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The Society of American Fight Directors

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The Society of American Fight Directors

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The Cutting Edge

Meet the new members of The Cutting Edge staff

The Cutting Edge has gone through many changes over the past few years. One of our current editors, Deb Fialkow, will be stepping down after this issue. Therefore, in order to lighten the load our editors handle with every issue, we have decided to expand our staff. Please welcome the newest members to The Cutting Edge.



Gia Mora
Editor-in-Chief

Namaste! My name is Gia Mora, and I am honored to serve the organization as Editor-in-Chief of THE CUTTING EDGE. Thank you so much to Deb, John, and Mike—we promise to make you proud!

I became involved with the SAFD in my native Denver, Colorado, with CT/FD Geoffrey "Jefe" Kent. Under his tutelage, I fell in love with stage combat, becoming an Actor/Combatant and studying with some of the Society's top teachers. I very recently relocated to Washington, DC, with my two sweet kittens, Spanky and Haas. We're loving our new home, and I'm excited to assist a new mentor, CT/FD Michael "MJ" Johnson, with his classes at the University of Maryland.

When I'm not slinging steel, I work as an actor (Arvada Center, Aspen Theatre in the Park, Colorado Shakespeare Festival), dance choreographer (Longmont Theatre, Town Hall Arts Center), model (Denver Underground Film Festival, ShuffleShirt.com), pianist (piano bars across Denver and DC), teaching artist (Denver School of the Arts, Colorado Shakespeare Festival), and writer (Reuters News Service, YM Magazine). Among other things, I'm currently playing piano for Disney's *MUSIC HIGH*, which shoots in Baltimore, and am acting in *THE EMPEROR'S NIGHTENGAL* at Adventure Theatre in Glen Echo, Maryland. Please visit my website, GiaMora.com, to see what I'm up to next!

Feel free to drop me a line at Email@GiaMora.com to introduce yourself and contribute to the publication. THE CUTTING EDGE is your behind-the-scenes look at the SAFD, so make your voice heard!



Michael Mueller
Associate Editor - Regional Reports

Michael is originally from Chesterland, Ohio, which is approximately 20 miles east of Cleveland. Currently, he has relocated from Los Angeles to Boise, ID to continue his work with the Idaho Shakespeare Festival.

He has a BFA in acting from Wright State University and has also studied at the University of Reading, UK. It was at Wright State that he was first introduced to the SAFD through his professor, CT Bruce Cromer. After passing the SPT in SmSw, R&D, UA and helping a friend pass his test for SS he has maintained his proficiency until just recently and plans on renewing as soon as finances right themselves from the relocation. In addition, he has also trained with Payson Burt in Los Angeles and is continuing his study of Bujinkan Buyu

Taijutsu under the training of Mike Miraglia.

Professionally, he has worked as an actor with the Idaho Shakespeare Festival, the Long Beach Playhouse, the Great Lakes Theatre Festival, the Cleveland Playhouse, the Actor's Repertory Theatre, and the Ensemble Theatre Company. He has choreographed fights for productions of *The Three Musketeers* and *Romeo & Juliet* as well as served as fight captain for numerous productions.

He is extremely excited to be able to add his services to the CE staff. Please feel free to contact him with any questions or concerns at his personal email address. Mjmueller3@aol.com

The Cutting Edge staff (continued)



Gregg Lloyd

Associate Editor-Workshop Reports and Promotion

Originally from the Chicago area, Gregg now lives and works in Newport News, Virginia where he is Assistant Professor of Theater at Christopher Newport University. Originally a student and assistant of Paul Dennhardt while a grad student at Western Illinois University; his first SPT was back in '96 at the *Legend of Daniel Boone*. He is currently an Advanced Actor Combatant and has attended the last two NSCW at the intermediate and advanced levels. Besides holding an MFA in Acting, Gregg is a 1st degree black belt in HapKiDo and TangSooDo, has trained in lai-do and Judo, and has studied Alexander Technique, Lessac, Linklater and Laban. He has appeared in *Zorro* (as Don Diego), *Legend of Daniel Boone*, 'The Scottish Play', and *R&J*, to name a few, as well as numerous musicals. His choreography credits include *I Hate Hamlet*, *The Forced Marriage*, *Servant of Two Masters*, *Our Country's Good*, and *R&J*. Currently he is playing the role of father to his new 5 month old baby girl, Gwyneth, who is learning to laugh out loud, and it's the sweetest sound he has ever heard.

You may contact Gregg at Cuttingedge@safd.org or stagebrawl@cox.net.

The breakdown of information will be handled in the following manner:

Gia Mora - Primary editor, Interest articles (including Spotlight articles, Medical articles, Fighter's Forum, etc.).

Michael Mueller - Gathering and editing of Regional Reports, upcoming SPT and SPR dates.

Gregg Lloyd - Gathering and editing of Workshop Reports, gathering and preparation of Workshop Advertisements.

John Tovar - Editor of publication layout, mediator of The Fighter's Forum, Cutting Edge Advisor.

Mike Mahaffey - Governing Body Liaison and Advisor.

The new staff has already been working hard on creating a new Mission Statement which will, if approved by the Governing Body, premiere in the January/February 2006 issue of The Cutting Edge. Also, the new staff has been working on a new Submission Policies and Procedures criteria, which will also debut in the next issue. The Cutting Edge is constantly striving to bring you, the membership, as much information as we can. We have worked hard to make sure that The Cutting Edge is on your doorsteps in a timely fashion. With our new staff members, The Cutting Edge will be able to serve our membership even better than before.

Finally, The Cutting Edge staff would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Deb Fialkow for all of her hard work over the years. She has always worked hard at giving the membership the most updated information available. We will sorely miss her determination and spirit and will strive to keep up the integrity and honesty that she has shown throughout her duration as Co-Editor.

Thank you, Deb.

Check out the next issue of The Cutting Edge for:

- Our new Mission Statement

- Our new Submission Policies and Procedures



... From the Executive Director

Julia Dewey Rupkalvis

In previous issues, we've focused on organizations and resources for performers. As the holiday season approaches, and with so many people in extreme need due to disasters such as Hurricane Katrina, this month we'll look at what you can do to help others. It's often difficult, as performers, to feel we have the resources to give. When times are tough, even sending a single pair of socks can make a difference to one person.

The performers unions are organizing assistance through many avenues. The Screen Actors Guild Foundation, The Actors' Fund and The Motion Picture Fund are all providing limited financial assistance, while the Foundation is also coordinating housing assistance via its www.sagfoundation.org web site. You may not be able to offer financial assistance; have you considered if you might house someone for a short period of time?

For Donations: Please send monetary donations to:

c/o Screen Actors Guild
7300 N. Kendall Drive, Suite 620
Miami, FL 33156

Please make donations payable to the Actors Fund of America, MPPWF or the SAG Foundation.

If you need Financial Assistance:

MPPWF (305) 670-7677 *(The Miami SAG office is administering this fund)*
Actors' Fund of America (800) 221-7303
SAG Foundation (323) 549-6708

AFTRA members who wish to assist their colleagues may do so by sending a donation to:

The Actors' Fund
729 Seventh Avenue, 10th Floor
New York, New York 10019

Actor's Equity has assistance for its members as well. If you are an Equity member or professional in the Entertainment Industry in need of emergency assistance due to Hurricane Katrina, call The Actors' Fund at (800) 221-7303. Please identify where you are calling from and ask to have an intake worker paged. If you call and get the voicemail system, call ext 119. Actors' Equity will also donate \$10,000 to the Actors' Fund earmarked for a relief agency selected by The Fund, and will waive Basic Dues for one year, for members who currently reside in Louisiana and Mississippi.

Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS is a cause that has been supported by the SAFD for years. This charity has donated \$100,000 For Disaster Relief BC/EFA on behalf of the theatrical community to help those individuals affected by Hurricane Katrina.

In addition, don't forget our own **Food Fight!** Food Fight is an annual, nationally organized event by the Society to raise the awareness of hunger by the local theatre community throughout major metropolitan areas. Through direct contributions and performances, money and food is raised for donation to local-area food banks or shelters.

Check out the details at www.foodfighting.org today and see what you and your community can do to help.

OOPS!

Last issue, we printed this photograph with the caption "CT Adam McLean teaches at the 2005 NSCW." Much to our dismay, this is NOT Adam McLean. This is actually ACW student Adam Pearson. Thanks to Michael Chin for pointing this out. No thanks to Adam McLean for not pointing this out. And apologies to Adam Pearson for assuming you were Adam McLean (sincere apologies).



Scenes from the Summer Sling



LEFT:
FD J. David Brimmer
goes Sweeney Todd on
AC Barbara Seifert in
Blood Effects class.

RIGHT:
Friend Adam Pearson
(we got it right this time)
comes en garde in
FM Michael Chin's
Smallsword class.



LEFT:
Visigoth Spearmen (and women)
prepare to take on the Roman
army (Foreground L-R AC
Jordan Miller, AAC Ryan
Bartruff, and Alexandra
Devlin).

All photos (c) 2005
Al Foote III

Loved ones wanting to know what to get you for the holidays?

Already thinking about that tough to shop for person on your list?

Nothing says "**Merry Christmas!**" or "**Happy Chanukah!**" or "**Joyous Pagan Wishes!**"
like gifts from the **SAFD!!**

The Gift of Membership: the gift that gives all year! Includes discounts to sanctioned workshops, subscription to the Fight Master and the Cutting Edge keeping you up to date on the membership, events, industry and other cool stuff!! Contact Mike Mahaffey at Secretary@safd.org or fill out the form included in this issue of the CE.

The Gift of a Workshop: Need a little getaway fight time in Northern Kentucky? A little "you" time a mile high in Denver? Hang with the Gang in Chicago, Philly or New York? Maybe get hitched while throwing some hooks in Vegas? So many places to go, people to meet, things to do and learn! Contact Gregg Lloyd at glloyd@cnu.edu or cuttingedge@safd.org to find out dates, locations and contacts for 2006 workshop gift certificates and watch their eyes light up with eternal gratitude this holiday season!

The Gift of SAFD Merchandise: Ever wonder where people got those cool black sweats with the SAFD moniker down the leg? The swank tanks and tees? Contact Brian LeTraunik this holiday and see what SAFD stocking stuffers are available this year! Tybalt1@msn.com, www.brianletraunik.com.

The Gift of New Equipment: Check out the www.safd.org links for equipment manufacturers, or check out the sponsoring companies in the latest Fight Master.

2nd Annual Texas Intensive...

One Person's Perspective

So there we were. Two of us ready to go to Houston and plans on meeting two more from our group there. Hurricane Katrina had cast half of New Orleans into Houston and rumors of FEMA bumping people who had reservations did not dissuade us. Loaded up with 5 pounds of gummy bears, coffee and sports drinks, we were off.

There were road signs all the way down warned about full hotels and full shelters. Occasionally the radio would tell us about people moving from the Astrodome to Austin or San Antonio or Dallas.

When we arrived at our hotel, it was packed. Not a great hotel, mind you, but the room was clean and it was close to the University of Houston. We checked in grateful that we had a reservation that was set back before the entire country knew there was a parish named St. Bernard.

Friday night's Meet-and-Greet-slash-Q-and-A was a time to meet people that we had only met through e-mail, shake hands of long time acquaintances and make new friends. Learning the background of some of the instructors and what they have been doing with their skills opened my eyes to any number of possibilities. A gamut of experience was represented by the panel and, as a group, they showed a sense of community within SAFD.

There were four of us from the Dallas area, all of whom work the same local renaissance festival, so Saturday morning we divided the day up: two of us would take each class, and later we would meet and swap notes, experiences and try and gather everything together into something that was sort of a comprehensive experience.

At every break, there was a rush when we got together to be the first to say, "That was cool!" Between the four of us, we had the opportunity to take extensive notes on each of the classes. We discovered that the instructors shared a common language. After the first couple of classes,

we picked up an "SAFD vocabulary". Even though the classes were broken into two divisions, Beginner and Advanced, there was no stipulation to stay on a track. If I thought I was competent in the class subject and wanted to take the advanced, they let me. If I wasn't, they made certain that I didn't get left behind. Every class started with some sort of drill and with a viable piece of choreography. The instructors were very good about making certain that we were all on the same page and that no one was left behind.

At the end of every class when we got together on Saturday, there was that feeling that said, "This class was cool, I wish I would have taken yours, though." With so much really good stuff, it became quite easy to think that I was missing out on something.

Sunday was much better for us. Our crew reduced to three, but we kept up the dividing so that we could get everything. Sunday was better for us in class selections. It could have been the format was a little different; it could also have been that we had become accustomed to the process.

At the end of each day, there was a performance of the choreography that we had worked on for the last 2 hours or so. I think it was a good fit. If we are about the business of choreographed violence, then it is good for us to take the technical work and integrate it into a performance piece. We watched what each other had been working on, kind of like a mini-recital at the end of the day.

Sunday afternoon, there was an exchange of phone numbers, email addresses, several people stayed behind for testing. We stopped for gas and were thrilled at \$2.75 a gallon. Some evacuees were at the gas station filling up for the return to whatever was left, filling up gas cans of all sorts knowing that there was no gas, no electricity and no water waiting for them when they got home.

Rather than fight the trip home Sunday night, we stayed until Monday morning.

We finished off the last of the gummy bears as we pulled into my compatriot's driveway late Monday afternoon.

How much stuff we covered that I already knew I am not certain. Some of what I did pick up on was community, co-operation, and a bond that was evident at the various levels. What I learned about weapons, forms, stances, and exercises, is all kind of immaterial. It was the experience that you missed out on if you failed to attend. Was it the best SAFD workshop ever? I can't say. There were some hiccups along the way, but the event co-coordinators and planners smoothed lots of bumps out as they came up. The participants, in the words of a favorite director, bent "like reeds in the wind".

What you did miss out on was probably the same thing that you miss out on with other workshops. You missed catching up with friends. You missed bonding with other people who do this thing that we do either as a profession or as a hobby. You missed swapping stories over dinner. You missed meeting people new to SAFD.

I suppose I should have prefaced this with "This was my first ever SAFD event." I should have also said that I am not an SAFD member, but in January I will be sending a check. This decision was significantly influenced by the facilitators, instructors and SAFD members that were at this event.

I look forward to more SAFD events and hope to see more people at the 3rd Annual Texas Intensive.

Thanks to Patrick Costa for submitting this piece by request to the Cutting Edge.

Coordinators:

Ann Harlan, Brian Byrnes, Judy Frow

Instructors:

Brian Byrnes, k. Jenny Jones, Mark Guinn, Leraldo Anzaldúa, Henry Layton

Interns:

Christi Waldon, Jake Guinn

Regional Reports

Great Lakes Region

Illinois,
Indiana,
Michigan,
Ohio,
Wisconsin



By Jim Stark

A/AC Brenda E. Kelly just completed her Bachelor's degree at DePaul University this past June. She thanks to SAFD President Chuck Coyl for acting as her Professional Advisor through the process. Brenda is currently directing and performing for the Stronghold Old English Faire in Oregon, IL. and she is also rehearsing for the new Babes With Blades show, *Cliffhangers*.

A/AC David Kelch is currently completing a production of *Henry IV Part 1* with Stockyards Theatre in Chicago, as Douglas (and got to fight a lot!).

A/AC H. Russ Brown completed his MFA at Western Illinois University this past May. His M.F.A. role was Hotspur in *Henry the IV, Part One* (boldly choreographed by D.C. Wright). He now begins teaching at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point as Asst. Professor of Acting, Movement, Voice and Stage Combat. This year, he'll be doing fights for *The Fantasticks*, *Crazy for You* and *Aida*, among others.

A/AC Amy E. Harmon can be seen in Babes With Blades' *Cliffhangers* from October 13 – November 20, 2005. The Babes pay tribute to the cliffhanger in this suspense-filled stage combat showcase. No cliché goes unchallenged – no genre is safe! Performances are held at The Breadline Center for the Performing Arts, 1802 W. Berenice, Chicago. She's also preparing for *An Affair of Honor*, April 6 - May 14, 2006, presenting the two winning scripts from "Joining Sword and Pen," Babes With Blades' international playwrighting competition.

A/C Kimberly Weston recently completed an acting apprenticeship in Wilmington, Delaware at the Contemporary Stage Company, this summer, and returns to Case Western Reserve for her senior year of undergrad.

A/C Victoria Floro this summer had a lead role in Back Burner Films' feature "Say Hello To Clive For Me," shot entirely on location in Chicago, and had supporting roles in NTM Films' short "Lizzie Sees the Light," as well as Mark Bentcover's feature "Perfekt Love."

CT Andrew Hayes, SAFD Treasurer, taught a Broadsword class at DePaul University in the spring and he is currently working on fight direction for two university productions of *Sweeney Todd* and *As You Like It*. This spring he will begin work on the construction of a Fight Directors Collection to be housed at the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts at Lincoln Center.

CT John Tovar taught at the first annual Havoc in the Heartland in Iowa City this past May. He choreographed a production of *Temporary Help* for the Buffalo Theatre Ensemble, *Deathtrap* for The Kirk Players, and *Portia Coughlan* for the Inisfree Irish Arts/Turnaround Theatre Company (all companies are in Illinois). Next, John will be choreographing a production of *Accomplice* for Noble Fool Theatricals, as well as gearing up for the 10th anniversary of the Winter Wonderland Workshop. (Everyone, go!)

Friend Jon A. Reeves continues to work as a combat choreographer and weapons builder in Kalamazoo Michigan. He recently supplied custom built rapiers to Kalamazoo Collage for their production of *The Rover*, and helped the head props designer of Western Michigan University design and build Scottish broadswords for their production, and provided two broadswords to the All Ears Radio Theatre for their production of *MacBeth*. As of September 6, he will be joining Kalamazoo Collage as a member of their faculty as Technical Director and Production Designer.

A/C Clarissa Yearman continues to work

in Chicagoland, and is currently in a production of *Jekyll & Hyde*, where she has picked up her first choreography credit, contributing some death sequences.

FD/CT Paul Dennhardt taught at the Eureka Stage Combat Workshop May 16 - June 3, 2005 and was Fight Director for *Othello* starring Avery Brooks & Patrick Page at the Shakespeare Theatre Company directed by Michael Kahn.

A/C Nathan Mitchell reports his first fight choreography job, at Western Michigan University, for *Othello*. The show went to Washington D.C. for the finals of the American College Theatre Festival—the first time in 30 years a Shakespeare show made it to the top. The show had a 1800's theme and the fights were done with sabers. Now it's off to grad school in England, for a two year MFA at the University of Exeter.

After choreographing *Macbeth* at Texas Tech University, **CT Angela Bonacasa** completed Roosevelt University's spring semester with Unarmed and Single Sword SPTs. After teaching at the Seattle Sockeye, her Broadsword and Shield SPT class tested, with adjudicator Dale Girard also teaching an unarmed intensive to a number of enthusiastic students. Her summer was full of teaching at North Carolina School of the Arts, acting as instructor and Coordinator for the SSISC as well as stage combat instructor for the 86 students in the High School Drama session. In the midst of all this, she also proudly served as co-director and fight director of Stockyard Theatre Project's production of *Henry IV, Part 1*, performed at Theatre Building Chicago. Roosevelt University's Broadsword class is now in full swing, with testing happening in December. This fall, Angela will be teaching private classes on Chicago's north side. In addition, she will be teaching a stage combat workshop for Bethel College in Indiana, and choreographing *Treasure Island* in Raleigh, NC.

CT Brian LeTraunik is still fulfilling all his administrative duties as Company Manager of Chicago Jewish Theatre. He is also scheduled to teach classes at Moraine Valley Community College in

Regional Reports (continued)

Palos Heights, IL and Victory Gardens Theatre Training Center in Chicago. In November, Brian will serve as a guest artist at Simpson College in Indianola, IA, where he will fight direct their student production of *Hamlet* and teach workshops for the theatre department.

CT DC Wright choreographed *Henry I, Part One* for Western Illinois University, where he is in his fourth year as the head of Movement and Stage Combat. Then in April I directed *All in the Timing* for the studio season at WIU. Summer work included fight direction for the Illinois Shakespeare Festival, on productions of *Macbeth*, *Twelfth Night*, and *Henry VIII*. He also dropped in to teach a master class in fighting for film to FD Paul Dennhardt's students at the Eureka College workshop, and assist FM Richard Raether in his master class following the Eureka SPT. Just before returning to WIU, he visited Lake Tahoe for Dueling Arts International's Teachers Symposium with FD Greg Then he was off to New York City to direct fights for his first Off-Broadway show *The Blowin of Baile Gall* at the Donaghy Theater in the Irish Arts Center. Upcoming projects include fight direction for Arkansas Repertory Theatre's *Of Mice and Men*, and directing *Lifeloop* for WIU's studio season this semester, and performing in a PVC pipe band.

Friend Sam Holloway has been in Holland, Michigan at Hope Summer Repertory Theater (HSRT) in three shows: *Bedroom Farce* by Alan Ayckbourn, *The Drawer Boy* by Michael Healey and *Scapin* originally by Moliere, adapted by Bill Irwin. He returned to Cleveland, OH for his final year in grad school at Case Western Reserve University.

Recent work for **FD Robin McFarquhar** includes *Macbeth* at American Players Theatre, *Henry V* at Summer Shakespeare at Notre Dame, and *Merchant of Venice* at Chicago Shakespeare. In the Spring of 2006 he will choreograph *Henry IV parts I and II* for Chicago Shakespeare which will run at The Royal Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford, England after playing in Chicago. He also spent some time back in England this summer including one fun

afternoon at R.A.D.A with Richard Ryan.

A/AC & Regional Rep Jim Stark is currently directing *The Sapphire Comb* for the Riverrun Theatre Company. The show includes some kabuki-inspired movement and fighting. The next project will be Paddy Chayevsky's *Gideon*, for the Hanover College Theatre, where Jim is department chair.

Friend Holly Rocke successfully coordinated the 2005 Stage Combat workshop at Eureka College May 16- June 3. Fifteen area students attended the workshop. Plans for the 2006 workshop are underway.

FM/FD/CT David Woolley has been having a busy 2005...Teaching 4 sections of stage combat (all 8 weapons skills for SPTs) at Columbia College Chicago, overseeing the violence in the theater department (in 2005- 750 students, 50 productions!!!) with John MacFarland teaching 2 sections...the fall season will include *Cripple of Inishmaan* and *The Changeling*. For the Purple Rose Theater in Chelsea Michigan he staged a food fight/brawl for *Norma and Wanda*, by Jeff Daniels which earned him a Best Choreography Award from the Oakland Press...also staged fights for *Julius Caesar* for the new Lakeside Theater in Michigan. Woolley sponsored the Babes with Blades -Ballantyne Award New play competition (won by Tony Wolf of New Zealand) for a one act play using the lithograph of "Affair of Honour" which he will direct for the Babes in the Spring. At the Jeff Awards he presented the Jeff Citation for Best Fight Direction to Joe Foust and Geoff Coates (for *Action Movie: the Play*) and to Matt Hawkins for *Curse of the Crying Heart*. This year marks the 16th season of *Dirk and Guido: the Swordsmen!* (with Doug Mumaw) at the Bristol Renaissance Faire, the Ohio Faire and one night stands from Virginia to Maine...it's the 6th season for the Bold and Stupid Men (currently Mike Mahaffey and Jeff MacLane, Alex and John B. took the year off) who will perform at Southern California, Bristol and Northern California. He taught the Unarmed and Single Sword at the NSCW and looks forward to the next Winter Wonderland Workshop!

Rocky Mountain Region

Colorado,
Idaho, Montana,
Utah, Wyoming



By Sandy Van Bremen Cohen

Billings, Montana

AC Jayme Green is currently lending his experience to the fantastic fight scene between the Beast and Gaston in *Beauty And The Beast* which opens September 16 in Billings. A good portion of June was spent directing children's camp entitled "A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To Theatre Camp" at Rocky Mountain College, that focused on the intricate art of comedy. Jayme is also prepping to aid in a production of *Camelot* that goes up in early 2006.

Denver, Colorado

Last summer, **FD/CT Geoffrey Kent** (www.thefightguy.com) staged *Othello*, *12th Night* & *Winter's Tale* for the Colorado Shakespeare Festival and *MacBeth* for Theatreworks. This fall he is busy touring with the Denver Center's Living History program weekdays and appearing as Floyd in Gurney's *The Fourth Wall* at the Avenue Theater on weekends. Upcoming Equity/AGMA fight direction includes *Carmen* with Dennis Graves for Opera Colorado, *Flea in her Ear* for the Denver Center Theatre Company & *Bug* for Curious Theatre Company. Colorado Fight Club continues to meet for affordable monthly stage combat workshops, Geoff is teaching a Stage Combat Scenework course at the Denver Center Theatre Academy in November and, as always, plans for the 2006 Rumble (www.rumbleintherockies.com) are underway.

Terry Kroenung choreographed fights from *Romeo and Juliet* and *Hamlet* for

Regional Reports

(continued)

the Boulder Acting Group's production of *The Best of Shakespeare* in August. At the same time he also designed Longmont Theatre Company's 14-actor Havana brawl in *Guys and Dolls*. Later in the season he will choreograph *I Hate Hamlet* for the same company. His *A Taste of Shakespeare* will present their 3rd annual *FOOD FIGHT* in November, featuring a full Kabuki play and scenes from *The Three Musketeers* and *Othello*. The food bank benefit will also showcase original works, including a scene in a retirement home for Shakespearean characters and a harrowing story of a young Amazon who is possessed by the sword of Ares.

Thanks to Small Sword and Rapier & Dagger, **Gia Mora** now joins the ranks of the SAFD Actor/Combatants. After recovering from knee reconstruction caused by this year's Rumble in the Rockies, she will (hopefully) be assisting Michael "MJ" Johnson after she moves to Washington, DC!

Ogden, Utah

CT and RMRR Sandy Van Bremen Cohen spent her summer studying French in La Rochelle, France and preparing for her last year in undergrad. She will be performing at Weber State University as Babette in *Biedermann and the Firebugs* this fall.

Upcoming SPT's and SPR's

Hollywood, California

SPT: UA, BS, S&S

SPR: UA, R&D, BS, S&S

When: November 12th starting at 1:00 pm

Where: American Musical & Dramatic Academy - LA
6305 Yucca St., Room 12E, Hollywood, CA

Instructors: Payson Burt, Mike Mahaffey

Adjudicator: Brian Byrnes

Contact Info: Payson Burt (818) 694-5550 or
Mike Mahaffey @ mike_mahaffey@hotmail.com

Bloomington, Indiana

SPT: UA, BS, R&D

When: November 21st starting at 12:30 pm

Where: Indiana University - Ruth N. Halls Theatre

Instructor: Neil Massey

Adjudicator: Chuck Coyl

Contact Info: Neil Massey (708) 466-7055 or
nmassey@indiana.edu

Upcoming SPT's and SPR's

New York, New York

SPT: KN, UA, SS

SPR: TBD

When: December 1st starting at 7:00 pm

Where: TBD

Instructors: Michael Chin (KN), Michael Johnson (UA),
Robert "Tink" Tuftee (SS)

Adjudicator: Richard Ryan

Contact Info: "Tink" Tuftee @ tink@fights4.com

New York, New York

SPT: R&D

SPR: TBD

When: December 1st

Where: TBD (in conjunction with above SPT)

Instructor: Denise Hurd

Adjudicator: Richard Ryan

Contact Info: Denise Hurd @ DAHURD2000@aol.com

Tallahassee, Florida

SPT: R&D, UA, S&S, BS

SPR: R&D

When: December 3rd starting around 5:00 pm

Where: Florida State University
Fine Arts Annex Theatre, Room 117

Instructor: Adam McLean

Adjudicator: TBD

Contact Info: Adam McLean @ mcleanab@hotmail.com

Herndon, Virginia

SPT: R&D

SPR: R&D, QS, SS, +others TBD

When: December 11th

Where: RCP Rehearsal Hall
264 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon, VA

Instructor: Robb Hunter

Adjudicator: Michael Chin

Contact Info: Robb Hunter (917) 604-3008 or
robbshunter@preferredarms.com

Chicago, Illinois

SPT: S&S, KN, SS, R&D, BS

When: December 15th starting at 9:00 am

Where: Columbia College Chicago - 72 E. 11th St.

Instructor: David Woolley

Adjudicator: Chuck Coyl

Contact Info: David Woolley @ dwoolley@colum.edu

Hattiesburg, Mississippi

SPT: KN, QS

When: December 20th starting at 11:00 am

Where: University of Southern Mississippi

Instructor: Scot J. Mann

Adjudicator: Chuck Coyl

Contact Info: Scot J. Mann (601) 466-2352 or
scot_mann@msn.com

Paid Administrative Assistant Position Available

Are you familiar with Microsoft Access and Excel, and skilled in data entry? Do you want to help out the SAFD, and make a little money on the side as well?

The Secretary's office is soliciting applications for the Administrative Assistant position for 2006, a paid position responsible for much of the data entry of SPTs, memberships, dues renewals and processing of paperwork that is vital to our well-being.

The job description is as follows:

- *Membership data entry: Coordinating forms and check copies; entry of all mailed dues payments and new memberships into the database; entry of change of address forms; email payment confirmations to members (using Membership@safd.org, and the Secretary's approved text); distribution of membership cards*
- *SPT Data entry: Coordinating forms and check copies; and entry of all SPT information, including student results and payment information*
- *Receipt and Return of Paperwork: Confirm with Secretary when any paperwork is received; process paperwork within in a timely manner; forward all processed paperwork to Secretary, including notes about anything out of the ordinary (requests for back copies of the Fight Master, SPT forms submitted without payment, requests for information, etc.)*
- *Additional Duties as negotiated.*

The position pays \$10/hour, with flexible hours ranging between 4 and 18 hours per month depending on workload (January and July are the busiest times of the year for us, with many adjudications occurring in December, May and June).

The term of hire will begin March 1, 2006 and conclude on February 28, 2007. This is a yearly recurring position.

Please submit a letter of intent and résumé (outline your computer skills, please) by December 31st, 2005 to the following address:

**Society of American Fight Directors
ATTN: Admin Assistant Job Search
1350 East Flamingo Road #25
Las Vegas NV 89119**

Applicants will be contacted and interviewed individually thereafter. We hope you'll join us and help the SAFD!

ATTENTION WORKSHOP COORDINATORS:

In order to expedite the process of completing *The Cutting Edge* on time, as of January 1, 2006, you will be responsible for creating your own ads for your workshops.

What you put in the ad is up to you, however, the following criteria must be met:

- The workshop must be sanctioned by the SAFD
- The ad must be 8" wide by 4.75" high
- The ad must be in Black & White
- The ad must be submitted in either .tif, .jpg, .eps, or .pdf format
- When sending us a file, you must include the fonts you use.

If your ad does not meet the following criteria, your ad will NOT be placed in the publication. We will accept ads up to six months before the date of your workshop and we are more than happy to answer questions and help you through the process the first time. If you have further questions, contact us at:

cuttingedge@safd.org

Upcoming Workshops



Winter Wonderland Workshop

Chicago, IL

established 1996

Celebrating our 10th Anniversary!

January 13 - 15, 2006

Columbia College Chicago

The staff for this year's workshop is:

Instructors:

SAFD Fight Masters: David Boushey, Michael Chin, Chuck Coyl, David Woolley.

SAFD Fight Directors: Charles Conwell, Michael Johnson, John McFarland.

SAFD Certified Teachers: Leraldo Anzaldúa, Angela Bonacasa, Stephen Gray,
Denise Hurd, Michelle Ladd, Brian LeTraunik,
Neil Massey, John Tovar, DC Wright.

BASSC Certified Teachers: Philip D'Orleans, Chris Main.

Teaching Assistants:

Lacy Altwine, T. Fulton Burns, Jill Matarelli-Carlson, Jessica Dunne, David Kelch, Andrea Robertson, KC Stage, Heidi Wolf

Interns:

Russ Brown (Head), Ted deChatelet, Mary Karcz, Luis Rosa, Darrell Rushton,
Jason Schumacher, Lee Soroko, Christi Waldon

Be sure to check out:

www.winterwonderlandworkshop.com

for updates, details, and online registration!

March Madness III

Stage Combat Workshop

Cincinnati, Ohio

March 11 and 12, 2006

THIS YEAR'S DREAM TEAM (so far):

Richard Ryan (SAFD Fight Master), Michael Johnson (SAFD Fight Director)
Gina Cerimele-Mechley, Don Preston, Adam McLean (SAFD Certified Teachers)

PAST CLASSES:

March Madness Style Mass Battle, Pirate Fighting, Laban Rapier and Dagger, Sneaky Sh*t, Found Weapons, Contemporary Violence, Prison Knife, Voice and Violence, Scrappy Fighting, basic classes in all eight SAFD weapons, and much, much MORE!

WORKSHOP FEE \$225 (Fee includes catered breakfasts, lunches, and a t-shirt!)

\$200: SAFD members, union affiliates, students with valid ID OR early registration

\$175: SAFD members, union affiliates, students with valid ID AND early registration

ALL DISCOUNTED PRICES MUST BE PAID IN FULL BY 2/14/06

Questions? Call 513-295-4788 or email cincymarchmadness@yahoo.com

To register: visit www.clearstagecincinnati.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
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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

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LOOK TO THE RIGHT! ☞☞☞

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>
January/February 2006:	November 1, 2005
March/April 2006:	January 1, 2006
May/June 2006:	March 1, 2006
July/August 2006:	May 1, 2006
September/October 2006:	July 1, 2006
November/December 2006:	September 1, 2006

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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Advisor: Mike Mahalley

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

**Submissions for the
January/February
issue are due
November 1st!**

Do Be Do Be Dues!

It's that wonderful time of year again- new beginnings are just around the corner and you can keep your first resolution before the first snow even falls! 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, make out your check payable to SAFD and send them 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. So, if you know of someone that is especially difficult to shop for this holiday season, give the gift of Membership! Or, ask a Santa you know to give it to you!! One size truly fits all!

Remember - all payments are DUE no later than January 1, 2006 to guarantee uninterrupted benefits. So, why wait, give yourself the gift of membership today!



The Society of American Fight Directors
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Las Vegas, NV 89119
www.safd.org

FORWARDING AND RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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