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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



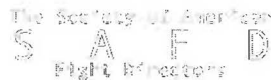
Pay Your Dues On-Line - EASIER!

by Andrew Hayes and Al Foote III

In a continuing effort to make it easier for you to be an active part of the SAFD, we have improved the method for accepting your dues payment on line (with Visa or MasterCard) . As of June, we established our own account that allows you to make payments to us directly and securely. No longer will you have to go through Paypal and set up a separate account. By completing the forms on line, like those pictured below, you can enter your contact and payment information directly. Although you will receive a nearly instant confirmation of our receipt of your payment by e-mail, please allow us 7-10 days to verify your information and confirm the deposit of funds. Of course, the sooner you payment is processed the less likely there will be any interruption in your membership benefits.

A Swashbuckler's (Dummies was taken) Guide to Using the On Line Forms

1. Log on to www.safd.org
2. Click on the box saying "Pay Your Dues On-Line"
3. On the page titled "Online Membership Form" follow the instructions and fill out your contact and the skills proficiency test information from your LATEST test.



Online Membership Form

Please note

- You can **ONLY** use this on line form if you are going to pay on-line with a credit card using PayPal. You will need to set up a free PayPal account, if you do not already have one. Otherwise, go back and print the membership form and send in your check or money order by mail.
- If you are a member paying dues, you still need to fill in this form completely. This way, we're sure to have your most current information in our database.
- It will take 3 - 5 business days for the payment to be processed and access to be granted to the Members Only site if your membership is overdue or you are a new member.

Step 1. Please fill out all required fields

Are you Joining or Paying Dues

If you are making a gift of a membership or paying for someone else, check this box:

First Name (if a gift, enter recipient name) M.I. Last Name (if a gift, enter recipient name)

Name as it appears on the credit card being used:

Address (please note, for foreign addresses, fill in the below as best you can. Enter an "X" in any field you need to leave blank)

City State Zip Country

_____ United States

Phone E-Mail (not required, but very important!)

If you have passed an SAFD Skills Proficiency Test, Please fill out below:

Adjudicator(s): _____

Year of Test(s): _____

Weapons passed:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Unarmed | <input type="checkbox"/> Single Sword |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rapier & Dagger | <input type="checkbox"/> Smallsword |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Broadsword | <input type="checkbox"/> Knife |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Quarterstaff | <input type="checkbox"/> Sword & Shield |

IMPORTANT NOTE 1: If the credit card holder is not the member, be sure to enter the member's name and contact information in the appropriate boxes (see left).

IMPORTANT NOTE 2: Your correct e-mail address is the most vital piece of information you can provide on this form. It allows you to receive electronic confirmation of your payment and makes you much easier to track in our system.

continued on page 2


4. Having completed the online membership information form, click continue and you will be taken to the page titled "Online Membership Payment". Select your payment option (foreign or domestic) by clicking the appropriate button.

The Society of American
S A F D
Fight Directors
Online Membership Payment

Step 2.

Please press the appropriate button below and follow the instructions to use PayPal to pay with a credit card. After you finish you will be directed back to the SAFD Website.

Thank you for joining and welcome to the Society of American Fight Directors!



SAFD 1 Year Domestic Membership
\$35.00

SAFD 1 Year Foreign Membership
\$40.00 (US)

If you have any questions or problems with the payment process, contact the SAFD at membership@safd.org



The Society of American Fight Directors

Payment Details

PayPal is the authorized payment processor for The Society of American Fight Directors. This credit card transaction will appear on your bill as "PAYPAL-SAFD".

Pay To: The Society of American Fight Directors
 Payment For: Domestic Membership
 Currency: U.S. Dollars
 Amount: \$35.00

Already have a PayPal account? [Login Here](#)

Enter Your Credit Card Information

This payment will be processed by PayPal. Your information will be kept secure and private.

Location: Outside the U.S.

First Name:

Last Name:

Card Type:

Credit Card Number:

Expiration Date: 01 2003

Billing Address (where you receive your credit card bills)

Street:

City:

State:

Zip: U.S.A. (5 or 9 digits)

Telephone: (Optional)

We will email you a receipt. You can use this email address and password to log in to PayPal and view more details about your payment.

Email Address:

Your password should be 8 characters minimum and is case sensitive. (Hide it now)

Create PayPal Password:

Confirm PayPal Password:



Security Test
This helps PayPal prevent automated registrations.

For your protection, we verify credit card information.

By clicking "Continue", I acknowledge that I have read and agree to PayPal's User Agreement.

5. You will then be transferred to our secure LinkPoint Central payment site.
6. Fill out the payment information and click continue.
7. The next page will provide you a printable confirmation of the information you submitted and later you will receive confirmation e-mails regarding your payment.

It really is that simple! We want to remind you again that completing all the appropriate contact and skills proficiency test information on the Online Membership Form is very important. Complete and accurate information, especially your e-mail address, allows you to receive publications without delay and additional mailing costs to us. Correct testing information helps to ensure you are placed in the correct membership category for voting and website bulletin board access.

If you have any comments or questions regarding dues please contact either the Secretary secretary@safd.org or Treasurer treasurer@safd.org. If you have questions about the forms, payment security, or have any problems using the forms contact the Webmaster at webmaster@safd.org. Hope to see you on line soon!

Fighter's Forum - Applying to the TTW

The questions we have received most frequently have been regarding becoming a Certified Teacher and the Teacher Training Workshop requirements and application process. Our very own Secretary, Angela Bonacasa, has graciously taken on the challenge of illuminating the process.

By Angela Bonacasa

The end of the 2003 NSCW signifies only one year until the next Teacher Training Workshop. Although the teaching staff of the TTW has not yet been determined, the basic application requirements can be found in the Policies and Procedures. TTW applicants must provide proof of the following:

I. A candidate for the status of Certified Teacher must:

- A. Be an Actor/Combatant member of the SAFD in good standing for a minimum of five years, meeting and/or maintaining currency in all recognized movement disciplines offered by the SAFD as dictated by the Actor/Combatant Skills Proficiency Test (SPT, see Section 2.02-2.03).
- B. Demonstrate an advanced skill level in the performance of the stage combative arts.

C. Show high evidence of professional teaching standards.

D. Hold an undergraduate degree in performance studies or equivalent training.

E. Submit a letter of intent including a complete resume and vitae, plus three letters of recommendation from the following:

1. An SAFD Fight Master
2. An SAFD Fight Director or Certified Teacher
3. An employer from a professional choreography or teaching job.

F. Provide a photocopy of their current First Aid and CPR Certificates from the American Red Cross, American Heart Association and/or other such qualified certifying bodies recognized by the Governing Body.

Currently, fourteen (14) TTW candidates shall be chosen from those who successfully meet all the above basic requirements. The deadline for applications will be April 1, 2004, with notification of acceptance by May 1. Once the 2004 teaching staff is chosen, application information will be made available in the *Cutting Edge* and on the SAFD website, so please keep checking the website and future publications

for up to date information.

Don't feel alone as you prepare! Some preparation methods used by TTW applicants in the past:

- Contact instructors who have attended the TTW for advice and feedback.
- Enlist the help of regional representatives and the SAFD website to locate other TTW candidates.
- Meet with other TTW applicants in your area (or in an area where you are willing to travel) for First Aid/CPR classes, renewal workshops, and workouts.

Remember to be proactive; if you have questions, or are unsure about what to do, ask someone. There will always be someone who can answer your questions. Also keep in mind that if you have written articles for SAFD publications, served as an intern at regional or national workshops, have been a member of a committee, or have served the Society in other ways, definitely include that information in your application as well.

Again, if you have questions, please ask. Good luck!

Announcing The Frances A. Boushey Teachers Training Memorial Scholarship

Maestro David Boushey has graciously established this scholarship to honor his beloved Mother. The scholarship will begin next year with the 2004 TTW, with the goal of benefiting those who would dedicate themselves to teaching the Art of Stage Combat and furthering the Society of American Fight Directors. We will be bringing you further details of the Scholarship in upcoming issues, including application information and requirements.

More Regional Reports - And the addition of a new Regional Representative

The Cutting Edge is proud to welcome the Society's newest Regional Representative, Sandy Van Bremen Cohen. She will be taking over the Rocky Mountain Region. A special thanks to Payson Burt for handling the region during the interim.

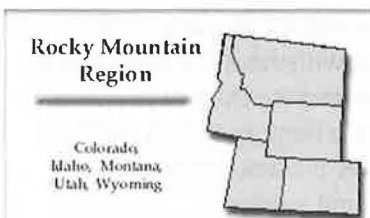


Photo not available

By
Sandy Van Bremen
Cohen

Greetings! I am very excited to take the position of the Rocky Mountain Regional Representative. I am an Advanced Actor/Combatant currently residing in Ogden, Utah with my husband Bruce. I am looking forward to increasing the communication within the members in this region. Talk to me; let me know what you are working on and how I can be of service to you.

I am sure that I am only scratching the surface of what is going on in the Rocky Mountain Region. I am currently looking for local representatives throughout our area especially in Wyoming, Idaho and Montana. If you live or are working in the Rocky Mountain Region please drop me a line and let me know what you are up to.

Geoff Kent is performing at the Colorado Shakespeare Festival this summer as Laertes in HAMLET

and Don John in MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING. **Payson Burt** is the Fight Director for the 2003 season.

Loveland, CO A/C **Terry Kroenung** has just published a collection of 12 short combat plays intended specifically to give women new opportunities to use their fighting skills. **BLOOD AND BEAUTY** features every SAFD weapon, plus a variety of found weapons (from wooden hangers and garment racks to rolling pins and giant foam rubber hammers). The dramatic situations include, among others: a knife fight between a Jewish freedom fighter and her former lover in a Nazi death camp; a prequel to **MACBETH** where the Thane first meets his Lady-to-be and can only win her by defeating her in a sexy broadsword duel; a unique fine-arts auction where the bidding requires overcoming the other buyers in single sword action; and a retelling of the story of Shakespeare's sonnets which reveals that the Dark Lady cracked a mean bullwhip. **BLOOD AND BEAUTY** is available at all major on-line book-sellers. The author is making the plays available royalty-free to any groups wishing to use them in SAFD **FOODFIGHT** performances. Contact him at kroenung@peakpeak.com.

Longmont Theatre Company's **A TASTE OF SHAKESPEARE** troupe will present 3 full-length performances this summer, all with fights choreographed by A/C **Terry Kroenung**. July will feature the regional premiere of Peter Hilton's

all-female verse drama **GLORIA**. In August audiences can enjoy a collection of scenes, songs, speeches, and fights called **THE GOOD, THE BARD, AND THE UGLY**. In September **TASTE** will proudly present **HAMLET**. **A TASTE OF SHAKESPEARE** will also be seen performing Greenshows at the Colorado Shakespeare Festival.

A TASTE OF SHAKESPEARE will participate in SAFD's 2003 **FOODFIGHT** with a November performance of fight scenes from Shakespeare and other playwrights, scenes drawn from literary classics such as **IVANHOE** and **ROBIN HOOD**, original works, and fantasy scenes featuring Shakespearean characters from different plays in combat (Goneril vs. Iago! Be there!).

Sandy Van Bremen Cohen just returned from two intense weeks at the Celebration Barn in beautiful South Paris, Maine. Look for her article detailing her experience on page 6 here in the Cutting Edge. Sandy also just finished choreographing **THE FANTASTICS** for Utah Musical Theatre and is preparing for work on **ANNIE GET YOUR GUN**.



by Jim Stark

continued on page 5

Adv A/C **Brian LeTraunik** has choreographed CLOSE YOUR for the Pyewacket

Theatre and JACK O'SHEA: RETURN OF THE JACK for Hairy Calahan Productions.

He also has taught master classes in stage combat for the Velocity Performing Arts Camp.

Michael M McGuire, moving to the East Coast region, reports "I've passed my sixth SPT and qualify as an advanced actor/combatant, and have recently appeared as Hal in HENRY IV part 1 for the Hudson Shakespeare Company as well as choreographing fights for their production of HENRY V.

Mary Barnidge, editor/publisher of Moulinet, reports that the playbill for Oak Park Festival's AS YOU LIKE IT (**Tom Taylor** choreographing the fights) footnoted not only the Equity cast members, but the SAFD-certified personnel as well. She tells us, too, that **Anne Foldeak** staged a rip-snorter of a catspat for Headstrong Productions' THE WOMEN.

SAFD Secretary, CT **Angela Bonacasa** continues to advance her career, having just become an adjunct faculty member at Roosevelt University and started teaching there this spring. She reports: "I still teach at the Actor's Gymnasium, where classes are going very well. (I even have a 13 year old student who has passed SPTs in Unarmed, Quarterstaff, Broadsword and Shield, and Smallsword!) I traveled to the North Carolina School of the Arts for two weeks to coach scenes for Dale Girard, as well as covering classes for Nick Sandys at DePaul University. Choreography work has included

HISTORY OF THE DEVIL at College of DuPage, and AS YOU LIKE IT at Valparaiso University.

CT **Bruce Cromer** announces "I'll be playing Robert in BLUE/ORANGE at Ensemble Theatre of Cincinnati in October, Bob Cratchit (for the seventh year) in A CHRISTMAS CAROL at the Cincinnati Playhouse in December, and directing my own adaptation of THE TEMPEST as an educational outreach tour for the Cincinnati Playhouse in January of 2004. In May of 2004, I'll direct (and choreograph the fights) for CORIOLANUS at Wright State University."

CT **Andrew Hayes** has been teaching full time at DePauw University. He taught a combat workshop at the ACTF regional meeting in Evansville, assisted by Regional Rep **Jim Stark**. He has also been serving as Treasurer for the SAFD and reminds you to PAY YOUR DUES!

FD **Robin McFarquhar's** recent work includes: HAMLET at the Court Theatre (Chicago,) JULIS CAESAR and ROMEO & JULIET for the Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, WENDALL GREENE (premiere) and THE VIOLET HOUR (Movement Consultant) for Steppenwolf, RICHARD III, SERVANT OF TWO MASTERS, BORN YESTERDAY and three different greenshows at Utah Shakespearean Festival, and JULIUS CAESAR at The Old Globe.

From FM **David Woolley**— Shows this past 2003 included: VIKINGS: A MUSICAL IN TWO AXE and DON'T DRINK THE WATER at Noble Fool's; BY THE MUSIC OF THE SPHERES at the Goodman Theater; GOLDEN BOY at Raven

Theater; MIDSUMMER NIGHTS' DREAM at Chicago Shakespeare; and, THE GOLEM, PRUFROCK, TWO FOOL'S GOLD and FOOL FOR LOVE at Columbia College. Two companies of BOLD AND STUPID MEN (co-conceived, directed and choreographed with **Douglas R. Mumaw**). The Bold and Stupid Men are now on both coasts: Bolt Upright and Gianni Vespa (**Jeff MacLane** and **Mike Mahaffey**) are at the Southern (May-June) and Northern California (Sept-Oct) Faires; Dash Valiant and Garibaldi Fortissimo (**Johnny Bellomo** and **J Alex Cordaro**) will be at the New York Faire and the Philadelphia Fringe Festivals. DIRK PERFECT & GUIDO CRESCENDO: THE SWORDS-MEN! 2003 TOUR continues: April was the Scarborough Faire, Waxahachie, Texas; June-August Bristol Faire, Kenosha, Wisc.; September-October Ohio Faire, Harveysburg, OH; and finishing with the SWORDSMEN HOLIDAY SPECTACULAR! at the Noble Fool Theater at Pheasant Run Resort & Spa in St. Charles Ill. (Yep, playing the "big" towns). I'm still teaching at Columbia College of Chicago as Artist in Residence (4 levels of Stage Combat all eight weapons skills) and overseeing their violence for shows and scene work... **Johnny MacFarland** is in teaching the basic levels. My main show for CCC is in spring 2004, OHELLO. We had the 7th annual Winter Wonderland Workshop (overseen by **Johny Mac**, **Neil Massey**, and **Angela Bonacasa**...the 8th Annual will be at Columbia again...

Governing Body Meetings Wrapup

By Angela Bonacasa

On July 4th and 5th, the Governing Body met at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas. All officers and membership representatives presented reports, and updates on Union negotiations, P&P changes, the NSCW, and a plan for beginning a Fight Direction archive at Lincoln Center were discussed.

The following is a list of items that were either voted on, or postponed for vote at a later date.

Changes to the P&P will be available on the SAFD website no later than August 15.

Please contact secretary@safd.org with any questions.

Items voted yes:

- Donate \$300 to Tony Montenaro Documentary fund, and merchandise donation to Celebration Barn
- Established font (arial for text,

impact for headings) and color (blue) for SAFD logo

—Creation of FDWC committee, Chaired by Paul Steger

—Renew Julia's Executive Director contract

—Boushey awarded Emeritus status

—Page on website to indicate how to bill SAFD on programs

—SAFD to supply AC and Proficiency certificates to FMs so that they are uniform

—Add website and toll free number on back of SAFD certificates

—Offer John Tovar FM Graphic Artist position

—First Aid/CPR to be recommended for CT and FD renewal, but no longer required. (TTW applicants will still need First Aid/CPR)

—Changed definition of Fight Master Emeritus (P&P)

—Revision of Fairbanks Scholarship text (P&P)

—Final changes to weapon renewal verbiage (P&P)

Items Tabled:

—Raising membership fees (include one time lifetime membership payment)

—Website Standing Committee definition (P&P)

Miscellaneous:

—Need for SAFD Branding (How do you have impact, and excitement and drama, but not excessively violent?)

Use the letters "SAFD". Need corporate and website images to be consistent.

—Need AAC applications that FMs can take to SPTs, so people can apply for AAC status then and there.

—Follow up on inclusion of Fight Directing archive to be kept at Lincoln Center (Andrew)

—Bylaws change regarding "one member, one vote" to be up to general membership for vote with Membership Representative election this fall

Workshop Report - The Celebration Barn

By Sandy Van Bremen Cohen

This was an amazing workshop...

Friends have told me for years to go the Celebration Barn in South Paris, Maine. In the past there has always been some reason for not going. Finally, this year the stars aligned and I was able to attend the Actor's Ensemble Workshop (the Barn has two workshops each year, the Fight Director's Workshop and the Actor's Ensemble Workshop).

Although I had heard about the Barn for years, there was no way I could have expected the experiences I had in those two weeks in Maine. You work, eat and sleep in a beautiful one hundred year old barn (thus the name). There aren't any distractions; it's just the ensemble, the Barn and the outdoors. The workshop hires a chef so you don't even have to worry about meals. All of this, and I haven't even gotten to the work part! The Actor's Ensemble Workshop is an acting workshop (thus

the name); yes you do fight, but you explore acting the fight. We had ten actors, five fight directors and a director to form our company. We covered the gamut in this workshop: Film, MacBeth (done five different ways), contemporary, mass battles – it seems to cover it all. The first few days of the workshop covered film assignments, unarmed and weapons reviews and acting the fight. We launched into scene work but we still had blocks of time filled with contact improv, the study of comedy and mask work. The staff assembled was wonderful, Allen Suddeth brought in Chuck Coyl and Mark Olsen for the whole workshop and A.C. Weary for a few days to work on the film fights. Rob Ek was the hard working intern (and sometimes actor) this year. The actors worked primarily with Mark Olsen, the fight directors with Allen and Chuck, and the workshop culminated with a performance for the public at the end. The ensemble they had assembled

this year was amazing; truly, we had a great group of people who really worked well together. Locals from the area came to watch our work and were incredibly supportive. I would heartily recommend the Barn to everyone. I intend to return again one day; I had a wonderful experience and the amount I learned is staggering. To all of the Barnies out there I have this to say, "he's my brother, my goddamned brother." If you want to know what that means, you must go experience the Celebration Barn in beautiful South Paris, Maine.

If you would like to write about your experience at one of the many workshops around the world, e-mail us at

cuttingedge@safd.org

Upcoming Workshops

The Seventh Annual Summer Sling

Thursday August 21 through Sunday August 23, 2003

NYU, in the heart of Greenwich Village

Up to eight hours of instruction daily, from beginning to advanced

All weapons provided

Sponsored by Fights 4

Fees:

\$250 for all four days

\$85 per day for individual days

10% discount for all college students with a valid ID

10% discount for attendance of SAFD Regional Workshops in the past year

15% discount for SAFD members in good standing

(only one discount applies per person)

For More Information call

800-659-6579

or contact workshop coordinator Michael Chin at NSCWboss@aol.com

or workshop registrar Robert Tuftee at 718-788-4957, rtuftee@ix.netcom.com

www.Fights4.com

Cry 'CheeseSteak' and Let Slip the Dogs of War

The 4th Annual Philadelphia Stage Combat Workshop

September 27 & 28, 2003

Sponsored by The Society of American Fight Directors
and The University of the Arts

Held at The Gershman Y on Broad & Pine Streets

Workshop Fee:	\$235
SAFD Member & Actor's Union Affiliations:	\$210
Early Registration Discount Paid in Full by Sept 1st:	\$210
SAFD Members & Actor's Union Affiliations Paid in Full by Sept 1st:	\$185
Skills Proficiency Renewal:	\$75
Single Day:	\$110

Continental Breakfast and Cheesesteaks for lunch are included
Vegetarian and Chicken Cheesestakes are available

Send Check or Money Order payable to:

John V. Bellomo

1217 Porter Street

Philadelphia, PA 19148

Call 215-888-4172 or Email philascw@yahoo.com with any questions

Charity Updates

Swashbucklers to the Rescue!

The Annual Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS Raffle concluded on July 25. This year we raised just over \$700.00 for this great cause! Our thanks to all of those who donated prizes to the raffle this year and to those of you who purchased tickets. Donators included: The Lady Cavaliers, Sara Bucy, The Philadelphia Cheesesteak Workshop, The New York Summer Sling Workshop, The Chicago Winter Wonderland Workshop, Healing Arts, and Neil Massey.

Triathlon Update

John Bellomo had a very successful time in the triathlon benefiting the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society! The race turned out very well. John finished in 2:30:12, and raised over \$4500.00. He says that he could not have done it with out all of your help and wishes to thank all of his comrades in arms for their financial and emotional support. Many of you participated in a raffle to raise funds- the prize being attendance at the Philly Workshop this fall and dinner cooked by his Mom. You can join the winners at that workshop this Sept 27th and 28th see the workshop information page in this issue for all of the details.

Do you have a large charitable work that you are involved in? We'd love to hear from you, drop us a line at cuttingedge@safd.org with all of the details!

The Cutting Edge

is a publication of the SAFD and is not to be confused with The Kutting Edge, which is a store in Las Vegas (those damned copycats!)

Please send all submissions to:
Symmonie Preston
and
John Tovar

cuttingedge@safd.org



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