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The Society of American Fight Directors

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The Cutting Edge, November/December 2007, Vol. 17 Issue 6

The Society of American Fight Directors

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The Cutting Edge

It's Time to Vote

By now, SAFD members in good standing should have received their ballots for this year's election. If you haven't received your ballot please contact the Secretary's office and let them know ASAP (Secretary@safd.org).

For your convenience, online voting will be available until November 30. Paper ballots must be mailed back to the SAFD with the enclosed envelope and postmarked no later than November 30; received no later than December 5. Please be sure to check the website for any updates or additional instructions on the voting procedure. Votes that are not submitted correctly will not be counted.

Tabulation of all votes will be completed by December 10, at which time the winners will be notified. Once the election winners have confirmed their acceptance, the other nominees will be notified of the election results. These results will be posted both on the website and in the January/February issue of *The Cutting Edge*. Newly elected representatives and officers will assume their offices on January 1, 2008 for a three year term.

Time is running out for our Executive Committee Elections; your chance to help select the individuals that will represent you and the members like you. You can be sure that each candidate is eager to work and ready to serve! Please take a moment to cast your ballot this November.*

Candidates for President



Geoffrey Kent



Scot Mann

Candidates for Vice President



Tiza Garland



John Tovar



DC Wright

Candidates for Secretary



H. Russ Brown



Willie Meybohm

Candidates for Treasurer



Lee Soroko

* Please remember that your vote is crucial to maintaining the high standard of the SAFD. These candidates benefit from a large voter turnout because it offers greater proof of the support they have from the membership. If you don't know someone who is running for an office, this might be the perfect time to introduce yourself and probe deeper into their philosophies. Make your voice heard, and if you have not participated in the past, please take this opportunity to be proactive with this election.



The pen is mightier
than the sword . . .

Michael Mueller, Editor-in-Chief

As the 30th year of the Society of American Fight Director's existence comes to a close, I can't help but wonder at the explosion of this year's events and accomplishments. They both reflect and project the impact of this organization on its membership, the entertainment community, as well as the society in which we live. From the increased size of our National Stage Combat Workshops to the induction of k. Jenny Jones as the first female Fight Master to the support provided by the membership regarding the Virginia Tech. tragedy and the subsequent back lash at Yale University, this year has tested the merit and raised the bar of what is to be expected from this organization. True to our mission, *The Cutting Edge* has been there to report and explore these accomplishments every step of the way.

It is with your help that we are able to provide the reports, updates, and pertinent information this membership has come to rely upon. For this reason I would like to extend my thanks to the membership. Without the generous donation of your time and effort to increasing the efficiency and scope of the SAFD there would not be nearly as much to report.

On a personal note, 2007 also marks the first New Year's resolution I have ever been able to maintain or accomplish, with the number of members contributing to *The Cutting Edge* increasing over the past year in both frequency and initial contact. Our issues have grown from an average of fifteen pages over the course of 2006 to an average of twenty pages during 2007. This expansion has also been in part to the added contributions of our two new editors, bringing our total number of editors to six. Their assistance along with the hard work of the rest of the staff has provided you with new material and detailed coverage of all the events shaping this organization.

Unfortunately, with expansion can come increased errors and I would be remiss if I did not take this time to note our room for improvement. In the last issue, an oversight on my part gave credit to the wrong individuals in the NSCW report. While there were photos taken for the NSCW West by AC Marianna Kozij and Friend Maria Gonzalez, they were not the photos that appeared in the last issue. The photos were provided instead by AAC Melissa Ruchong. I sincerely apologize to her for this mistake and offer my gratitude for her efforts in providing these photos for the last issue. Marianna Kozij and Maria Gonzalez' photos appear in this issue with AC Stephen Anderson's testimonial on his experience in the NSCW West.

This correction demonstrates just how important the membership is in the process of providing accurate information. Without your help and support misinformation could be stored in our archives for future generations to read as fact. If you have noticed something we reported incorrectly, or would like to share your thoughts with us, please email us at cuttingedge@safd.org. Your contributions make this publication what it is, and don't need to be relegated to an article or regional report. For 30 years the SAFD has been making their presence known in the larger entertainment industry; do your part to strengthen the organization from within by finding ways to contribute. With your help there are no limits to where the next 30 years can take us.

Michael J. Mueller

The *Cutting Edge* is a publication of the **Society of American Fight Directors** and cannot be reproduced without express, written consent of *The Cutting Edge*. The views expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily represent the views of the organization.

Mission Statement of The Cutting Edge:

The *Cutting Edge*, a bimonthly newsletter written exclusively by and for the membership of the Society of American Fight Directors (**SAFD**), provides its readers with resources to stay informed, involved and always on *The Cutting Edge* of stage combat.

Our publication aims to:

- Keep the membership informed about SAFD events, policies, opportunities, membership activities and useful industry information
- Provide the membership with a forum for open discourse
- Welcome new members and engage current members

Cutting Edge Submission Deadlines:

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Material Due Date</u>
January/February 2007:	November 1, 2007
March/April 2007:	January 1, 2008
May/June 2007:	March 1, 2008
July/August 2007:	May 1, 2008
September/October 2007:	July 1, 2008
November/December 2007:	September 1, 2008

Regional Report Schedule and Deadlines:

- Jan./Feb., July/Aug. Editions include Int'l, SE, EC, NE**
(deadlines Oct. 15 and Apr. 15 respectively)
- Mar./Apr., Sept./Oct. Editions include PacWest, NW, SW**
(deadlines Dec. 15 and June 15 respectively)
- May/June, Nov./Dec. Editions include MA, RM, GL**
(deadlines Feb. 15 and Aug. 15 respectively)

SAFD

1350 E. Flamingo Road, #25
Las Vegas, NV. 89119
(800) 659-6579
www.safd.org

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| Editor-in-Chief: | Michael J. Mueller |
| Associate Editor- <i>Footlights/Spotlights</i> | Marcus D. Gregio |
| Associate Editor- <i>Wksp Reports/Promo</i> : | Gregg Lloyd |
| Associate Editor- <i>Regional Reports</i> : | Darrell S. Rushton |
| Editor-at-Large: | Gia Mora |
| Advisor/Editor- <i>Layout</i> : | John Tovar |
| Advisor: | Mike Mahaffey |

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



... From the Governing Body

Mike Mahaffey, Secretary

Call for Applications - SAFD Business Operations Manager Position for 2008

The Society of American Fight Directors office of the Secretary and Treasurer are soliciting applications for a Business Operations Manager position. This is a paid position responsible for data entry of Skills Proficiency Tests (SPTs), new memberships and membership renewals, as well as helping the Treasurer to manage our accounts, pay our online bills, prepare tax forms and generally maintain the fiscal health of the organization.

Weekly/Bi-weekly responsibilities for this position may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- **Managing Accounts:**
 - o **Receivable:** Deposit checks (generate deposit slips, stamp checks, copy membership and SPT checks for the files) and manage online payments (Linkpoint / CSI-First Data, reconcile CSI-First Data statements with Nevada State Bank statements)
 - o **Payable:** Electronically pay Visa bill, confirm payment of automatic pay accounts, and reconcile Visa credit card bill
- **Receipt and Return of Paperwork:** Confirm with the Secretary when any paperwork is received; process paperwork within in a timely manner; forward all processed paperwork to the 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.)
- **Data Entry & Filing:**
 - o **Mail:** Receive and sort all SAFD mail from the Las Vegas address
 - o **FM Postcards:** Sent to secretary if no test has been received within 30 days for immediate follow-up
 - o **Membership:** 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
 - o **SPT:** Coordinating forms and check copies; and the entry of all SPT information, including test results and payment information
- **Update Secretary and Treasurer:** Maintain communication with both officers in a timely manner regarding issues, problems and concerns as they arise.

Additional Seasonal Responsibilities:

- **Tax Preparation:** Prepare and Distribute 1099's no later than January 30 of each year and collect documents for tax preparation in time for May 15 filing

Qualified applicants should meet the following requirements:

- Familiarity with Microsoft Access and Excel
- Extremely efficient data entry abilities and communication skills
- Reliable internet access

This is a paid position, offering \$15 per hour with flexible hours ranging from four to five per week depending on the workload. January and July are the busiest times of the year for us, with many adjudications occurring in December, May and June. The position will be effective as of March 1, 2008 and conclude on February 28, 2009. This is a yearly recurring position.

Please submit a letter of intent and resume outlining your computer skills and work history by December 31, 2007 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!

Educational Institutions Supporting the SAFD Skills Proficiency Test

As part of our increased efforts to provide you with information and reference material aimed at advancing your knowledge of stage combat, we are pleased to bring you the second annual educational directory of institutions supporting SAFD training. This section is based on information compiled by the SAFD as well as the research of *The Cutting Edge* editors. We welcome your comments, questions, and corrections at cuttingedge@safd.org.

Institution: A.R.T.
State/Location: MA
Last SPT/SPR Date: 4/7/2006
Tests since 2000: 4
Degrees Offered: Certificate, MFA-Acting
Web: <http://www.amrep.org/iatt/catalog06.html>

Institution: Academy for Classic Acting-The Shakespeare Theatre
State/Location: DC
Last SPT/SPR Date: 4/14/2006
Tests since 2000: 7
Degrees Offered: Certificate, MFA-Acting
Web: <http://www.shakespearetheatre.org/academy/index.aspx>

Institution: ACT
State/Location: CA
Last SPT/SPR Date: 5/13/2001
Tests since 2000: 1
Degrees Offered: MFA-Acting
Web: <http://www.actactortraining.org>

Institution: Adelphi University
State/Location: NY
Last SPT/SPR Date: 12/17/2006
Tests since 2000: 3
Degrees Offered: BFA-Acting
Web: <http://www.academics.adelphi.edu/artsci/pfa/acting/>

Institution: Alabama Shakespeare Festival
State/Location: AL
Last SPT/SPR Date: 11/6/2006
Tests since 2000: 7
Degrees Offered: MFA-Acting
Web: <http://www.asfgradprogram.net/mfaprograms/actor-training>

Institution: American Musical & Dramatic Academy
State/Location: CA
Last SPT/SPR Date: 1/20/2007
Tests since 2000: 6
Degrees Offered: Certificate
Web: <http://www.amda.edu>

Institution: American Musical & Dramatic Academy
State/Location: NY
Last SPT/SPR Date: 2/1/2002
Tests since 2000: 2
Degrees Offered: Certificate
Web: <http://www.amda.edu>

Institution: Arcadia University
State/Location: PA
Last SPT/SPR Date: 12/9/2006
Tests since 2000: 10
Degrees Offered: BFA-Acting, BA-Theatre and English
Web: <http://www.arcadia.edu/academic/default.aspx?id=3704>

Institution: Asolo Conservatory
State/Location: FL
Last SPT/SPR Date: 2/4/2007
Tests since 2000: 1
Degrees Offered: MFA-Acting
Web: <http://www.asolo.org/index.asp>

Institution: Boston University
State/Location: MA
Last SPT/SPR Date: 12/13/2002
Tests since 2000: 4
Degrees Offered: BFA-Acting, MFA-Theatre Education
Web: <http://www.bu.edu/cfa/index.htm>

Institution: Brandeis University
State/Location: MA
Last SPT/SPR Date: 4/1/2004
Tests since 2000: 5
Degrees Offered: BA and MFA-Theatre Arts
Web: <http://www.brandeis.edu/theater/>

Institution: Brigham Young University
State/Location: UT
Last SPT/SPR Date: 4/8/2006
Tests since 2000: 1
Degrees Offered: BA-Theatre Arts Education, Theatre Arts Studies, BFA-Acting, Music Dance Theatre, MA-Theatre and Media Arts
Web: <http://www.saas.byu.edu/catalog/2007-2008ucat/depts/TMA/index.aspx?lms=1>

Institution: Carnegie Mellon University
State/Location: PA
Last SPT/SPR Date: 2/5/2005
Tests since 2000: 2
Degrees Offered: BFA-Acting/Musical Theatre
Web: <http://www.cmu.edu/cfa/drama/>

Institution: Case Western University
State/Location: OH
Last SPT/SPR Date: 10/21/2006
Tests since 2000: 4
Degrees Offered: BA and MA-Theatre, MFA-Acting
Web: <http://www.case.edu/artsci/thtr/index.html>

Institution: City College of New York
State/Location: NY
Last SPT/SPR Date: 12/18/2004
Tests since 2000: 1
Degrees Offered: BA-Theatre
Web: <http://www1.cuny.cuny.edu/index.cfm>

Institution: College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati
State/Location: OH
Last SPT/SPR Date: 6/3/2006
Tests since 2000: 7
Degrees Offered: BFA-Acting, Musical Theatre
Web: <http://www.ccm.uc.edu/academics/majors.aspx>

Institution: Columbia College Chicago
State/Location: IL
Last SPT/SPR Date: 12/14/2006
Tests since 2000: 15
Degrees Offered: BA-Musical Theatre Performance, BFA - Acting
Web: <http://www.colum.edu/undergraduate/theater/index.php>

Institution: Columbia University
State/Location: NY
Last SPT/SPR Date: 12/16/2006
Tests since 2000: 1
Degrees Offered: MFA-Acting
Web: <http://wwwapp.cc.columbia.edu/art/app/arts/theatre/index.jsp>

Institution: Cornish College of The Arts, Seattle
State/Location: WA
Last SPT/SPR Date: 5/6/2006
Tests since 2000: 8
Degrees Offered: BFA-Theatre
Web: <http://www.cornish.edu/academic-programs.htm>

Institution: DePaul University
State/Location: IL
Last SPT/SPR Date: 3/9/2006
Tests since 2000: 6
Degrees Offered: BFA-Acting, Theatre Arts, MFA-Acting
Web: <http://www.theatreschool.depaul.edu/school-main.php>

Institution: DePauw University
State/Location: IN
Last SPT/SPR Date: 5/13/2005
Tests since 2000: 2
Degrees Offered: BA-Communication and Theatre
Web: <http://www.depauw.edu/univ/arts/theatre/>

Institution: Elgin Community College
State/Location: IL
Last SPT/SPR Date: 1/14/2007
Tests since 2000: 4
Degrees Offered: AA-Arts
Web: <http://www.elgin.edu/academicsindex.asp>

Institution: Eureka College Workshop
State/Location: IL
Last SPT/SPR Date: 6/1/2006
Tests since 2000: 2
Degrees Offered: BA-Theatre Arts and Drama
Web: <http://www.eureka.edu/index0.asp>

Institution: Florida State University
State/Location: FL
Last SPT/SPR Date: 12/13/2006
Tests since 2000: 7
Degrees Offered: BA-Theatre, BFA-Acting, Musical Theatre, MA-Theatre Studies, MFA-See Asolo Conservatory, MS-Theatre Educators
Web: <http://www.theatre.fsu.edu/index.html>

Institution: Hart School/University of Hartford
State/Location: CT
Last SPT/SPR Date: 4/28/2001
Tests since 2000: 2
Degrees Offered: BFA-Acting, Musical Theatre
Web: <http://www.hartford.edu/hart/>

Institution: Illinois State University
State/Location: IL
Last SPT/SPR Date: 4/18/2006
Tests since 2000: 8
Degrees Offered: BA-Acting, Theatre Studies, MA/MS-Theatre, MFA-Acting
Web: <http://www.cfa.ilstu.edu/theatre>

Institution: Illinois Wesleyan University
State/Location: IL
Last SPT/SPR Date: 4/29/2005
Tests since 2000: 2
Degrees Offered: BA-Theatre Arts, BFA-Theatre Arts, Musical Theatre
Web: <http://www2.iwu.edu/theatre/courses/>

Educational Institutions Supporting the SAFD Skills Proficiency Test

Institution: Indiana University
State/Location: IN
Last SPT/SPR Date: 11/21/2005
Tests since 2000: 1
Degrees Offered: BFA-Musical Theatre, MFA-Acting
Web:
<http://www.indiana.edu/~thtr/academics/index.html>

Institution: Indiana University of Pennsylvania
State/Location: PA
Last SPT/SPR Date: 12/21/2006
Tests since 2000: 3
Degrees Offered: BA-Theatre
Web: <http://www.arts.iup.edu/theater>

Institution: Ithaca College
State/Location: NY
Last SPT/SPR Date: 12/3/2005
Tests since 2000: 7
Degrees Offered: BA-Drama, BFA-Acting
Web:
<http://www.ithaca.edu/academics/programs/index.php>

Institution: Kennesaw State University
State/Location: GA
Last SPT/SPR Date: 5/4/2002
Tests since 2000: 1
Degrees Offered: BA-Theatre and Performance Studies
Web: <http://www.kennesaw.edu/theatre/>

Institution: Kutztown University
State/Location: PA
Last SPT/SPR Date: 5/13/2006
Tests since 2000: 2
Degrees Offered: BA-Speech (Theatre)
Web:
http://www.kutztown.edu/acad/spe_the/new/index_pages/summer.shtml

Institution: Louisiana Tech University (Crawfish Boil)
State/Location: LA
Last SPT/SPR Date: 5/18/2006
Tests since 2000: 12
Degrees Offered: BA-Speech (Theatre), MA-Speech (Theatre)
Web:
<http://www.performingarts.latech.edu/theatre/home/home.htm>

Institution: Mary Baldwin College - American Shakespeare Center
State/Location: VA
Last SPT/SPR Date: 3/1/2007
Tests since 2000: 8
Degrees Offered: M. Litt./MFA-Shakespeare
Web:
<http://www.americanshakespearecenter.com/education/MLittMFA.html>

Institution: Muhlenberg College
State/Location: PA
Last SPT/SPR Date: 12/15/2006
Tests since 2000: 1
Degrees Offered: BA-Theatre
Web: <http://www.muhlenberg.edu/depts/theatre/>

Institution: National Conservatory for Dramatic Arts
State/Location: DC
Last SPT/SPR Date: 11/17/2001
Tests since 2000: 4
Degrees Offered: Certificate
Web: <http://www.theconservatory.org>

Institution: National Theatre Conservatory: Denver Center of the Performing Arts
State/Location: CO
Last SPT/SPR Date: 2/23/2006
Tests since 2000: 7
Degrees Offered: MFA-Acting
Web:
<http://www.denvercenter.org/page.cfm?xid=23842027>

Institution: New Mexico State University
State/Location: NM
Last SPT/SPR Date: 4/30/2005
Tests since 2000: 4
Degrees Offered: BA-Theatre Arts
Web: <http://www.theatre.nmsu.edu/nmsu/index.html>

Institution: New York University, Tisch School
State/Location: NY
Last SPT/SPR Date: 12/14/2006
Tests since 2000: 8
Degrees Offered: BFA-Theatre, MFA-Acting
Web:
<http://www.drama.tisch.nyu.edu/page/home.html>

Institution: Niagara University
State/Location: NY
Last SPT/SPR Date: 5/13/2006
Tests since 2000: 5
Degrees Offered: BFA-Performance Track
Web: <http://www.niagara.edu/theatre/>

Institution: North Carolina School of the Arts
State/Location: NC
Last SPT/SPR Date: 5/18/2006
Tests since 2000: 11
Degrees Offered: BFA-Acting
Web: <http://www.ncarts.edu/ncsaprod/drama>

Institution: North Carolina School of the Arts - Summer Stage Combat
State/Location: NC
Last SPT/SPR Date: 8/1/2006
Tests since 2000: 4
Degrees Offered: BFA-Acting
Web: <http://www.ncarts.edu/ncsaprod/drama>

Institution: Northern Kentucky University
State/Location: KY
Last SPT/SPR Date: 5/11/2004
Tests since 2000: 3
Degrees Offered: BA-Theatre, BFA-Acting/Musical Theatre
Web: <http://www.nku.edu/~theatre/>

Institution: Pennsylvania State University
State/Location: PA
Last SPT/SPR Date: 4/28/2002
Tests since 2000: 1
Degrees Offered: BA-Theatre, BFA-Musical Theatre, MFA-Acting
Web: <http://www.theatre.psu.edu/programs/bfagenerational.html>

Institution: Regent University - Virginia Beach Bash
State/Location: VA
Last SPT/SPR Date: 3/31/2006
Tests since 2000: 1
Degrees Offered: BA-Theatre, MA-Theatre, MFA-Acting
Web: <http://www.regent.edu/acad/schcom/#>

Institution: Roosevelt University - Chicago
State/Location: IL
Last SPT/SPR Date: 12/15/2006
Tests since 2000: 11
Degrees Offered: BFA-Acting, Musical Theatre, MFA-Acting
Web: <http://www.ccpa.roosevelt.edu/theatre/programs.htm>

Institution: Rutgers University - Mason Gross School of the Arts
State/Location: NJ
Last SPT/SPR Date: 4/26/2006
Tests since 2000: 2
Degrees Offered: BA-Theatre, BFA-Acting, MFA-Acting
Web:
<http://www.masongross.rutgers.edu/theater/thea.html>

Institution: Salem State College
State/Location: MA
Last SPT/SPR Date: 5/10/2002
Tests since 2000: 1
Degrees Offered: BA-Performance, BFA-Performance
Web:
http://www.salemstate.edu/theatre_speech/TSC-theatre.php

Institution: Seattle Pacific University
State/Location: WA
Last SPT/SPR Date: 6/1/2006
Tests since 2000: 1
Degrees Offered: BA-Performance
Web: http://www.spu.edu/depts/fpa/theatre/tre_homepage.asp

Institution: Southern Illinois University
State/Location: IL
Last SPT/SPR Date: 10/30/2004
Tests since 2000: 1
Degrees Offered: BA-Theatre, MA-Theatre
Web: <http://www.siu.edu/~mcleod/>

Institution: Southern Methodist University
State/Location: TX
Last SPT/SPR Date: 10/25/2005
Tests since 2000: 6
Degrees Offered: BFA-Acting, Theatre Studies, MFA-Acting
Web: <http://www.smu.edu/meadows/theatre/>

Institution: SUNY-Fredonia
State/Location: NY
Last SPT/SPR Date: 12/21/2006
Tests since 2000: 6
Degrees Offered: BA-Theatre Studies, BFA-Acting, Musical Theatre
Web: <http://www.fredonia.edu/department/theatre/>

Institution: SUNY-Purchase
State/Location: NY
Last SPT/SPR Date: 12/13/2005
Tests since 2000: 2
Degrees Offered: BFA-Acting
Web: <http://www.purchase.edu/Departments/AcademicPrograms/Arts/TAF/>

Institution: Temple University
State/Location: PA
Last SPT/SPR Date: 5/11/2005
Tests since 2000: 5
Degrees Offered: BA-Acting, MFA-Acting
Web: <http://www.temple.edu/theater/index.htm>

Institution: University of Alabama
State/Location: AL
Last SPT/SPR Date: 5/6/2004
Tests since 2000: 5
Degrees Offered: BA-Theatre, MFA-Acting
Web: <http://www.as.ua.edu/theatre>

Educational Institutions Supporting the SAFD Skills Proficiency Test

Institution: University of Arizona
State/Location: AR
Last SPT/SPR Date: 4/29/2006
Tests since 2000: 6
Degrees Offered: BA-Theatre Arts, BFA-Acting, MA-Theatre Studies, Theatre Education
Web: <http://www.arizona.edu/home/academics.php>

Institution: University of California – Irvine
State/Location: CA
Last SPT/SPR Date: 2/11/2001
Tests since 2000: 1
Degrees Offered: BA-Drama, MFA-Acting
Web: <http://www.drama.arts.uci.edu/index.html>

Institution: University of California - Santa Cruz
State/Location: CA
Last SPT/SPR Date: 3/10/2005
Tests since 2000: 1
Degrees Offered: BA-Drama, Graduate Certificate
Web: <http://www.theater.ucsc.edu/>

Institution: University of Colorado - Boulder
State/Location: CO
Last SPT/SPR Date: 12/15/2001
Tests since 2000: 1
Degrees Offered: BA-Theatre, BFA-Performance, Musical Theatre, Theatre, MA-Theatre
Web: <http://www.colorado.edu/theatredance/theatre/education.html>

Institution: University of Denver
State/Location: CO
Last SPT/SPR Date: 5/25/2006
Tests since 2000: 2
Degrees Offered: BA-Theatre
Web: <http://www.du.edu/thea/>

Institution: University of Florida
State/Location: FL
Last SPT/SPR Date: 12/15/2005
Tests since 2000: 4
Degrees Offered: BA-Theatre Arts, BFA-Acting, Musical Theatre, MFA-Acting
Web: <http://www.arts.ufl.edu/theatreanddance>

Institution: University of Houston
State/Location: TX
Last SPT/SPR Date: 5/11/2006
Tests since 2000: 7
Degrees Offered: BA-Theatre (Performance), MA-Acting, MFA-Acting
Web: <http://www.theatre.uh.edu/programs.html>

Institution: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
State/Location: IL
Last SPT/SPR Date: 3/3/2006
Tests since 2000: 7
Degrees Offered: BFA-Theatre, MFA-Acting, PhD-Theatre History
Web: <http://www.courses.uiuc.edu/cis/programs/urbana>

Institution: University of Iowa
State/Location: IA
Last SPT/SPR Date: 4/21/2000
Tests since 2000: 1
Degrees Offered: BA-Theatre Arts, MFA-Acting
Web: <http://www.uiowa.edu/~theatre/>

Institution: University of Miami
State/Location: FL
Last SPT/SPR Date: 5/7/2005
Tests since 2000: 6
Degrees Offered: BA-Theatre, BFA-Performance (Acting), Musical Theatre
Web: <http://www.as.miami.edu/theatrearts/>

Institution: University of Miami
State/Location: OH
Last SPT/SPR Date: 5/7/2002
Tests since 2000: 1
Degrees Offered: BA-Theatre, MA-Theatre Studies
Web: <http://www.fna.muohio.edu/theweb/index.html>

Institution: University of Michigan
State/Location: MI
Last SPT/SPR Date: 12/12/2005
Tests since 2000: 7
Degrees Offered: BFA-Acting, Musical Theatre, PhD-Theatre
Web: <http://www.music.umich.edu/index.htm>

Institution: University of Nebraska – Lincoln
State/Location: NE
Last SPT/SPR Date: 4/27/2006
Tests since 2000: 1
Degrees Offered: BA-Performance, BFA-Film and New Media, MFA-Acting
Web: <http://www.unl.edu/TheatreArts/>
Institution: University of Nevada, Las Vegas
State/Location: NV
Last SPT/SPR Date: 7/28/2006
Tests since 2000: 8
Degrees Offered: BA-Theatre, MA-Theatre, MFA-Performance
Web: <http://www.theatre.unlv.edu/>

Institution: University of Oklahoma
State/Location: OK
Last SPT/SPR Date: 5/4/2002
Tests since 2000: 1
Degrees Offered: BA-Acting, MFA-Drama
Web: <http://www.ou.edu/finearts/drama/>

Institution: University of Pennsylvania
State/Location: PA
Last SPT/SPR Date: 5/18/2001
Tests since 2000: 1
Degrees Offered: BA-Theatre
Web: <http://www.sas.upenn.edu/theatrearts/index.html>

Institution: University of Puget Sound
State/Location: WA
Last SPT/SPR Date: 5/9/2006
Tests since 2000: 7
Degrees Offered: BA-Theatre
Web: <http://www2.ups.edu/theatrearts>

Institution: University of San Diego
State/Location: CA
Last SPT/SPR Date: 6/5/2005
Tests since 2000: 2
Degrees Offered: BA-Theatre Arts, MFA-Acting
Web: <http://www.sandiego.edu/as/>

Institution: University of South Carolina – Aiken
State/Location: SC
Last SPT/SPR Date: 5/7/2006
Tests since 2000: 1
Degrees Offered: BA-Theatre
Web: <http://www.usca.edu/visualandperformingarts/theatre.html>

Institution: University of Southern Mississippi
State/Location: MS
Last SPT/SPR Date: 5/10/2006
Tests since 2000: 6
Degrees Offered: BA-Theatre, BFA-Acting, MFA-Acting
Web: <http://www.usm.edu/theatre/degreescover.php>

Institution: University of Texas – Austin
State/Location: TX
Last SPT/SPR Date: 12/7/2002
Tests since 2000: 1
Degrees Offered: BA-Theatre and Dance, BFA-Theatre Studies, MFA-Acting
Web: <http://www.finearts.utexas.edu/tad/>

Institution: University of the Arts
State/Location: PA
Last SPT/SPR Date: 5/6/2006
Tests since 2000: 7
Degrees Offered: BFA-Acting, Applied Theatre Arts, Musical Theatre
Web: <http://www.uarts.edu/academics/cpa/sota.html>

Institution: University of Washington
State/Location: WA
Last SPT/SPR Date: 5/4/2006
Tests since 2000: 10
Degrees Offered: BA-Drama, MFA-Acting
Web: <http://www.depts.washington.edu/uwdrama/degrees/programs.html>

Institution: University of Wisconsin-Madison
State/Location: WI
Last SPT/SPR Date: 5/9/2002
Tests since 2000: 2
Degrees Offered: BA-Theatre, MFA-Acting
Web: <http://www.theatre.wisc.edu/>

Institution: University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
State/Location: WI
Last SPT/SPR Date: 5/14/2005
Tests since 2000: 2
Degrees Offered: BA-Theatre Arts, BFA-Acting
Web: <http://www.uwsp.edu/theatre-dance/>

Institution: Virginia Commonwealth University
State/Location: VA
Last SPT/SPR Date: 5/3/2006
Tests since 2000: 11
Degrees Offered: BFA-Performance, Theatre Education, MFA-Theatre Pedagogy
Web: <http://www.pubinfo.vcu.edu/artweb/theatre/mfa.asp>

Institution: Western Illinois University
State/Location: IL
Last SPT/SPR Date: 12/8/2006
Tests since 2000: 4
Degrees Offered: BA-Theatre, BFA-Musical Theatre, MFA-Acting
Web: <http://www.wiu.edu/theatre/>

Institution: Wright State University
State/Location: OH
Last SPT/SPR Date: 6/1/2006
Tests since 2000: 5
Degrees Offered: BFA-Acting, Musical Theatre
Web: <http://www.wright.edu/tdmp/>





Sword & Shield Resources

By Michael Mueller

The Cutting Edge is proud to present the next section in our reference material series. Special thanks to Friend Allan Johnson, CT/FD Geoffrey Kent, CT Gregg Lloyd, CT Mike Mahaffey, CT/FD Ian Rose, CT Darrell Rushton, CT/FD Nick Sandys, and CT John Tovar for their input on this section.

The information provided is categorized into the various disciplines the SAFD recognizes and operates on a rolling submission basis. These lists consist of books that have been found to be extremely helpful, films that give examples of well choreographed/acted fights and serve as positive instruction, as well as any other material that instructors deem crucial to those who are interested in either increasing their skill level or merely their library of reference material.

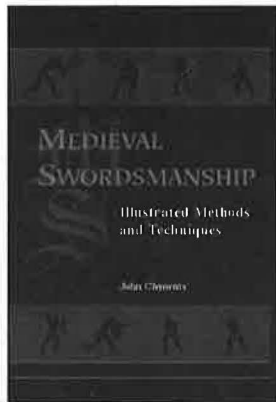
Please let us know your thoughts on these lists. What should be added? Why? What should not be on the list and why? Please email comments, suggestions and thoughts to Michael Mueller at cuttingedge@safd.org.

Books



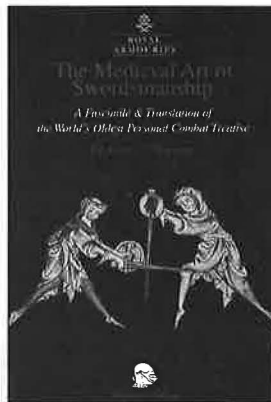
Medieval Combat

by Hans Tolhoffer
Trans. and Ed. by
Mark Rector



Medieval Swordsmanship

by John Clements



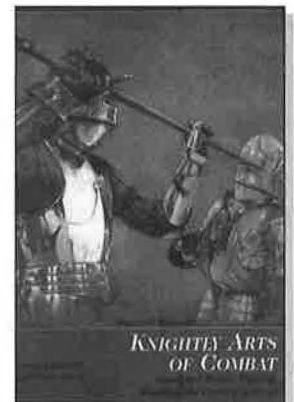
The Medieval Art of Swordsmanship

by Jeffrey L. Forgeng



Medieval Sword and Shield

by Paul Wagner and
Stephen Hand



Sigmund Ringneck's Knightly Arts of Combat

by David Lindholm

Film/TV



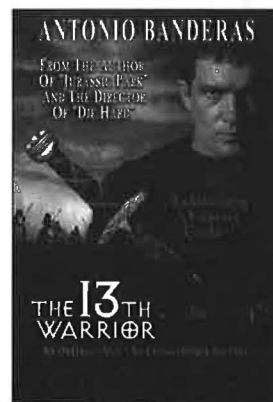
300



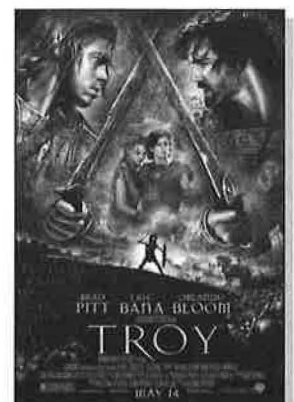
Gladiator



Rome
(HBO Series)



The 13th Warrior



Troy

Certified Teacher Angela Bonacasa ...In the Footlight



If you are interested in being featured or nominating another member, please contact Editor-in-Chief Michael Mueller (mjmueller3@aol.com).

Angela Bonacasa has worked across the country as both a stage combat teacher and fight director. A recent transplant from Chicago to Maine, Angela was on staff at Roosevelt University's Chicago College of Performing Arts, the Actors Gymnasium, and taught private classes throughout the city. Additional teaching credits include stints in New York, Seattle, Florida, Texas, Indiana, and North Carolina where she is a regular guest artist at the North Carolina School of the Arts. She also serves as coordinator for NCSA's Summer Stage Combat program. Associate Editor Marcus D. Gregio talked to Ms. Bonacasa for *The Cutting Edge*.

MDG: How did you first hear about, and get involved with, the Society of American Fight Directors?

AB: I had just graduated from AMDA [American Musical and Dramatic Academy] and my roommate had signed up for a stage combat class. I thought it sounded really cool so I signed up for it with her. It turned out to be an Unarmed class taught by FM [then CT] Mike Chin. From the minute I started that class, I thought it was the coolest thing I had ever seen. I didn't know what the Society was when I signed up, but I learned about it during the rest of Mike's class and the following (equally cool) Rapier and Dagger class taught by FM J. David Brimmer.

MDG: Why did you become a member?

AB: I was so impressed and over-

whelmed with the talent of my incredible teachers, as well as the professional respect and camaraderie that I saw between them, that I had to learn more about the organization.

MDG: How has involvement in the SAFD benefited your career?

AB: I have changed and grown so much as a person because of my involvement with the SAFD that I can't imagine my life without it. Stage combat training aside (and it has been incredible), I have learned so much about myself, who I am, what is important to me, and how I want to live my life in large part because of my involvement in the SAFD. I have formed lifelong friendships, experienced love and loss, and basically grown up in this organization. The SAFD has become another member of my family.

MDG: What is your favorite weapon and why?

AB: Single Sword! As cheesy as it sounds, once I pick one up and start to play, it is hard to put it down. It combines the elements of grace, power, speed, and lightness of touch. To make a rocking Single Sword fight, you have to really be on top of your game; you can't get the speed without the lightness and you can't get the grace without the power.

MDG: When working on a scene, what elements do you consider paramount in a partner?

AB: First, a willingness to play and explore choices, regardless of how silly

they sound—to take your partner's suggestions and, at least, be willing to genuinely listen to them. You never know what is going to trigger that brilliant moment. It can only happen if you are truly interested in your partner's opinion. Second, [one must have] a willingness to take responsibility. Nothing can kill a good working relationship between combatants faster than a partner who is always right. Admit when you've made a mistake.

MDG: Using what you have learned so far on your journey, what advice would you give to someone just becoming interested in the SAFD?

AB: You will meet a lot of different kinds of people in this organization—you can learn from all of them. Work hard and keep pushing yourself to be the best combatant and person you can. Be honest with yourself and with others. Finally, we all have to make our way in this world, but the SAFD only continues to thrive because people who love it continue to give of their time and effort to make it work. Even if it is a small contribution, give of your time and energy to help the organization keep going.

MDG: What is in your pockets right now?

AB: There are no pockets in the clothes that I am wearing right now. In the pockets in the last pair of jeans I wore, though, I am sure I'll find some dirt and brush from working outside—and maybe even a pair of ear plugs that I wore when working the wood splitter.

You will meet a lot of different kinds of people in this organization—you can learn from all of them. Work hard and keep pushing yourself to be the best combatant and person you can.

Upcoming SPTs/SPRs

The SAFD membership is eager for opportunities to train, so *The Cutting Edge* is looking to expand our section on SPT/SPR information to include the dates and times of classes being offered that will lead up to an SPT or provide an opportunity for an SPR. These classes can be through a college, university, private session or independent organization.

The structure of the information we have been requesting and providing will remain the same with the addition of this one category, Class Date(s)/Time(s). TBAs/TBDs are fine as long as there is contact information, and it doesn't matter how far ahead the dates may be. We will continue to print the information you send us in each issue until the date of your SPT/SPR has passed. As you find out more details, please update us so that we can maintain current information for the membership.

Helping the membership to find more training opportunities and assisting those providing these opportunities to spread the word is our primary goal with this expansion. Please email your events, suggestions and thoughts to cuttingedge@safd.org.

When: November 11, 2007
Where: Bay State Fencers, Somerville, MA
What: SPT - SiS
Inst: CT Adam McLean
Adj.: TBD
Info: Adam McLean - (804) 938-2222
mcleanab@hotmail.com

When: November 17, 2007
Where: Fights4, New York, NY
What: SPT - BS and KN
Inst: FD Ricki G. Ravitts
Adj.: TBD
Info: Ricki G. Ravitts -
rickifights@yahoo.com

When: November 18, 2007
Where: Fights4, New York, NY
What: SPT - S&S
Inst: FM J. David Brimmer and
 FD Robert "Tink" Tuftee
Adj.: TBD
Info: Robert "Tink" Tuftee -
 (718) 788-4957
tink@fights4.com

When: December 2007 (exact date TBD)
Where: Adelphi University
 Garden City, NY
What: SPT (Weapons TBA)
Inst: CT Ray Rodriguez
Adj.: TBD
Info: Ray Rodriguez -
ranthrod66@yahoo.com

When: December 2007 (exact date TBD)
Where: Hofstra University, Heapestead, NY
What: SPT/SPR - R&D
Inst: FD Robert Westley
Adj.: TBD
Info: Robert Westley -
dpwestley@yahoo.com

When: December 2007 (exact date TBD)
Where: Virginia Commonwealth University,
 Richmond, VA
What: SPT - UA and R&D
(R&D subject to change)
Inst: CT Robb Hunter
Adj.: David Leong
Info: Robb Hunter - (917) 604-3008
robhhunter@preferredarms.com

When: First week of December, 2007
 (exact date TBD)
Where: Western Illinois University
 Macomb, IL
What: SPT/SPR - BS and S&S
Inst: CT DC Wright
Adj.: TBD
Info: DC Wright - (309) 836-6359
dc-wright@wiu.edu

When: December 9, 2007
Where: Frostburg State University
 Frostburg, MD
What: SPT - UA and KN
Inst: CT Darrell Rushton
Adj.: Mike Chin
Info: Darrell Rushton -
dsrushton@frostburg.edu

When: December 10, 2007
Where: Grand Valley State University
 Allendale, MI
What: SPT/SPR in UA, KN and SiS
Inst: CT Ian Borden
Adj.: TBD
Info: Ian Borden - (616) 331-8076
bordeni@gvsu.edu

When: December 12, 2007
Where: University of Michigan
 Ann Arbor, MI
What: SPT/SPR - UA, QS, and R&D
Inst: FM Erik Fredricksen
Adj.: Chuck Coyl
Info: Erik Fredricksen -
hannis@umich.edu

When: December 12, 13, and or 14
 (exact date TBD)
Where: Columbia College Chicago
 Chicago, IL
What: UA, BS and R&D (McFarland)
 S&S, KN and SS (Woolley)
Inst: FM David Woolley and
 FD John McFarland
Adj.: TBD
Info: David Woolley -
dwoolley@colum.edu

When: March 9, 2008
Where: The Actor's Gym, Chicago, IL
What: SPT's - UA, R&D, KN
Inst: FM Chuck Coyl
Adj.: TBD
Info: The Actor's Gymnasium -
email@actorsgymnasium.org

When: Late April or Early May, 2008
 (exact date TBD)
Where: University of Houston
 Houston, TX
What: SPT's & SPR's
 (may include all disciplines -TBD)
Inst: FM Brian Byrnes
Adj.: TBD
Info: Brian Byrnes -
bbyrnes123@yahoo.com

When: May 10, 2008
Where: University of the Arts
 Philadelphia, PA
What: all eight SAFD disciplines
Inst: FD Charles Conwell
Adj.: TBA
Info: Charles Conwell -
cconwell@uarts.edu

When: May 21, 2008
Where: Denver Center Theatre Academy
 Denver, CO
What: SPT - R&D
Inst: FD Geoffrey Kent
Adj.: TBA
Info: Geoff Kent - (303) 446-4892
geoffrey@thefightguy.com



An NSCW West Testimonial

By AC Stephen James Anderson

It has been almost two months since the closing moments of the 2007 National Stage Combat Workshop, yet I still find myself reminiscing about my time and experiences in Las Vegas. From the moment the landing gear met the tarmac at McCarran International to the second my feet met terra firma back in Illinois, the opportunities to grow as a fighter, teacher, and director were plentiful, pleasurable, and profound.

As I made my way to UNLV, I was surprised by the temperate climate; though exceedingly hot, I sweat very little. Of course, our Fight Masters would be creating plenty of opportunities for me to sweat soon enough. I arrived at the residence hall, my home for the next three weeks, and was astounded by the comfortable accommodations. After stowing my gear, it was time to explore the four-and-a-half miles of architecture, spectacle, play and debauchery that is the Vegas Strip, which even at 10:00 a.m. on a Sunday was packed with gamblers, partiers and vacationers of all kinds.



From left to right: AAC Matthew Wilson, CT/FD Ian Rose, FM Michael Chin, and FM Chuck Coyl. Photograph by AC Marianna Kozij and Friend Maria Gonzalez.

The next day the workshop began in earnest. When I arrived bright and early at the Judy Bailey Theater I was immediately struck by the totality of expertise brought together in one space. Up on the stage loomed (in his pirate like way) SAFD President, FM Chuck Coyl and with him was former President, FM Drew Fracher, who radiated an infectious energy as he welcomed each of us. Meanwhile, FM Geoff Alm, a more recent addition to the College of Fight Masters and a man from whom I would

come to learn so much, meandered about welcoming all he came in contact with. FM and NSCW West organizer Michael Chin lived up to his no-nonsense reputation as he prepared us for the enormity of this event. If the FM's were the heart of the NSCW, then the Certified Teachers provided the soul. CT/FD Ian Rose, CT Ray Rodriguez and CT/FD Scot Mann were easy for me to admire. Impressively, there were seven teachers to twenty-seven students. That's less than four students per teacher; a good ratio by anyone's calculations! All of the teachers, FM's and CT's alike, exhibited patience, commitment, and persistence as they generously shared their expertise with us.

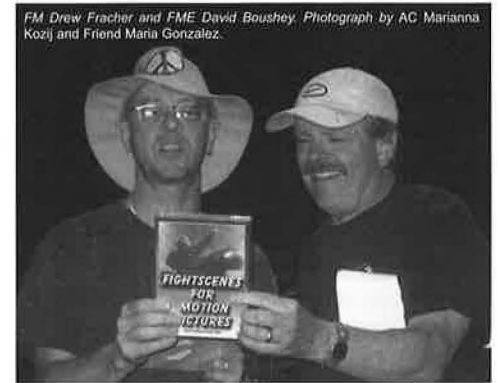


FM Geof Alm. Photograph by AC Marianna Kozij and Friend Maria Gonzalez.

Within an hour of arriving at the theater, I was taking up arms with my fellow participants, the sound of ringing steel filled the air, and in just three short hours I already knew everyone by face, and name. The intensive, immersive and collective environment allowed a bond of mutual respect and admiration to form more quickly than I thought possible. What lingers in the pit of my gut about being engrossed in this type of environment is how I came to know, adore, and admire so many people, so quickly. I could feel the energy given off as they encouraged and pushed me to do my best, to learn, and to grow.

Each day was packed to the brim with combat from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. Although we concentrated on three weapons for the purposes of preparing for the Skills Proficiency Tests, we had the opportunity to study all eight SAFD

recognized weapon disciplines. We also got to experience some enlightening and challenging master classes featuring various martial arts, sword and cloak, sword and poniard, gun slinging, and a master class in film fighting with Fight Master Emeritus and SAFD Co-Founder, David Boushey. In short, all three weeks were worth every second, every strained muscle, and every drop of sweat.



FM Drew Fracher and FME David Boushey. Photograph by AC Marianna Kozij and Friend Maria Gonzalez.

I felt the need to share these reflections on the NSCW for a couple of reasons. First, I strongly believe all members of the SAFD should attend this workshop, not only because it helps to become a better fighter; but also, and perhaps more importantly, it can enhance the sense of community and thus strengthen the SAFD as a whole. Second, I feel I have witnessed my fair share of theater with stage violence that appeared empty or absurd. The NSCW, with its emphasis on specificity and dramatic effect, is an opportunity to affect the industry and provide audiences with intention-driven story telling.

These are just a few thoughts I've felt compelled to share after three weeks with so many stalwart individuals. For my brothers and sisters of the SAFD who have yet to experience the wonders of the NSCW, I strongly encourage you to find the time and make the sacrifice. For those who have gone before and those who shared this journey with me, I thank you and hope we all keep fighting the good fight.

Regional Reports

Great Lakes Region

Illinois, Indiana,
Michigan, Ohio,
Wisconsin



By Jim
Stark

GLRegRep@safd.org

Friend Mary Barnidge has kept an eye on all stage violence in the Windy City and wanted to place special emphasis on the best work she has seen. She wrote: "Robin McFarquhar staged a SPECTACULAR spear-stunt for *Troilus and Cressida* at Chicago Shakespeare. Chuck Coyl contributed some nice domestic rough stuff to *August: Osage County* at Steppenwolf and Nick Sandys will be choreographing 17th-century Spanish rapier duels for *The Defiant Muse* at Victory Gardens Theatre early this fall."

This spring, **CT/FD Jamie Cheatham** choreographed *I Hate Hamlet* at Concordia College in Wisconsin and taught his first SPT at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside, where he now heads the acting program. Shortly after, he headed off to Illinois to teach at the Eureka Workshop with CT Neil Massey. Then he staged violence for the Illinois Shakespeare Festival's productions of *Henry V* and *Much Ado About Nothing*. This summer he was fight directing *Henry IV, part 2* at Milwaukee Shakespeare, and in the spring of 2008 he will play the role of Macbeth at Parkside, and will be staging the fights as well.

CT Bruce Cromer had his fourteenth SPT at Wright State University this spring, with new FM k. Jenny Jones serving as Adjudicator. He had just finished playing Prospero in the Cincinnati Shakespeare Company's *The Tempest* while directing a production of the same play at WSU simultaneously. He was thrilled to watch his son, Charlie, learn from CT Mark Guinn this summer at

Bluejacket and then pass with EAEs in Smallsword, Broadsword and Shield, and Rapier and Dagger! Mark's son, Jake, partnered with Charlie in Rapier and Dagger. As a newly promoted Full Professor in the Wright State BFA Acting program, Bruce continues to act professionally while he teaches. He will return for his third year as Scrooge in the Cincinnati Playhouse's *A Christmas Carol* in December; and in March of 2008, he will play *King Lear* in the Cincinnati Shakespeare Company's production.

CT/FD Paul Dennhardt reported that his professional activities have included the Shakespeare Theatre Company's productions of *Richard III* and *Hamlet* as Assistant Fight Director with David Leong, Milwaukee Shakespeare's production of *Henry IV* as Fight Director, Illinois State University's productions of *West Side Story*, *Vinegar Tom*, *The Pillowman*, and *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* as Fight Director. He also taught Skills Proficiency Tests in Broadsword, for Illinois State University, and Rapier and Dagger for Illinois Wesleyan University. Both were adjudicated by Richard Raether.

AAC Amy E. Harmon congratulates *Babes With Blades* and a fabulous all-female cast on the Spring 2007 run of *The Girl in the Iron Mask*, a newly-adapted swashbuckler by RL Nesvet. The Babes also recently cast their fall 2007 show, *Horror Academy* by Darren Callahan, and announced auditions for their spring 2008 show, *Los Desaparecidos* by Barbara Lhota, directed by FM David Woolley.

CT Andrew Hayes co-led a session on theatrical violence and playwriting with AC Meron Langsner at the annual ATHE conference in New Orleans. He will be teaching independent study stage combat courses this fall at DePauw University and trying to close out his term as Treasurer with dignity.

Friend Kateri Kline-Johnson was Fight Director for Opera Grand Rapids production of *Romeo et Juliette*, and then went directly into two separate pro-

ductions of *Oklahoma* also acting as Fight Director. She began pre-production work in May on a short Indie film, *Pirate on a Playground*, which she choreographed all the fight scenes and filmed in July. She is now preparing for upcoming productions of *Carmen* and *The Miracle Worker*.

CT/FD Robin McFarquhar has recently choreographed *Troilus and Cressida* at Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, *Hamlet* at South Coast Rep, and the National Tour of *The Color Purple*. Upcoming projects will include *Cymbeline*, *Othello* and *The Comedy of Errors* all for Chicago Shakespeare, and an all female *Henry IV Part I* at the University of Illinois where he continues to teach movement. He has also embarked on the three-year training program in Urbana, Illinois to become an accredited teacher of the Alexander Technique.

AC Matt Pearsall was recently a member of the fight team for the Lyric Opera of Chicago's production *Romeo et Juliette*. Other recent projects include playing Bernardo, Lucianus and fight captain for Signal Ensemble Theatre's production of *Hamlet*. He added that at the time of submission, he was in upstate NY performing and sword-fighting at the Sterling Renaissance Festival in Sterling, NY.

Friend Richard Rand reported that this past spring, he choreographed *Urinetown* and *Noises Off* for Purdue University Theatre.

FD Nick Sandys spent the spring mostly acting in Chicago, appearing as Henry in *The Real Thing* (Remy Bumpo Theatre), as Sigmund Freud in Frank Galati's *Oedipus Complex* (Goodman Theatre), and he is currently appearing as Buckingham, and fight captaining, in a production of *Richard III* (First Folio). He also managed to choreograph fights for *Lady* (Northlight Theatre), *Hyde in Hollywood* (Shattered Globe), and *Widowers' Houses* (Timeline). He also taught at the Winter Wonderland Workshop as well as two SPT classes at The Theatre School at DePaul University, with all students passing in

Regional Reports (continued)

all three disciplines. In the fall he will be directing Steven Dietz's *Fiction* for Remy Bumpo, while choreographing fights for *The Defiant Muse* (Victory Gardens), *How I Became a Pirate* (Emerald City Children's Theatre), *Hamlet* (The Theatre School at DePaul), and *Giulio Cesare* (Lyric Opera of Chicago).

CT Jim Stark, your Regional Representative, recently revived the one-man show *A Night in November* as a fundraiser for the Madison, Indiana & Enniskillen; Northern Ireland chapter of The Ulster Project; hoping that, one day, all violence will be simulated. He also taught unarmed techniques to high-school students in workshops organized by the Riverrun Theatre Company, where he is artistic director. This fall will have him on stage, singing an aria in *Master Class* for the Hanover College Theatre, where he continues to teach acting and stage combat.

CT John Tovar has been very busy this year choreographing *Noises Off!* (Buffalo Theatre Ensemble and Kirk Players), *Musical of Musicals: The Musical* (Noble Fool Theatricals), *Life Is A Dream* (Moraine Valley Community College), and *The Wild Party* (Ball State University). So far this fall, John is slated to choreograph *Henry V* (College of DuPage), and *I Hate Hamlet* (Wheaton Drama). He was also teaching at the 2007 March Madness Workshop and was at the NSCW-East assisting FMs David Woolley and Dale Girard in Broadsword and teaching Sword & Shield. John taught a Rapier & Dagger and Broadsword class at Elgin Community College this past spring and is teaching Unarmed classes at College of DuPage and Elgin Community College this fall. Finally, John is gearing up as a Coordinator for the 2008 Winter Wonderland Workshop.

FM David Woolley recently staged fights for *Panic* and *Final Curtain* at the First Annual Murder Mystery Play Festival in Owensboro, Ky. He also taught Broadsword at the NSCW ACW at NCSA and had much fun with the TTW candidates. David will be directing a staged reading of the next Babes With

Blades show, *Los Desparacidos*, which will be fully produced in the spring of 2008. This fall he will be performing at the Ohio Renaissance Faire, teaching classes in 5 weapons at Columbia College Chicago (his 21st year as Artist in Residence). He'll also stage fights for *Romeo & Juliet* and *West Side Story* in the CCC main stage season, *Night of the Iguana* for the Raven Theater and support numerous student directing projects. Heading into winter, David will be appearing as Guido in *Dirk & Guido: the Swordsmen!* (19th season) in Charlottesville, Va. for *First Night* on New Years Eve in the Paramount Theater, a 1500 seat restored theater. They will then travel to the Noble Fool Theater at the Pheasant Resort and Day Spa in St. Charles, Ill. on Jan. 4 & 5, 2008. Finally, they will appear at Bristol during the summer of 2008 and in Ohio during the following fall. Get your tickets now!

NOTE TO THE MEMBERSHIP: Please keep your contact information current, via the SAFD website. This is vital to all of the SAFD's work. Also, please thank your elected officers for their service to the SAFD. They volunteer their time and energy out of devotion to the art we all practice.

Rocky Mountain Region

Colorado, Idaho,
Montana, Utah,
Wyoming



**By Jeff
Bull**
RMRegRep@safd.org

AC Benaiah Anderson worked for Central City Opera all summer, where he taught combat for the Young Artist program and choreographed violence for *The Saint of Bleeker Street* and the obligatory annual production of *Face on the Barroom Floor*. He had a lot of fun choreographing high school productions of *The Fantasticks*, *Robin Hood*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *When you Comin' Back Red Rider*, and *Crazy for You*. He also played Captain Cleverly for an entertainingly awful dinner theatre production of *The Jolly Roger*. In September, he will

also be teaching combat for the Performing Arts High School of Denver in September.

AAC Jeff Bull is still editing his short film, and pursuing martial arts studies. He will be playing MacMurtry, and filling various other combat-related roles in Geoff Kent's upcoming production of *Macbeth*.

Friend Amanda Goldrick is currently working in the entertainment field on a cruise ship. We should all be so lucky.

CT/FD Geoffrey Kent recently completed his fifth season with the Colorado Shakespeare Festival as an Actor/Fight Director playing the King of France in *All's Well That Ends Well* and Octavius in *Julius Caesar*. He was Fight Director for those shows as well as *80 Days*, *Midsummer* and *Servant of Two Masters*. This fall, Geoffrey directs *Macbeth* (www.cowboymacbeth.org); acts in the Denver Center Living History tour; and will fight direct *You Can't Take it with You* for the Denver Center, *Zorro* for Theatreworks and *Othello* for the University of Denver. In the spring, Geoffrey will play Brendan and serve as Fight Director for The *Lieutenant of Inishmore* and will then act in the *Complete Works of William Shakespeare Abridged*.

AC Terry Kroenung taught a workshop on acting the fight in June to the Colorado Community Theatre Coalition titled "You Killed My Father...Prepare to Find Your Motivation." He also played William Shakespeare and Hector Barbossa for the Colorado Renaissance Festival and is acting as Fight Director/Instructor for the newly-formed Pirates of Ill Repute. Later this year he will design fights for *Hamlet* and *Romeo & Juliet*, playing Friar Laurence in the latter. He continues as Artistic Director for Pointed Remarques Classical Theatre Company, which will present its Fields of Honor One Act Play Festival in the spring and feature women-oriented original combat scripts based on Shakespeare. His prequel to *Romeo and Juliet*, in iambic pentameter, *Ebon Cat*, will premiere in 2008 and try to explain why Tybalt is so cranky.

Welcome Our New Regional Representatives

The staff at *The Cutting Edge* would like to welcome two new Regional Representatives to the SAFD. Friend Mike Speck will be taking over for CT Don Preston in the Mid America region. AAC Heidi Wolf will be taking over for CT Jonathan Cole in the Northwest Region. Thanks to Don Preston and Jonathan Cole for their years of service. We hope you will take a moment to welcome Mike and Heidi.

Mid America Region

Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota,
Missouri, Nebraska, North
Dakota, South Dakota



**By Mike
Speck**

MARegRep@safd.org

First and foremost, thanks to Don Preston for his service over the past few years. It will be an honor to take over the responsibilities of Regional Rep from a member as dedicated and professional as Don, just as it was a pleasure to train with him.

I look forward to serving the Mid-America region—I'm Minnesota born-and-bred, and I'm proud of the quality theatre the Midwest has to offer. Please drop me an email if you have questions, or to share news, or just to say hello—many of you I haven't met yet, and would like to. If there's anything I can do to help, just let me know!

Mike's stage combat training began at Western Illinois University in Macomb under D.C. Wright. After graduation with his MFA and AC status, he has hopped all over the country as an actor, stage manager, and fight choreographer. He has trained with Don Preston at "they Fight" in Minneapolis, as well as with the staff of the Virginia Beach BASH, Winter Wonderland, and Dueling Arts' Winter Workshop. He returned to Vegas this summer as a student at the IACW, and is currently training with Harris Smith in Lincoln, NE. In addition to serving on the SAFD's Mentoring Committee, Speck is currently Company Manager and Marketing Director at Maples Repertory Theatre in Macon, MO, and choreographs regularly for Janesville, WI's Armory Dinner Theatre.

North West Region

Alaska,
Oregon,
Washington



**By Jonathan
Cole**

NWRegRep@safd.org

Hi all. This fall marks the end of my two year tenure as Northwest Regional Representative, so it's time to pass the torch! I've enjoyed my time as rep, and I've really enjoyed the opportunity the position afforded me to meet, work and train with many of you in this region. I see an exciting energy and vitality in the Northwest membership: let's keep that going! I am delighted to say that AAC Heidi Wolf will be stepping in to take over the NWRR position. She's a great person with tremendous drive, and I'm sure she'll take the Regional Representative position to new heights. Again, thanks for the chance to serve. Feel free to drop me a line if you're ever in Oregon!

North West Region

Alaska,
Oregon,
Washington



**By Heidi
Wolf**

NWRegRep@safd.org

I would like to thank Jonathan Cole for his dedicated service as the Northwest Regional Representative, as well as for his kindness and assistance during the hand-over of responsibilities. It is an honor to follow in Jonathan's footsteps,

and I'm glad he'll still be an active presence in our region, even as he turns his focus toward new endeavors.

The Regional Rep. serves primarily as a liaison and information resource, with the help of local representatives and the regional members themselves. Please let me know if you have news to share about classes or other events; if you have questions; or if you just want to say hello. You can reach me at NWRegRep@safd.org. I look forward to working with - and for - you all.

AAC Heidi Wolf began her stage combat training in 1990 at Richard Lane's Academy of the Sword in the Calif. Bay Area. After moving to Seattle, WA, she resumed training in 2000 at the Freehold Theatre Studio Lab with FM Geoffrey Alm. She served as an intern at the 2004 NSCW West and the 2007 NSCW East, has coordinated numerous stage combat activities in Seattle, and was a local rep. for the Seattle area of the Northwest Region from 2005-2007. She is currently assisting in classes at Cornish College of the Arts and the University of Washington's Professional Actor Training Program. Heidi recently completed a five-year term on the Board of Directors of Macha Monkey Productions, a Seattle-based theatre company. She is working on her teacher certification in Usui Reiki and continues to train in stage combat, Suzuki and Viewpoints, and Yang style Tai Chi.



Upcoming Workshops

ATTENTION WORKSHOP COORDINATORS:

Please look these specifications over to make sure that you are sending us exactly what we need so we do not have to contact you and ask for corrections.

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 **7.75" wide by 4.5" high**
- The ad must be in **black and 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 as well as help you through the process. If you have further questions, contact us at:

cuttingedge@safd.org

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The Thirteenth Annual

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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 bimonthly newsletter
- 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*
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*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 #
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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:
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Work Phone:	Fax Number:
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Voicemail:	Pager:
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E-mail Address(es):

Website:	Union Affiliations (SAG, AEA, etc.):
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University (name/address):

Employer (name/address):

Publications should be mailed to (please circle one):	Permanent	University	Work
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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
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Quarterstaff			
Rapier & Dagger			
Single Sword			
Smallsword			
Sword & Shield			
Unarmed			

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

The Fight Master Needs Your Help!

The *Fight Master* is seeking a new Advertising Director. As a bi-annual publication, *The Fight Master* strives to enhance the intellectual and artistic knowledge of the Society of American Fight Directors through engaging articles, scholarly related information, and education opportunities.

Responsibilities for this position include the following:

- Interacting with all SAFD sanctioned events and/or their coordinators
- Soliciting new advertising
- Coordinating with production to collect and process advertisements
- Invoicing advertisers
- Working in conjunction with the SAFD Treasurer to verify the receipt of payments

To apply, send an updated CV, a cover letter noting qualifications and a vision for *The Fight Master*, as well as contact information for three references to John Tovar, Art Director for *The Fight Master*. His email is john_tovar@sbcglobal.net, and questions regarding this position may be emailed to him as well. Thank you for considering this great opportunity.

It's That Time Again...

Did you renew your membership yet? If not, there's still time! Just fill out the form on the previous page, make out your check to SAFD and mail to:

Society of American Fight Directors
1350 E. Flamingo Road, #25, Las Vegas, NV 89119

You can also safely and securely pay your dues via the Internet by visiting:

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

Follow the directions on the site. Memberships make great gifts as well!

Don't miss out! They're due by January 1, 2008!

Definition

Supination

Main Entry: **su-pi-na-tion**

Pronunciation: soo-puh-ney-shuh n

Function: *noun*

- 1 : rotation of the hand or forearm so that the palmar surface is facing upward (opposed to *pronation*)
- 2 : a comparable motion of the foot, consisting of adduction followed by inversion
- 3 : the position assumed as the result of this rotation

SAFD Definition: The position of the hand when the palm is turned up, with the nails of the sword hand pointing up towards the ceiling.

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**Submissions for the
March/April
issue are due
January 1st!**



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