what we hope it to "BE". If elected Vice President, I'll need to call on your help, as necessary growth and change will involve a focused commitment on all our parts.

John McFarland, Fight Director

As an organization the SAFD was founded as a training ground for the actor in the art of stage combat. In 1988 I started studying stage combat as a part of a complete actor training program. Like voice, speech and movement an actor without stage combat skills is an actor with an incomplete set of tools. As actors we are available to, and have a personal connection with and about life. It is my hope, as Vice President and a member of the Governing Body, to reexamine what we as an organization can offer the student and professional actor to help express this art in as rich and full a form as possible. Finally I would like to thank you for casting your vote and participating in this process.

SECRETARY

Angela Bonacasa, Certified Teacher

When I accepted the job of Secretary a year ago, I knew there was a great deal of work to do. There have definitely been improvements: the amount of time it takes to deliver our publications has decreased dramatically, our number of current members has more than doubled (we are now over six hundred), and we have increased the number of membership benefits. For all of these improvements, however, there are still bugs to work out and a great deal to be done. The job now stands half finished; I hope you will give me the opportunity to complete it

TREASURER

Payson Burt, Fight Director

I am honored to have the opportunity to serve the SAFD. I have been an active SAFD member since 1982; serving on 5 committees, chairing 3 of them. I have knowledge of the job of treasurer, filling in for Julia Rupkalvis while she was out of town, and we are in close proximity so the transfer of files and procedure will be simple. The big question is; will the new person elected do the simple physical tasks required of them? I can tell you with complete confidence that I will perform the functions of the office in a straightforward and consistent way. Anyone who has worked with me knows that I am a team player and that when I say I will do a job, I do it. Finally, I am dedicated to the SAFD; it's members and our mission.

Andrew Hayes, Certified Teacher

As a lawyer, I have helped establish over forty corporations. I have also served as an officer on several corporations. As a college professor, I can't remember the number of committees on which I have served. Yet, all that means nothing unless you believe that I am willing to do all I can to bring out the best in the Society. As a Society member, I have helped draft handbooks, By-laws changes, and refinements to the P & P, all with the goal of improving the operation of the Society. My chief interest is in continuing the exceptional work of our current treasurer Julia Rupkalvis in standardizing the Society's business operations. I hope you will consider me fit to serve as Treasurer of your Society.

Richard Lane, Fight Director

I've been a member since 1986, now a Fight Director, and have served as Northern California Regional Representative since 1998. As the Director of the Academy of the Sword I have been responsible for the government filings required to maintain Non-Profit, Charitable status, like the SAFD. I hold a certificate in Micro Computer Accounting and I am the Business Manager for Make*A*Circus, managing the \$500,000 budget of a traveling circus. I hope to see the SAFD fund equipment, events, and additional scholarships for Sanctioned Workshops. The past treasurers laid some great groundwork; I hope to continue the tradition.

Mike Mahaffey, Certified Teacher

I have been a member of the SAFD since 1990, and have championed its ideals and people for many years to many different detractors. Now it's time to help the SAFD from within as Treasurer. I'm extremely impressed by the work done this past term by Julia Rupkalvis in organizing the massive piles of boxes and info that IS the treasurer position. I would like to continue that work and close the loop further, helping to track down paid but "lost" members, unpaid members, explore online payment options and ensure the fiscal responsibility of this organization for years to come.

Robert Westley, Certified Teacher

For the last five years I have dedicated myself to the SAFD and its mission. I am

(Continued on page 5)

...Candidate Statements continued...

(Continued from page 4)

aware of the immense responsibility of the Treasurer position, and I look forward, with great anticipation, to continuing the great work done by Julia Rupkalvis. I will carry on the commitment to professionalism and the growth of the SAFD and its members. I will apply my years of management and administrative experience in the not-for-profit arena as well as my years as a teacher and stage combatant professional. Most important, I will bring to Treasurer my loyalty and devotion to this society and those who belong.

ACTOR/COMBATANT REP

Rob Ek

As the Actor/Combatant Representative for the SAFD it would be an honor to be the voice of the largest faction of the Society and present your concerns and opinions to the governing body. At this level within the SAFD we are all supporters and/or students of the Society. There have recently been concerns pertaining to the NSCW class offerings and when/how those classes should be incorporated. I would do my best to continue the interest of these concerns and others. I would welcome any and all input as the voice of your representative.

Anne Foldeak

If elected as actor/combatant representative, I would like to increase communication among our members. We are the largest group of this organization, which makes it more challenging to keep in touch and unite our voices to speak out on the issues. I want to make the information about changes in the SAFD that effect us more accessible so that we can make informed decisions about issues such as the teacher mentoring program and the NSCW intermediate and advanced schedule. Thanks!

Al Foote

I want to serve as A/C Representative for one reason: to ensure that the largest segment of the SAFD has a strong, committed voice to champion our needs and continue steering the Society in the right direction for all members. Aside from running our Website, I helped update the Society's roster and co-ordinate dues reminders. I helped initiate on-line dues payment, which has been used by a third

of our level. The Society has grown from a "club" mentality toward what it should be: a national organization of professionals, I want to continue to help lead it there.

Brian LeTraunik

As your Actor/Combatant representative I would strive to continue with the issue of defining the Advanced Actor Combatant status as well as refining the requirements for said status. As a member of the SAFD since 1994, I know how hard it can be for brand new members to orient themselves to the intricacies of the organization. As your representative, I would make it a priority to aid new members in becoming familiar with the policies and procedures of the SAFD and thereby helping newcomers to firmly establish a place for them in this organization that has meant so much to me for so long. Thanks!

Philip Raybourn

I've been an Actor/Combatant in the Society since 1995 and like many AC's; have not taken the opportunity to make my voice heard. I feel that now it's my turn to make a contribution to a society that is growing (pardon the pun) by leaps and bounds. If elected, I want to continue the work that our past A/C representatives have done and continue to put forth the A/C's questions and concerns to the Society. Your voice is important! I hope to have the chance to make that voice count. Fight well the part. Thanks!

Jim Stark

I believe that the SAFD can be a real force for good in the American theatre, as our sphere of influence grows. I want to see the Society become even more effective as a professional organization, offering greater opportunities for more people as we promote safety and theatricality in educational and professional theatre. Since 1990, I have completed several SPT's, qualifying in seven weapons forms. I have maintained my affiliation with the Society as a student, professional actor, fight arranger and teacher, and I hope to serve as actor/combatant rep with a provocative and thoughtful perspective.

Sandy Van Bremen

I have been a member of the society since 1997. I've gained so much professionally and personally, I want to give some back

by being your representative. This is a community with a dynamic energy and a level of craft you rarely find anywhere else in the world of theatre. I view this society as a family and in any family communication is key. I will be your voice, an open mind, a willing ear and an ally when you need me. All for one, and one for all!

CERTIFIED TEACHER REP

Nicole Callender, Certified Teacher

My goal as a CT Representative is to be a proactive, helpful voice. And I want to learn more about how this society runs. To be honest I'm not 100% sure how to go about achieving that, but the only way to learn is to jump right in there and do. I take my responsibilities seriously, no matter what they are, and I feel that being a CT Rep. is one of many steps toward being a proactive voice. I relish the opportunity to represent such a talented group of individuals and to see how we all move forward and benefit from such talent.

Gina Cerimele-Mechley, Cert. Teacher

As one of the new Certified Teachers, I am looking forward to the opportunity to speak up with a fresh voice on old and new issues. At the TTW this year, I found myself often representing the group in their questions and concerns, and I have no qualms about fighting for anyone's ideas or opinions for the betterment of the whole. Various issues such as continuing education, regional workshop structure, how to push a mentoring program from the CT side, and the glossary, are just the tip of the iceberg. It is time to melt that daddy! Let's just put it this way: it is time to teach an old dog new tricks. Ruff.

Geoffrey Kent, Certified Teacher

Fellow Certified Teachers, I am a new member to this family and would be honored to serve you. From serving as A/C representative for the governing body, I understand the need to volunteer my time for projects and committees when necessary and how the governing body works. I think my past and current work on the Cutting Edge; reworking the TTW text, and coordinating a regional workshop prove that as well. As last year's Paddy Crean award winner, you can trust me to give you the personal ear you need on the governing body. (Continued on page 6)

...And Yet, Even More Candidate Statements...

(Continued from page 5)

FIGHT DIRECTOR REP

Michael Jerome Johnson, Fight Director

I want to do more for the SAFD in general and Fight Directors in particular. Being your next FD Representative will help me do that. Some of the issues I want to address: Reopening negotiations with the SSD&C about a new division devoted to fight directors. Investigate whether there should be a parallel track for CT's, who want to specialize in only the educational side of stage combat, and FD's, who want to concentrate only on the professional theatre side. Help determine if FD's and CT's should be officially sanctioned and solicited to teach at the NSCW. And, of course, any other issues you want brought before the Governing Body. So I ask you to elect me as your next Fight Director Representative this fall. But more importantly, please, exercise your right as a member of the SAFD, and vote.

k. Jenny Jones, Fight Director

I would like to be a part of the Governing Body, representing the voice and spirit of the Fight Director membership, because I have a proven history of being concerned, passionate, and dedicated to keeping this organization alive and thriving. It is important to me that while the SAFD continues to grow in its efficiency and utilitarian reputation, the leadership continues to seek ways to be of service to its membership at large. As a knowledgeable and committed veteran of the mechanics and growth of the organization, I can be trusted to maintain a line of communication on a personal level. Thank you for your consideration. Peace.

Scot J. Mann, Fight Director

I believe the growth of the SAFD at all levels is a parallel to the exciting growth of the American Theatre in the last ten years. I think that the SAFD's continual dedication to high standards of safe and theatrically effective combat is a contributing factor to the ticket sales that fuel our industry. Thus, our work as Fight Directors has just begun. With much of the industry now recognizing our art as an integral part of the theatrical process we must continually push forward with efforts to hone our craft, make inroads to the professional organizations that would make

our recognition official and continue to grow in membership and learning. If elected I would pursue these goals. I would also continue the excellent work of Ricki Ravitts to open lines of communication within the organization, further define the role of the Fight Director within the SAFD and keep the exciting forward momentum she has worked for!

FIGHT MASTER REP

Brian Byrnes, Fight Master

Dear Fight Masters: In brief, I feel it's time that I step up to the plate and commit to the SAFD on a more involved level. Over the years that I have been involved with the SAFD, my appreciation regarding the responsibility and commitment of the Fight Masters and SAFD officers has grown immeasurably. As Fight Master Rep, I feel I can continue that kind of commitment in representing your concerns.

Drew Fracher, Fight Master

Gentlemen, I've been out of the loop for three years now and I'm most interested in getting back into the mix and adding my voice to the new Governing Body. I think I will bring a two fold perspective: having been there before I am familiar with the inner workings of the organization and the Fight Masters' place there, and I feel as though I have a clear understanding of the future of the SAFD and where our voice needs to be heard as we move forward. I would appreciate your vote and vow to represent our interests as the majority dictates. Thank you.

Dale Anthony Girard, Fight Master

For the past three years I have had the honor to serve the SAFD as its President. The demands of recent changes in my life, however, prevent me from running for a second term in that office. They cannot, however, stifle my dedication to this organization and its membership. If elected, I will continue my commitment to our rank and the ideas that we, as a body, believe to be in the best interest of our art and organization. A great deal has been accomplished these past three years, and I believe that I have the time, energy and experience to continue serving the needs of the College of Fight Masters on the Governing Body.

PROPOSED BYLAWS CHANGES

It is put forth by the Governing Body to amend the Society of American Fight Directors' Bylaws with the following three proposals. The suggested adoptions/additions read as follows (*changes are italicized & bold*). The original SAFD Bylaws can be obtained for reference in the members' section of www.SAFD.org.

PROPOSAL #1: Granting the SAFD Friend the power to vote for representation

Section V.2.1: An Actor/Combatant *or Friend* may vote within the Actor/Combatant & *Friend* division for a Membership Representative

PROPOSAL #2: Redefining the representative position of Actor/Combatant to include the SAFD Friend

Section VII.2.2: (2) The Membership Representative Committee shall be composed of four representatives elected by and from the divisions of:

Fight Master, Fight Director, Certified Teacher and Actor/Combatant & *Friend*

PROPOSAL #3: A reworking of Article VII Board of Directors to define clearly the roles of the Board of Directors and the Advisory Board, to represent more clearly what they actually do, while following legal requirements.

ARTICLE VII - DIRECTORS

Section 1. *There shall be two boards, a Board of Directors and an Advisory Board.*

Section 2. The *Board of Directors* shall assume responsibility for administration, policy making, and planning. The *Board of Directors* shall be composed of an Executive Committee and a Membership Representative Committee.

(1) & (2) No change.

Section 3. *The Advisory Board shall advise and make recommendations to the Board of Directors. The Advisory Board shall be composed of:*

(1), (2) & (3) No change.

Section 4. Restriction Regarding Interested Directors

(1) Notwithstanding any other provisions of these Bylaws, not more than forty-nine percent (49%) of the persons serv-

(Continued on page 7)

Regional Roundup Continued...

(Continued from page 2)

Director on the regional theater premier of "The Scarlet Pimpernel" at Maine State Music Theatre in Brunswick, ME. In New Hampshire, SAFD member Bob Haas served as FD on "I Hate Hamlet," "MacBeth" and "The Strange Case of Dr. Jeckyl and Mr. Hyde." While in Maine, SAFD member Mark Bedell continues work with his physical theatre/stunt touring companies, Driftwood Players and Krackerjack Theatre Company. This past year also saw the addition of three new SAFD members to the roster in this region, bringing the total membership in this area to 11.

NORTH CAROLINA

By Jeff A.R. Jones

North Carolina has been quiet recently, although we soon welcome a new resident to our area: Fight Master Dale Anthony Girard. Dale will be joining us to continue his work with the North Carolina School of the Arts in Winston-Salem.

Ongoing classes are being held in Raleigh and there have been many requests for workshops and classes in the western part of the state. Look for an email notice if such a workshop becomes available. Speaking of workshops, preliminary discussions are underway for an SAFD regional workshop in North Carolina.

If you have any questions about the fight scene in North Carolina, please contact Jeff A.R. Jones at JARJones@aol.com or (919) 835-3557.

NEW JERSEY & PENNSYLVANIA (EASTERN)

By John V. Bellomo

We would like to welcome FD/CT Jack Young to our area. He has been named the new artistic director of The Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival.

I have been nominated for a Barrymore Award for my

Fight Direction on a production of Romeo and Juliet at the Philadelphia Shakespeare festival. The Barrymore Awards are for excellence in theatre in the Philadelphia area.

WASHINGTON D.C.

By Michael Johnson

Congratulations to Spencer Humm on his new CT status and congrats to Lewis Shaw for joining the artistic staff of the Baltimore Opera.

Although he lives in suburban Virginia, Brad Waller taught at The Shakespeare Theatre/George Washington University's first Academy of Classical Acting (ACA) 12-month MFA program this year. His first class passed the SPT with flying colors, says adjudicator FM Erik Fredericksen. A few students even got the Examiner's Award of Excellence. I also assisted Erik in his workshop for the annual American College Theatre Festival (ACTF) at The Kennedy Center.

Three SAFD members choreographed fights for The Shakespeare Theatre this past season. FD Paul Dennhardt returned to remount his fights for "King Lear," I was asked to choreograph, "The Two Gentlemen of Verona" by the show's director, Doug Wager, former Artistic Director of Arena Stage. Mr. Waller choreographed the other shows this past season.

Once again I was the fight director for the Arena Stage season. I also had the chance to act in, "The Great White Hope" there.

FM Emeritus Joseph Martinez is now Chairman of the Drama Department at Washington and Lee University.

On the teaching front, David "Pops" Doersch took some of the Noble Blades (Adam Konowe, Joyce Peifer, Al Myska and Kevin Robertson) through their paces at an A/C retest class. All students passed.

...Conclusion of 2001 Ballot Information

(Continued from page 6)

ing on the Board of Directors may be interested persons. For purposes of this section, "interested persons" means either:

(a) Any person currently being compensated by the corporation for services rendered it within the previous twelve (12) months, whether as a full- or part-time officer or other employee, independent contractor, or otherwise, excluding any reasonable compensation paid to a director as director; or

(b) Any brother, sister, ancestor, descendant, spouse, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, mother-in-law, or father-in-law of any such person.

Section 5. Indemnification by Corporation of Directors, Officers, Employees, and Other Agents

Each officer, director, member, or employee of the corporation who shall render professional services, or services requiring a high degree of discretion, or shall serve as designated agent of the

corporation, may be indemnified and held harmless by the corporation from and against any and all liabilities, claims, losses, demands, and expenses whatsoever which may arise out of or be related to any service rendered to the corporation or any negligent or wrongful act or misconduct committed by him or her, or by any person under his or her direct supervision, in such manner and to such extent as shall be provided by resolution duly adopted by the Board of Directors of the corporation.

Results from the SAFD Governing Body meetings July 2001 (cont'd)

(Continued from page 1)

Items voted YES:

Add to the NSCW Ops Manual that any SAFD National Workshop will have waivers signed by the staff.

Add an addendum to the P&P to grant persons other than FMs permission to teach at the NSCW. Gave the College of Fight Masters (via Brian Byrnes) an example of possible verbiage for input.

Revised grievance policy, including striking 1.07 IV from the P&P.

Formation of Continuing Professional Education committee (Chuck, Julia, Ricki) to include future of the FDWC

Formation of Qualifications Review Committee (Brian)

CTs who have held rank for less than 3 years may now apply for FD status (2.06 E.)

7.08 "Only SAFD sanctioned workshops may advertise..." has been struck from the P&P.

Decision to consult an attorney to propose a change to the Bylaws that the

GB is actually responsible and the advisory board is only advisory (Vote now).

Established an Executive/Managing Director for the SAFD, effective Jan 1, 2002, and form a committee to research the structure/job search for said individual. (Geoff committee chair)

Open the applications for NSCW Coordinator (after consulting Mike, qualifications will be put on the website)

Julia will look at the On Site coordinator's responsibilities and review/revise.

Geoff will create verbiage and a template of NSCW survey for conclusion of NSCW 2001.

Operations Manual for all Member Representatives to VP for review by Nov 1 to hand to new member reps.

Cash is not acceptable payment through the mail.

P&P Verbiage to AA/C slightly tweaked (qualifications NOT changed, although don't have to keep all six weapons current for the entire time-just at awarding of certificate)

Richard Ryan listed as FD Ex-Officio Formation of Foreign Relations Committee (Dale & Geoff)

Set up quarterly meetings (via chat room or conference call) so that meetings are more than once a year

Change membership rep terms to 3 years so that the entire GB does not change at one time

Formation of Mentor Committee (chair: Geoff)

Small changes to P&P required moves & glossary.

The Cutting Edge...

...is beaten into submission
by Geoffrey Kent...

...and is a publication of the SAFD

Please send all submissions to:
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*Place
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2001 SAFD Election Ballot Enclosed!