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The Society of American Fight Directors

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The Cutting Edge, January/February 2005, Vol. 15 Issue 1

The Society of American Fight Directors

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The Cutting Edge

DEDICATED TO IMPROVING THE QUALITY & SAFETY OF STAGE COMBAT



The Results Are In! The New Governing Body is...



President - Chuck Coyl (*Fight Master*)

Thank you. I am delighted to have the opportunity to continue to serve the SAFD as president. There are a lot of exciting opportunities and challenges for the SAFD and the art of stage combat on the horizon and I relish the chance to represent the Society as we face the future.

Fight the Good Fight,
--Chuck Coyl

Chuck has been a member of the SAFD since 1980. He served as Vice President of the SAFD from 1999 - 2001; he was first elected president in 2002. He has worked as a fight director at theatres across the United States; he has also worked as a stunt player and stunt coordinator for film and television. Chuck is on faculty at Roosevelt University and the Actor's Gymnasium where he teaches theatrical movement and stage combat. He is a member of the Board of Governors for the American Guild of Musical Artists (AGMA) and is a founding member of the Single Action Theatre Co.



Vice President - Brian Byrnes (*Fight Master*)

Dear Ladies and Gents,

My best to each and everyone in the SAFD! I'm honored to serve another term as Vice President. I look forward to the next few years in front of us all. We all know that the SAFD has room for improvement -- but on a whole we should applaud the fact that we continue to grow and prosper in many positive directions. If we can maintain this momentum through effective planning and communication, it will benefit us all. With the help of your sincere voice, we will have a greater sense of "Society" within our SAFD family.

Sincerely,
--Brian Byrnes

Brian has staged fights and movement for New York theatres, Shakespeare festivals, and Regional theatres around the country. His work also includes "Motion Capture" fight direction for several video games in the U.S. and Sweden. He has been a faculty member with several universities, and is currently an Associate Professor (Movement, Stage Combat, Directing) with the University of Houston School of Theatre. Houston credits include the Alley Theatre, Houston Grand Opera, Stages Repertory Theatre, Houston Ballet, Houston Shakespeare Festival, The Ensemble Theatre, and many other area theatres, as well as university theatre and opera programs. Brian also works as a director and an AEA actor. In the past six years, he has directed eight productions and has performed in four. SAFD credentials include Certified Teacher, Fight Director, and he is honored to serve as an SAFD Fight Master.



Secretary - Mike Mahaffey *(Certified Teacher)*

I am very honored to accept the position of Secretary of the Society of American Fight Directors. Anyone making a living in this industry knows full well the demands that art places upon their time, and the value of that time.

I am in the GREAT position of being, quite possibly, the first secretary to NOT inherit a cryptic system of handwritten notes and computer disks. I hope to work within the framework set up by the former secretary to keep the information flowing to you the membership swiftly and smoothly. At the same time, I hope to improve this system where it is needed to give you the information you need or want in a timely manner. With the addition of the administrative assistant position, the time required is considerably less than it used to be, but it is still a tremendous time commitment, and not to be taken lightly.

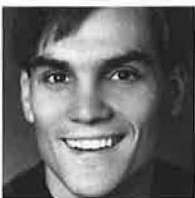
I've had the good fortune to work with many of you, A/Cs, FMs, CTs and FDs alike, and each of you has taught me something about myself and my art. I hope I can help pay this debt to each of you, and lead this organization for the next three years.

Thank you,

Mike Mahaffey

Mike has trained and fought from coast to coast, from South Carolina to Washington State to Southern California. He holds a degree in Dramatic Art from Whitman College and a masters degree in Acting and Directing from The University of South Carolina.

Currently he is in Los Angeles making his living as a professional actor, fight director and stunt performer. Mike also performs on weekends as Gianni Vespa in The Bold and Stupid Men, a two-man show based on Dirk and Guido: The Swordsmen! and playing all over the US. Favorite productions: MacBeth, Edward the Second, Henry V: Masters of War (Knightsbridge Theatre-Los Angeles); Dial M for Murder, Terra Nova, Merry Wives of Windsor (Tacoma Actors Guild). Studios and Smaller theatres: Importance of Being Earnest, Woyczek, Orphans, A Midsummer Night's Dream, The Pirates of Lesbos, As You Like It, True West, Wait Until Dark, Henry IV Part One, and "Espada", a unique sword/dance piece set to argentine tango music. Most recently, Mike was married to Lacy Altwine (2004 Paddy Crean Winner) in August of 2004. They enjoy teaching together and trips to IKEA.



Treasurer - Andrew Hayes *(Certified Teacher)*

Thanks again to all SAFD supporters for your support for me, even if by default. I am happy to have the opportunity to serve you for another three years. My goal is to continue to solidify the continued financial strength of the organization and foster the best interests of the society as a member of the Governing Body. You should know that as a not for profit organization, this is very much YOUR organization. Please do not hesitate to share your ideas and suggestions with any of us, for we very much care what you think.

Cheers,

Andrew Hayes

Andrew Hayes is on faculty at DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana. He teaches theatre classes the university offers and directs once a year. He has been a member of the Society since 1993 and has had the privilege to attend workshops in Las Vegas, New York, Louisiana, Chicago, and other locations. His greatest joy (besides fighting) is his family. Many of you remember he convinced his son that learning stage combat was like Jedi training. Lee did not ask to see Yoda, but he wants to begin training - the legacy continues!

The staff at The Cutting Edge wishes to congratulate the new and returning officers who will be representing the organization for the next term.

Best Voter Turnout in SAFD History

The 2004 Officer election was the SAFD's fourth election in past six years. The number of members participating in the election process has increased dramatically:

Year:	To determine:	Number of votes cast
1999	2000-2001 Member Representatives	45
2001	2002-2003 Member Representatives/2002-2004 Officers	175
2003	2004-2006 Member Representatives	182
2004	2005-2007 Officers	221

The increased participation of the elections can most likely be attributed to the following:

- 1) Addition of electronic ballots
- 2) Individual ballots
- 3) Early mailing of ballots
- 4) Timely and efficient use of *Cutting Edge* for Nominee Blurbs, voting procedures, and results

Thank you to all SAFD members who have participated in the elections. The Officers and Membership Representatives are your voice on the Governing Body, and it is imperative that all members take part in the election process to choose those who will speak for you. The direction of the SAFD depends upon its members, and every voice is important.

No concern or question is insignificant, so please always feel confident about contacting any member of the Governing Body with concerns, questions, or issues. They are here to serve you, and improve the SAFD, so please let them know what you think.

Thank you for the largest voter turnout in SAFD history!

An Important Message from Brian Byrnes

Dear Friends,

Please help support a Donation Effort for the Estate of Patrick Crean.

There are still a number of debts connected to Paddy and his Estate. For instance, Paddy's headstone is still unpaid for in the amount of \$2000.00. As well, John Brogan and his wife have repeatedly reached into their own pockets in order to care for Paddy in the final years of his life.

Here's how you can help the effort:

- Write a check to "SAFD" (include a note that it's for the "Estate of Patrick Crean").
- All donations will be pooled, and then one check will be written for the Estate.
- On behalf of the SAFD, Andrew Hayes will be able to hand deliver the check to John Brogan (as Executor of the Estate) in Feb. 2005.

Send checks to:

The Society of American Fight Directors
1350 East Flamingo Road, #25
Las Vegas, NV 89119

Please mark your calendars! The donation "drive" will be from Dec. 20th, 2004 until Jan. 20, 2005 -- which falls nicely into this season of giving thanks, caring for others, and into a brand new year. If you know you can and will help out - please take a moment in this next month and send a donation.

So many individuals, and the SAFD as a whole, owe a great many things to Patrick Crean. He continues to be an inspiration for us all. Your donation and generosity will help give a great "gift" in Paddy's name!

Many thanks,
Brian Byrnes

The Douglas Fairbanks, Jr. Memorial Scholarship

The Douglas Fairbanks, Jr. Memorial Scholarship, is presented annually to an SAFD Friend, Actor/Combatant or Advanced Actor/Combatant in good standing who, in the opinion of the Governing Body, has shown themselves worthy of assistance in continuing their training. The scholarship, given in memory and honor of swashbuckling film star and SAFD Honorary Member, Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., will provide tuition and housing for attendance at the NSCW Actor/Combatant Workshop, Intermediate Actor/Combatant Workshop or Advanced Actor/Combatant Workshop.

A candidate for the Douglas Fairbanks, Jr. Memorial Scholarship must be nominated by a member of the SAFD Governing Body, Fight Master, Fight Director or Certified Teacher. In addition, a candidate for the Fairbanks scholarship must:

- 1) Be a member of the SAFD in good standing for a minimum of one (1) year.
- 2) Demonstrate an aptitude toward, and a strong desire to learn the skills and performance styles of the stage combative arts.
- 3) Demonstrate a need (not necessarily financial) for said scholarship.
- 4) Be pursuant of or have received an undergraduate degree in performance students (or other such equivalent training).

To apply for the scholarship, please detach the application form in the *Cutting Edge* or download a copy from the SAFD website. All requested items must be included in one packet (no partial applications, please), and received no later than the March 1, 2005 deadline in order to be considered. Incomplete or late applications will not be reviewed.

Please make special note of the application deadline, as it is one month earlier than it was in 2004.

Please be aware that this application process refers only to the Fairbanks scholarship. Information regarding the registration and application process for the 2005 ACW and AACW will become available in the very near future at www.safd.org. Please keep checking the website for the most up to date information on all National Stage Combat Workshops.

If there are any questions, please contact the Secretary, Mike Mahaffey, at secretary@safd.org.

Good luck!

Upcoming SPT's/SPR's

Chicago, IL:

What: QS (Test); R&D (Renewal)

When: End of January, 2005

Where: The Actor's Gymnasium, Evanston, IL

Adjudicator: TBA

CT and Contact: Angela Bonacasa,
goodhouse@hotmail.com

Denver, CO:

What: R&D, Smallsword, Unarmed

When: March 12th, 2005

Where: TBA

Adjudicator: TBA

CT and Contact: Geof Kent
jefe@thefightguy.com
<http://www.thefightguy.com/training.php>

Cambridge, MA:

What: TBA

When: April 8th, 2005

Where: Harvard University's Institute for Advanced Theatre Training at American Repertory Theatre

Adjudicator: TBA

CT and Contact: Robert Walsh,
robertwalsh@rcn.com

A Request of CT's, FD's and FM's

PLEASE keep your SAFD website information up to date. It is difficult as a regional rep to recommend teachers without having a referring website with complete information. Photos are important. As a professional organization and as professionals within this industry, it is a great asset to have current contact information (email and telephone being most important), a bio which represents of the kind of work in which you are currently engaged, and a link to CV's, personal websites, university web pages, etc. Please promote yourselves and the organization.

Send your information to:

webmaster@safd.org,
cc'ing the Secretary at **secretary@safd.org**

If you do not have access to the internet, send your information to:

Al Foote, SAFD Webmaster
179 E. 78th Street, Apt 4B; New York, NY 10021-0462

At the time this issue went to print, there were **27 Photos** and **27 Bios** missing from the Directory pages. If you are having trouble finding someone to take your picture or coming up with a bio, let us know and, maybe, we can help.

If you do not want this information available to the general public, let the webmaster know and he will change the wording on your directory page from:

Photo/Bio to Come to Photo/Bio Withheld

Society of American Fight Directors

2005 Douglas Fairbanks Jr. Scholarship Application

Name: _____ Date: _____
Address: _____ E-mail: _____

Phone: _____
Cell: _____

Please provide the following:

- ☐ Nomination letter from Petitioner (Certified Teacher, Fight Director, Fight Master, or Governing Body Member)
- ☐ Letter of Intent
- ☐ Resume (CV if available)
- ☐ Copies of any and all SAFD Certificates
- ☐ Proof of Membership (Minimum of one year)
- ☐ Letter of Recommendation from one other party
- ☐ Any additional materials (optional)

DEADLINES: Applications must be received no later than March 1, 2005. All applications materials, including letters of recommendation, must be submitted as one complete packet. Only complete applications will be reviewed. Late or incomplete packets will not be considered.

The scholarship will be awarded and the recipient notified no later than April 1, 2005. Scholarship recipients must accept or decline the scholarship no later than May 1, 2005.

PLEASE NOTE: Being chosen as the scholarship recipient does not guarantee acceptance into the NSCW. All scholarship applicants must also submit ACW, IACW, or AACW applications to the appropriate coordinators, including letters of recommendation and deposits. If you are selected as the scholarship recipient, your deposit will be refunded.

Please send scholarship applications to:

Mike Mahaffey,
SAFD Secretary
7435 Shadyglade Avenue #2
North Hollywood, CA 91605

Regional Reports

New England Region

Connecticut, Maine,
Massachusetts,
New Hampshire,
Rhode Island,
Vermont



**By Richard
Hedderman**

7339 St. James Street
Wauwatosa, WI 53213

(414) 476-0421

E-mail: neregrep@safd.org or
hedderman@mpm.edu

Boston-based **CT Robert Walsh** continues to teach stage combat at Boston University and in the MFA program at Brandeis University. He recently staged the "violence design" for *Richard III* at the Actors' Shakespeare Project (where he is currently directing *Measure for Measure*), the world premiere of Michael Weller's *Approaching Mumtaz* at New Repertory Theatre and *Polaroid Stories* at Brandeis. Robert also directed and staged the violence for *Private Lives* at St. Michael's Playhouse, which featured, as he describes it, "possibly the longest fight that play has ever seen."

A/C Kim Carrell choreographed and performed in the school tour of Shakespeare Now Theatre Company's *Romeo & Juliet* (and played the Prince and Capulet!), and did a stage combat demo as part of an artist-in-residence program for Northern Stage in Vermont. He recently choreographed fights for *Troilus and Cressida* at Boston's Publick Theatre and taught two stage combat workshops in Merrimack Repertory Theatre's summer program, "Young Artists at Play." Kim played the title role in *Richard III*

for the New England Shakespeare Festival's touring production, and choreographed fights for *The Most Dangerous Game* and *The Ransom of Red Chief* for Chamber Theatre Productions' "Tour de Force" national tour.

AAC and New England Regional Representative Richard Hedderman served as Fight Director on productions of *Peter Pan*, *West Side Story* and *As You Like It* at Boston area theaters and choreographed the violence for *Getting Out* and *Inspecting Carol* at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee where he is currently a Lecturer in Stage Combat and Education Artist with Milwaukee Repertory Theatre. He spent July at the SAFD Teacher Training Workshop (TTW), and is currently working on follow-up assignments. He staged fights for *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* at Milwaukee's First Stage Children's Theatre, and is currently directing the violence for *King Lear* with inmates at Wisconsin's Racine Correctional Facility - his article on the experience is slated for the Spring 2005 issue of *The FightMaster*. He reports that he's been "very busy" writing articles on theatre for "Footlights," a Milwaukee-based performing arts magazine.

SAFD Friend Doug Jacobs directed fights for *Richard III* for the Stageloft Repertory Theatre in Sturbridge, MA.

A/Cs Meron Langsner and Ted Hewlett currently serve as Teaching Associates at Boston University's Opera Institute where Meron recently fight-directed Gounod's *Romeo et Juliette*. He also served as fight director on the following productions: *A Clockwork Orange* at Company One in Boston, *Losing Game* and *The Removalists* at Brandeis, *They Named Us Mary* and *Date #4* at Another Country Productions and *Parade* at Tufts University where he

has just begun his Ph.D in Drama with a full scholarship. Not surprisingly, Meron says he plans to concentrate on "violence in performance."

A/C Rob Najarian is assisting CT Robert Walsh with a single sword class at Boston University, and is working on the fights for two student projects at the Institute for Advanced Theatre Training at American Repertory Theatre in Cambridge, MA. Rob has just completed an introductory unarmed class for undergraduates at Maine's Bowdoin College and lectured on the chivalric code, the rise of the rapier and the Schools of Defense in Elizabethan London, among other topics. In October, Rob attended a day-long workshop in violence for stage and screen at Boston's Museum of Science, taught by Tony Wolf (who was assisted by members of Chicago's Babes with Blades.)

Pacific West Region



California,
Hawaii,
Nevada,
New Mexico



**By Richard
Lane**

Congratulations to **CT Mike Mahaffey**, the new SAFD Secretary. Mike has been involved in a number of projects. He created the violence for a "hate-crime" driven *Edward II*, and was a TA for the NSCW in July. He and Lacy Altwine got married on August 7th, honeymooned in London, where they dropped in on the British National Workshop as well. Mike has spent the last twelve weeks on the road, performing "The Bold and Stupid Men" Show at Renaissance Festivals across the

Regional Reports *(continued)*

country - this year including the Bristol, Michigan and Texas Renaissance Festivals. Currently, he is teaching classes for the Texas Festival, building interest in their stage combat programs. When Mike returns to LA, he will be an alternate teacher for the stage combat program at the LA campus of AMDA. And he gets to go home to his lovely and amazing wife to boot!

From **Honorary member Anthony DeLongis:**

"I've spent the last year training Lynn Thompson of Cold Steel knives to fight with the sabre. He's an extraordinary knife fighter. We have many of the same teachers including Guro Dan Inosanto and Ron Balicki and the cross over knowledge has been very productive. We've just finished principal photography on a new DVD about Combat Techniques for Sabre & Cutlass. I think it's going to be a real eye opener for sword practitioners since it addresses issues, applications and techniques at different ranges and distances that I don't think have been explored since people were really fighting for their lives with swords. I'll keep you and the membership posted.

Had a great weekend at the Cold Steel Challenge in September. The knife and sword fighting competitions (with simulated padded weapons) was first rate. It was the first year for the event and I think it's going to be very popular and well worth checking out. My partner, Dr. Mary De Longis and I performed our whip demo featuring target and body accuracy as well as our synchronized bullwhip tango. I also offered some proof of the combative versatility of the whip. I think it is the ultimate flexible weapon; fast, powerful and effective at multiple ranges to strike, deflect, envelop, or immobilize and throw an opponent.

The second day I offered a combat sabre demo that was very well received. I also took a 1st place in axe throwing, 2nd in knife throwing,

3rd in tomahawk throwing and 3rd in spear throwing. I'd never even picked up a spear until Sunday. Thirty-five years of sword study has given me some complementary hand-eye skills, I guess. Lynn is very generous with his prizes so we've got lots of new toys to play with when you visit. I'll be in New York October 21-25 teaching at the Western Martial Arts Workshop teaching my unique style of effortless whip manipulation. There's quite an array of talent and knowledge at this gathering and I'm looking forward to taking as many classes as I can. Here's the web link. <http://ahfi.org/wmaw2004>.

Currently I'm staging the fights for the Los Angeles Opera production of *CARMEN*, followed by *ROMEO & JULIET* in January. I've been the action choreographer for LA Opera since it's inception in 1986. It's challenging and very rewarding. I'm also currently teaching ACTING ACTION again at UCLA Extension through November. That, hustling work, writing new standup comedy, finishing the COMBAT SABRE & CUTLASS DVD for Cold Steel (it's going to be quite a wake up call for sword practitioners, I think), training horses and myself, should keep me out of trouble until the next challenge surfaces.

I also offer intensive one-on-one multiple day training at our ranch in Los Angeles. I've had students from as far away as Germany come to train in a variety of disciplines from Spanish, to Italian, to French, to Filipino weapons stylings. We also offer a firearms (rifle, pistol, shotgun) training program, as well as the opportunity to practice throwing skills with knives and tomahawks.

www.delongis.com/indalo
(cell 818-422-8664.)

Also, just guested on an "ER" a couple of weeks ago; every once in awhile they still let me act in this town."

From **Friend Jeff Lewis:** "Currently, I am choreographing fight sequences

for two short films as well as continuing my stage combat training with Payson Burt at The Los Angeles Fight Academy. An extraordinary teacher, Payson's guidance and instruction has been invaluable in my relatively new stage combat career. Also, I attended the Seattle Sockeye, a wonderfully put-together workshop; many thanks to Deb. I enjoyed all the classes, especially Bob MacDougall's Feldenkreis and Double Stick fighting. I also took Carrie Brewer's Adv. Sword Techniques class as well as her Whip Class when she came to LA for her company's tour...yet another amazing instructor I've had the privilege of training under."

From **Friend Alaric Toy:** "Currently I'm taking Richard Lane's Stage Combat class at Cal Shakes as well as performing a Stage Combat Demo for the San Pablo Library in December (yeah, a library I know!)"

From **Friend Scott Leva:** "Not much to report on Stage Combat work this year. I've been busy working on TV, and Film. *"Star Trek:Enterprise"*, *"Method & Red"*, *"Threat Matrix"*, *"Lemony Snicket; A Series of Unfortunate Events"* and quite a few commercials. As for live Theatre, I designed and built specific state of the art Stunt Equipment for Cirque Du Soleil's show *"KA"* at the MGM Grand as well as being the stunt coordinator on those specific areas that needed it. That's taken up most of my year, March until now. "

From **A/C Michael Storm:** "Earlier in the year I originated the role of Curtin in the world premiere stage production of *Treasure of the Sierra Madre* at San Jose Stage Company where I also served as fight captain for several hand to hand fights, a couple shootings, and one decapitation by way of machete. This summer I appeared as Sebastian in the San Francisco Shakespeare Festival's production of *Twelfth Night*, where I again served as fight captain for the

Regional Reports (continued)

rapier and dagger fight between Toby and Antonio. I have taught various stage combat workshops at Martin Luther King Jr., Junior High School in Berkeley and for the San Francisco Shakespeare Festival as well. This January I will begin teaching at Berkeley Repertory Theatre in Berkeley, California. I am currently taking a two-month hiatus to travel and work on lesson plans."

From **Friend Brian Herndon**: "I was fight captain for *A LITTLE PRINCESS* at TheatreWorks, (although with so many other considerations in a world-premiere musical, I didn't get as much as time as I would have liked to make the quarterstaff hits look perfect) and I'm still teaching single rapier at Odyssey (year 5 now! How does that happen?) as part of their movement curriculum. I'll be choreographing at Berkeley Opera in January, Puccini's one-act operas. I'm going to start rehearsals November 1 for *SHE LOVES ME* at Napa Rep. "

From **Friend Ernesto Bustos**: "I am performing in a production of *Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet)* at CSU, Sacramento. Its been quiet for me since for a little over a year I've been adjusting to life as a father. "

From **Friend Bob Goodwin**: "** Eric Oram and I trained Mr. Christian Bale for *"Batman Begins."*

* I taught Kristanna Loken (the Terminatrix from *Terminator 3*) weapons, including sword, staff and Kali for *"Kingdom at Twilight."*

* The second annual "Film Fighting Workshops" were again held at Loyola Marymount University and were very successful. Training was for on-camera fights. All the instructors had film, television, theatre and fight director experience. Workshop attendance ranged from eight to thirty students. The three hour workshops taught were, Katana (Robert Goodwin), Wing Chun (Eric Oram), Introduction to the European Sword (Payson Burt), Small Sword (Roberta

Brown), Hong Kong fighting (Chris Torres), Hollywood Kung Fu (Eric Betts) and six hours of Rapier and Dagger (Richard Ryan.)

* The most exciting event coming up for me is; teaching "Combat T'ai Chi" for Paradise Warrior Retreat in Vail, CO in Nov. Other teachers include martial arts legends Gokor Chivichyan, Benny "The Jet" Urquidez, SAFF trained Eric Oram and other internationally recognized fighters with a special appearance of Gene LeBell. They have a second retreat in February in Malibu, CA.

* I am stunt coordinating the SAG feature *"Phat Girlz."* currently in production.

* I continue to teach for Loyola Marymount University' Extension and am finishing up "Introduction to Fighting for Film." "Introduction to the Sword for Film and Fun" runs Nov 3 - Dec 8 to finish the fall semester. I offer the same classes in the Spring.

* Every four to six weeks I teach a different workshop through Film Fighting LA. I am finishing up "Introduction to Film Fighting and Kali", the next workshop, from Nov 14th through Dec 12 will be "Introduction to Broadsword for Theatre, Film and Fun." Workshops for 2005 will be posted on my web site next month and include "Chinese Martial Arts and Weapons for Film." Go to www.FilmFightingLA.com for more information and links to the above named organizations and events.

* I was the fight coordinator and had a co-starring role in *"The Housewife,"* a SAG, short film in post production. I died well. You have to in L.A.

* I will be fight directing the fights in *"War Havoc"* for LMU this January.

* Each November I attend "Dragonfest" in Glendale, CA. This is my eighth appearance. The event is so fans can meet martial art film stars and get autographs, signed pictures and watch demonstrations. My demo team and I demonstrate Asian and European fighting arts. I am invited because I taught the original Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles their Kobudo

and Karate do.

* I am working on a series of DVD's on T'aiji and Asian and European Fighting Arts for Film and Theatre."

* This summer I plan on visiting London and Paris. To tour, see some theatre, learn and maybe teach a little."

From **Friend Scott Crandall**: "The two most recent [projects] were a comic "Matrix" fight involving Neo, Agent Smith and Trinity, for an industrial production in Monterey. I got to use plastic Ray-Guns, a 3 Stooges move, and Trinity ran out of wall to run along (the actress was carried by two people dressed in black) and "fell" after holding up a little sign that said "YIPE!". Then I decided I no longer needed an Appendix, or maybe it decided, as I just had it removed on the 15th. Doing OK, although I don't get to practice or train for a few weeks. Next training will be working on getting my Red Belt in Tae Kwon Do, continuing on to Black. I am currently a 2nd degree Brown. "

From **A/C Laura Downing-Lee**: "I'm still teaching theatre full-time at Santa Rosa Junior College. Last spring I choreographed the combat sequence for our production of *The Beard of Avon* (Director: Leslie McCauley) and the combat for my own all-female production of *The Taming of the Shrew*, both for SRJC. I had the privilege of taking the weekend Masters Workshop up in Tahoe this summer with David Boushey (my UW instructor!), Erik Fredrickson, and J. R. Beardsley, as well as the first week of Dueling Arts International's Fight Directing Workshop with Gregory Hoffman (had to leave early because of work...sigh). Both were great experiences! Not much else, as I'm still settling into married life (I celebrated my 1st anniversary while at the Tahoe workshop...now there's romance for you.)"

From **Executive Director Julia Dewey Rupkalvis, Ph.D**: "The film

Regional Reports (continued)

"Alexander" opens on November 24! I had the great privilege of being a military advisor and weapons master on this epic film, which looks to be terrific. Also, the Los Angeles Fight Academy (consisting of SAFFD members Julia Rupkalvis, Payson Burt, along with Charles Currier and Greg Dolph) are putting together a production of "Food Fight!" on December 9, 2004, at the Secret Rose Theatre in North Hollywood. Admission is canned food for the holidays, which will go to the San Fernando Valley Mission. Area fighters will be performing a variety of fights. If you want to help participate, give Julia a call at 818/259-3496. Happy Holidays!"

A/C Kevin Wetmore remains choreographer in residence at California State University, Northridge, in addition to his other duties as a faculty member there. He has recently choreographed the violence for three shows there: *Lost in the Bush*, *Blasting Hole in the Night*, and *The Wrestling Season*. He also taught an unarmed stage combat workshop at the Region VIII Kennedy Center / American College Theatre Festival in San Bernadino, CA in January of 2004.

From *Friend Martin Noyes*: "The only thing worthy of noting is I have been working with children, teaching acting and movement at South Coast Repertory. I did a small lecture series on stage combat during the summer at S.C.R. and found that the children responded well, as did the parents. It was a great experience."

While **CT/FD Gregory Hoffman** will continue to frequent the San Francisco Bay area to teach and direct at ACT and other theatres, Gregory has recently re-located to Los Angeles as his home base where he will be developing a small theatre and independent film company. While he choosing to direct fights less, his company Dueling Arts International (www.duelingarts.com) continues to offer training opportuni-

ties here in the US and worldwide. At the time of this writing he is off to Japan with Tony Pisculli to teach a third annual two week workshop in theatrical combat. Having just completed post production on his educational video which is scheduled for release with the coming of The New Year he is also nearing completion of his first independent film and is also producing and co-directing a potentially Broadway Bound "*Tempest Project*," both of which feature Olympia Dukakis. In addition he has also recently accepted a position as A Board of Director of John Piper's Opera House in Virginia City, NV, where he will be in charge of development and programming developing for the theatre.

From **CT Colleen Kelly**: I have moved from Alabama to San Diego and recently worked on Jack O'Brien's Broadway-Bound *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* at The Old Globe Theatres.

From **Friend Richard Alsabery**: "Earlier this year I had the opportunity to perform at The Martial Arts Supershow and Expo at the Thousand Oaks Civic Center in Thousand Oaks, California. The show was sold out. My fighting partner, Mr. Darnell Mayfield (Master in Tang Soo Do), and I performed the only comedy sword act in the show which had 7 martial arts schools with multiple acts per school. We came on stage with one of us holding a Kerry sign and the other holding a Bush sign. Out of the signs we drew our swords. Naturally that lead us straight to a unique political discussion using swords. We got a lot of great laughs out of the routine."

From newly **Certified Teacher Christina Traister**: "I attended the TTW in North Carolina this past summer and had the good fortune of meeting CT Bob Borwick...he and I had a great time together and were absolutely flabbergasted that we have both been in the Bay Area for

the past 10 years (prior to his relocating to Seattle) and have never crossed paths. I'll be returning to the University of California - Santa Cruz to teach stage combat for the upcoming Winter Term starting in January."

And lastly, I've **[CT/FD Richard Lane]** been teaching classes in San Francisco at The Circus Center and in Berkeley at California Shakespeare. I choreographed *Tosca*, *Don Giovanni*, and *Romeo et Juliette* at Opera San Jose, Sacramento Opera and Festival Opera, respectively; *A Midsummer Nights Dream* for San Francisco Shakespeare Touring Company, and *Macbeth* for University High School; and *Danny & the Deep Blue Sea* and *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* for San Francisco State University.

I also attended the California Educational Theatre Association Conference in San Jose where I promoted The Academy of the Sword (of course) and more importantly the SAFFD. All the educators were thrilled to discover a resource for safe stage combat. Go figure...Andrew Sutherland was also there teaching a workshop in "How to Approach Stage Combat" for Drama Educators. It was great fun to spend a few moments playing with another passionate stage combat professional.

Keep spreading the word. Keep Fighting the Good Fight.

South East Region

Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia



**By John
Cashman**

Greetings from the South East!

Regional Reports (continued)

I hope that everyone has made it through the hurricanes this year and is well on the road to recovery. I haven't heard from any members that were hit too hard by the hurricanes, but people across the South East were affected in differing degrees of severity ranging from minimal to extreme. I can imagine anyone who was clobbered should be calling FEMA and not me, so I hope the fact that I haven't heard is that everyone is okay and not because they're mired in the world of insurance adjusters and roof repair contractors.

Congratulations and welcome to our new SAFD Certified Teachers that reside in our South Eastern Region:

Florida:

Tim Bell

Ian Borden

Georgia:

Jacki Blakeney

Kentucky:

Henry Lee Layton

Virginia:

Robb Hunter

Adam McLean

I apologize if there are any inadvertent omissions. Please contact me if you have recently moved into the region and/or I have mistakenly omitted your name and I will be happy to correct the matter with the appropriate amount of sniveling and groveling.

Certified Teacher and Regional Rep John Cashman was the Fight Director for *ROMEO AND JULIET* and *THE GRAPES OF WRATH* at the Savannah College of Art and Design this year. He is still teaching ongoing classes in the Orlando area. The only casualty of the hurricanes seems to have been the SPT test that he had scheduled for October. Understandably, participants had more important things in their lives to worry about over the past few months and the SPT test date had to be cancelled. After the holidays we will regroup and hopefully reschedule the test for the

Spring of 2005.

Cameron Diskin is currently studying in London with the FSU London Theatre Experience. He will soon begin to work with BASSC CTs Phillip d'Orleans in his Master Class on Rapier and Dagger, and Jonathan Leverett, who will be teaching quarterstaff this term.

Adam McLean ended his first year of graduate studies by diving into the Caryl Churchill play *MAD FOREST* which is about the Romanian revolution in 1989. He promptly went to the International Theatre Festival in Sibiu, Romania to perform with the cast from Virginia Commonwealth University and witnessed some of the most stunning and moving theatre from all over the globe. He left changed. After emerging from the TTW 2004 with both eyes and all his fingers and toes, Adam recognized that he is now a fully Certified Teacher with the SAFD. He immediately began co-choreographing a *CYRANO DE BERGERAC* with Certified Teacher Aaron Anderson and demanding perfection from his perfect actors. In September, he will venture to Hampton Sydney College to begin work on a *MACBETH* where the perfect director will demand his greatest and most perfect work to date (you better believe he'll come across too!!!). Adam's second and final year of graduate studies begin in late August where he will find himself at the mercy of many of the industry's finest teachers while teaching a Physical Acting/Stage Combat class to graduate directors, actors, dramaturges and techies alike - the possibilities are rich with promise. The MFA is around the bend... If he can manage to pick up the pieces of his personal life, throw them in the back of his brand new Nissan Frontier Pick-up, he'd love to ride off into the sunset of academia and have a wife and kids someday... For now, it's nose to the grindstone...

SAFD Friend Katrina Breitenbach,

a directing major at High Point University (High Point, N.C.), has chosen SAFD member Terry Kroenung's play *In Russet Mantle Clad* as her directing project for the Fall 2004 semester. The play will be presented at 7:30 p.m. on November 19 and 20 in HPU's Empty Space Theatre as a Food Fight benefit performance. Kroenung says that, to his knowledge, the play has never before been produced, so it will enjoy its world premiere at HPU this November. Rehearsals began on August 30. SAFD member Stephen Hyers will be the fight choreographer; he is also the local Food Fight coordinator.

A/C Cathy Brookshire spent the summer in London interning at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, with "Master of the Word" Giles Block. While she was there doing text analysis for all three of the season's productions, she also choreographed three comedic falls for the Globe's all female production of *Much Ado About Nothing* and studied rapier and buckler with Jonathan Leverett of the BASSC. Cathy is now teaching part time in the theatre department at the University of South Carolina.

A/C Stefan Sittig has had a very busy summer working on dance, movement and stage combat in the Washington, D.C. area. He has just completed fight direction (as well as dance choreography) for *Jesus Christ Superstar* at Open Circle Theatre in Washington, D.C. (which included staging an unarmed fight with an actor in a wheelchair.) www.stefan-sittig.com

CT Tim Bell returned in late May from Tokyo, Japan where he was a Buccaneer Brigand at Tokyo Disney Sea for 7 months. He was a stunt double for a Crest promo, was awarded CT status from the '04 TTW at NCSA, returned to Miami to perform as a Stunt US Marshall on "Transporter II", and did a day of stunt driving in a Ferrari for a promo for Telemundo, a Latin network. He is

Regional Reports (continued)

currently working as the Assistant Prop Master of 2nd Unit on "Transporter II" while networking local and national opportunities....

A/C Lee Soroko reports, "This past summer I was quite privileged to work as an Intern at the TTW, held at the North Carolina School of the Arts. It was a fabulous experience with the daunting realization of how much more I have to learn. The bright side is that I shall be continuing my education under the gaze and tutelage of the FMs, FDs, and CTs who have been there and know their s#%t. In September, I completed my first professional (Equity House D) gig as a Fight Director for the North Carolina Shakespeare Festival's *OTHELLO* (directed by Peter Bennet). The actors and director were very happy,

the fights told a story, were true to the nature of the various weapons and were dynamic. What's more, all the injuries were simulated and I think the quality of the Fight Direction in NC-Shakespeare lead to my next equity gig in October for Triad Stage's production of *DRACULA*!

CT Paul Steger has been settling in at Florida State University in Tallahassee as the Head of the Performance Area. He had a fantastic time this summer playing the title role in *Zorro* at Utah Musical Theatre, directed by Drew Fracher, and fighting with fellow SAFD'ers Johnny Bellomo, Andrea Robertson, and Dwayne Orleman. He directed *A Flea in Her Ear* for FSU and is currently in rehearsals for *Cloud 9*. He worked as Fight Director for the Broadway pro-

duction of Mark Medoff's *Prymate* last March, directed a staged reading of *Buy One, Get Five Free* at Riverstage in Sacramento (soon to play at the Tribeca Theatre Festival), served as the Assistant Coordinator/Head Teaching Assistant for the National Stage Combat Workshops in Las Vegas, assisting Maestro Fredricksen in R&D and Small sword, teaching Master Classes, and doing the general work associated with the NSCW. He is off to Panama (Central America) and Sarasota (FSU/Asolo Conservatory) to teach combat workshops, and is slated to Fight Direct *Hamlet* at the University of Central Arkansas in addition to a bilingual production of *Romeo and Juliet* at FSU.

Upcoming Workshops

The Tenth Annual



WINTER WONDERLAND WORKSHOP

An SAFD and BASSC Sanctioned Workshop

2005 Teaching Staff

SAFD Fight Masters:

David Boushey, Chuck Coyl,
Dale Girard, David Woolley

SAFD Fight Directors:

Jamie Cheatham, John McFarland*,
Nick Sandys

SAFD Certified Teachers:

Angela Bonacasa, Stephen Gray,
Mark "Rat" Guinn*, Andrew Hayes,
Brian LeTraunik, Mike Mahaffey,
Neil Massey, Don Preston, John Tovar,
Christina Traister, DC Wright

BASSC Certified Teachers:

Roger Bartlett, Jonathan Leverett

* Denotes BASSC and SAFD Certified Teacher

February 4 - 6, 2005

Presented at Columbia College Chicago
72 East 11th Street
Chicago, Illinois

Workshop Fees:

Early Registration (By Dec 15th):	\$235
Full Time Student:	\$235
Current SAFD Member:	\$250
2004 Regional Workshop Participant:	\$250
Full Price:	\$275
Single Day Price:	\$100
SAFD Renewals (Select Weapons):	\$25

REGISTER EARLY! There has been a waiting list for the last four years and we anticipate this year being no different. Mail registration information and make checks to:

WINTER WONDERLAND WORKSHOP
3738 Blanchan Ave.
Brookfield, IL 60513

Some Classes proposed for this year include:

Pool Noodle Mass Battles / Old School Swashbuckling / Unarmed vs. Knife / Fast, Furious and Hard / Basic Film Fighting / One Hit Wonder / Unarmed-From Pantomime to Domestic Violence / Double Fence, Double Step, Double Time / Orientation to Gun Safety / Vocal Extremes / The other side of the Broadsword / Comedy Fights-Groin shots are funny / Look Out! They've Got A...! / Basic classes in all SAFD recognized weapon styles / SAFD renewals available in select weapons and:

An ALL NEW Lecture Series covering many aspects of theatre and violence, including:

Women in Stage Combat / Fundamentals in Choreography / "Hey, Can you do the Fights?" / Stage Combat as an Academic Pursuit / Medical Implications of Taking a Hit / The Reality of Fighters over Actors / Plus Others

FOR MORE INFORMATION, INCLUDING A DOWNLOADABLE REGISTRATION FORM, CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE: www.winterwonderlandworkshop.com

Upcoming Workshops

Rumble in the Rockies V

Saturday, February 19th - Sunday, February 20th, 2005 - \$190.00
(with an optional Monday, February 21st All-Day Intensive) - Additional \$65.00

The Rumble is back for its fifth appearance. This popular weekend workshop is a showcase of stage combat instructors from across the country. Past classes have included whip cracking, samurai swords, film fighting, running into things, good cop/bad cop, pirate mass battles, and countless others. The Rumble also includes a series of introductory classes on everything from unarmed to broadsword to quarterstaff. An excellent opportunity for teachers, actors, directors, or anyone that just wants to swashbuckle for a weekend. New for 2005 is an optional all-day intensive on President's Day, February 21st.

An excellent chance for students of any skill level to spend six hours on a single stage combat project.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Geoffrey "Jefe" Kent
(303) 877-2670
e-mail: geoffrey@thefightguy.com
www.thefightguy.com

March Madness II

Stage Combat Workshop

Cincinnati Ballet Studios - Cincinnati, OH

March 12 & 13, 2005

FACULTY :

John Bellomo, Bruce Cromer (SAFD Fight Directors);
Gina Cerimele-Mechley, Don Preston (SAFD Certified Teachers);
Guest Instructors To Be Announced (Faculty is subject to change)

PAST CLASSES:

March Madness Style Mass Battle, Pirate Fighting, Naughty Fighting, Found Weapons,
Wing Chun, Contemporary Violence, Laban Rapier & Dagger, Fencing, Self Defense,
Tae Kwon Do Kicks and Takedowns, Sneaky Sh*t

WORKSHOP FEE: \$200

Fee includes breakfast & catered lunch

\$175: SAFD members, union affiliates, students with valid ID **OR** early registration
\$150: SAFD members, union affiliates, students with valid ID **WITH** early registration
ALL DISCOUNTED PRICES MUST BE PAID IN FULL BY 2/14/05

Call 513-471-0523 or e-mail marchmadness@zoomtown.com for more details

Upcoming Workshops

Tired of the cold? Why not come on down to the beach?

The Virginia Beach BASH '05!

March 20 & 21 2005

Regent University, Virginia Beach VA

Contact: Host Dr. Michael Kirkland 757-226-4730 michkir@regent.edu

Price: \$235.00	General Registration
\$210.00	Early Registration +
\$200.00	Union Membership (AEA; SAG; AFTRA, VA Arts Alliance)
\$200.00	SAFD Membership
\$185.00	SAFD + Union Membership
\$110.00	One Day Registration
\$100.00	One Day Early Registration +
\$ 90.00	One Day Union & SAFD Discount

+ Early Registration ends 3/5/05; Group Discounts also available. See web site for details regarding refund for cancellation of registration. There may be a special fee for those taking the Firearms/Squibs class. Registration includes the price of an Official VA Beach BASH T-Shirt.

Teaching Staff: **FM Richard Ryan** (Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts), **FM Dale Girard** (North Carolina School of the Arts), **CT/FD Scot J. Mann** (University of Southern Mississippi), **CT/FD Michael Chin** (Fights4 NYC; SAFD NSCW Coordinator), **CT/FD k. Jenny Jones** (Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music), **CT Michael Kirkland** (Regent University Theatre Dept. Chair), **John Wynn** (Firearms and Pyrotechnics Expert).

Tenative Class List: Rapier and Dagger • Shaolin Staff • Double Stick/Sword • Mismatched Weapons • Greek Sword and Shield • Shaolin Kicks • Lessac NRG States & Combat • Broadsword • Axe Handle • Shaolin Knife • Laban Action Verbs & Combat • Take Downs/Joint Locks • Unarmed • Quarterstaff • Ancient & Contemporary Firearms • Smallsword • Finding the Fights' Beats • Acting the Fight • Hollywood Swashbuckling • And more...

See our web page! www.regent.edu/acad/schcom/theatre/stage_combat.htm



Get Ready for the Second Annual SEATTLE SOCKEYE Memorial Day Weekend

Saturday May 28 and Sunday May 29, 2005

Location: University of Washington Graduate School of Drama, Seattle WA

FOR MORE INFO

www.seattlestagecombat.com

dfialkow@comcast.net 206-781-8348

Instructors: FM Dale Girard, CT Angela Bonacasa,
CT Neil Massey, CT Robert Westley,
and Seattle's Newest CT, Bob Borwick!



Upcoming Workshops

North Carolina School of the Arts Summer Session in Stage Combat

Three-Week Intensive: June 20 - July 8, 2005

Offering both High School and College Courses in the "eight" basic fight disciplines recognized by the Society of American Fight Directors.

For more Information: (336) 734-2834 or stage_combat@ncarts.edu

To Register: (336) 770-3290 or admissions@ncarts.edu

NSCW - Las Vegas

"The Original" National Stage Combat Workshop
July 11-29, 2005

Actor/Combatant Workshop \$1495

Advanced Actor/Combatant Workshop \$1595

For more information, please check the www.safd.org/NSCW url or email NSCW Coordinator@saafd.org

Announcing the Fight Director's Workshop 2005

July 31st - August 20th, 2005

Now at North Carolina School of the Arts

The National Fight Directors Workshop - July 31 to Aug 12

The Actors Ensemble Workshop - July 31 to Aug. 12

The Action Film Workshop - August 7 to August 20

FACULTY

J. Allen Suddeth - Fight Master, SAFD

Dale Anthony Girard - Fight Master, SAFD, FDC

Mark Olsen - Certified Teacher, SAFD

Richard Ryan - Fight Master, SAFD, BASSC

A. C. Weary - Film Maker/Television Director - D.G.A.

k. Jenny Jones - Certified Teacher/Fight Director, SAFD

TUITION

Fight Directors Workshop (2 weeks)

Fight Directors and directors

\$1,100 plus housing

Actors

\$ 900 plus housing

Action Film Workshop (2 weeks)

Fight Directors, directors, camera ops, LD's

\$1,200 plus housing

Actors

\$ 900 plus housing

Both FDW, and week 3 of AFW (3 weeks total)

\$1,800 plus housing

Actors all three weeks

\$1,400 plus housing

Housing

\$30.00/day

DISCOUNTS

All SAFD & BASSC membership discounts apply, in other words, 10% off tuition!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, INCLUDING QUALIFICATIONS AND PRE-REQUISITES, CONTACT:

J. Allen Suddeth - 131 Linden Avenue - Glen Ridge, NJ 07028-2104

E-mail: NYFGTDIRECTR@AOL.COM

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 of your information in our database be current. You can either send in your 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 journal published twice yearly
- ☐ Subscription to **The Cutting Edge**, our newsletter published bi-monthly
- ☐ Access to back issues of both publications and online discussions in the members only section at 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...

Status (Circle one): New Member Current Renewing Member Lapsed Renewing Member Gift*

*If giving a membership as a gift, please print your name here _____

Please fill in the information for the gift receiver below.

Amount Enclosed (\$35.00/year USA, \$40.00/year Outside USA) \$.00 **Check #**

General Information

Name (First, MI, Last)

Membership Level (circle one):

Organization, Friend, Actor Combatant, Advanced Actor
Combatant, Certified Teacher, Fight Director

Address (Permanent):

Home Phone:

Cell Phone:

Work Phone:

Fax Number:

Voicemail:

Pager:

E-mail Address(es):

Website:

Union Affiliations (SAG, AEA, etc.):

University (name/address):

Employer (name/address):

Publications should be mailed to (please circle one): Permanent University Work

I am interested in getting involved (circle any that apply):

Material Donations - Merchandise - Grant Writing - Publicity/Promotion - Data Entry - Publications - All

Current Skills Proficiency Test Results (Please list most recent SPT for each weapon)

WEAPON	Month/Year	Instructor	Adjudicator
Broadsword			
Knife			
Quarterstaff			
Rapier & Dagger			
Single Sword			
Small Sword			
Sword & Shield			
Unarmed			

Photocopy & Mail with payment to:

SAFD

1350 East Flamingo Road #25, Las Vegas, Nevada 89119

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

The Results Are In...

Voter Turnout for Recent Elections

Douglas Fairbanks, Jr. Scholarship

Regional Reports

Upcoming SPT's & SPR's

Upcoming Workshops

The Cutting Edge is a publication of the **SAFD**.
The views expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily represent the views of the organization.

Cutting Edge Deadlines for Future Issues:

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Material Due Date</u>
March/April 2005:	January 1, 2005
May/June 2005:	March 1, 2005
July/August 2005:	May 1, 2005
September/October 2005:	July 1, 2005
November/December 2005:	September 1, 2005
January/February 2006:	November 1, 2005

Regional Report Schedule and Deadlines for 2005:

Jan/Feb, July/Aug Editions include PacWest, SE, EC, NE
(deadlines Nov 1 and May 1 respectively)

Mar/Apr, Sept/Oct Editions include Int'l, NW, SW
(deadlines Jan 1 and July 1 respectively)

May/June, Nov/Dec Editions include MA, RM, GL
(deadlines March 1 and Sept 1 respectively)

SAFD

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www.SAFD.org

Co-Editors: Deb Fialkow
John Tovar

Advisor: Angela Bonacasa

Send all submissions, comments and questions to:
cuttingedge@safd.org

January 1 has come...

Go ahead and send in your annual dues payment!!! Your payment of a mere \$35.00 (\$40.00 for international members) will bring you a wealth of amazing bounty in the new year: two issues of the Fight Master, six issues of the Cutting Edge, your shiny new membership card, discounts to workshops, access to the Member's only website, and much, much more! Just fill out the form on page 15 and make out your check payable to SAFD and send it to:

SAFD

**1350 E. Flamingo Road, #25
Las Vegas, NV 89119**

If you would rather, you can safely and securely pay your dues via the internet by visiting:

<http://www.safd.org/Membership/memform.html>

Simply follow the directions as you find them on the site. Simple as pie! Memberships can also be given as gifts.

Remember- all payments were DUE no later than January 1, 2005 to guarantee uninterrupted benefits. So, if you haven't paid, what's holding you up?



The Society of American Fight Directors
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**Submissions for the
March/April issue
are due January 1st!**