

Joseph Travers

Stage Combat Teacher/Fight Director

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25 years of experience teaching stage combat techniques and staging fights and action sequences for theatre and film.

*Granted the ranks of **Certified Teacher** and **Certified Fight Director** by both the **Society of American Fight Directors** and **Fight Directors Canada**.*

Teaching Experience - 1988 - Present

Extensive classroom experience in academia, workshops and private classes teaching techniques ranging from basic to advanced levels. Presently on faculty at Columbia University School of the Arts, the American Musical and Dramatic Academy and Swordplay, NYC.

Qualifications and Skills

Qualified to train students in a variety of stage combat skills, including -

- ~ period and contemporary armed and unarmed styles, both Western and Eastern
- ~ group fights, melees, and battles
- ~ falls, rolls, fainting, lifts and carries
- ~ stage firearm safety

Qualified to teach a variety of related skills, including -

- ~ military history, weapon history and historical combat
- ~ stylized and period movement, physical comedy
- ~ theatre movement exercises and games, contact improvisation
- ~ period and contemporary weapon handling and maintenance
- ~ special effects (blood, etc.)
- ~ SAFD & FDC Skills Proficiency Test preparation

Certifications, Education and Credentials

SAFD Certified Teacher and Certified Fight Director (Renewed 2014)

recognized by the Society of American Fight Directors as showing a high level of expertise as a teacher of stage combat and as a fight director

FDC Certified Instructor and Certified Fight Director (Renewed 2012)

recognized by Fight Directors Canada as showing a high level of expertise as a stage combat instructor and as a fight director

SAFD National Fight Directing Workshop (1996, 2001)

A two-week intensive in the techniques of fight direction for stage and screen

B.A. Theatre, SUNY Albany, 1982, magna cum laude –

program included movement, mime, acting, directing, theatre tech and history

Classroom Experience -

Courses / Programs Taught –

Columbia University Fall 2011 - Present

Adjunct Faculty – *teaching unarmed combat to MFA Acting Program students; designing curriculum; organizing an SAFD Skills Proficiency Test in Unarmed Combat for the class; designing and teaching the course “Stage Combat and Working with the Fight Director” to MFA Stage Management Program students*

American Musical and Dramatic Academy, New York, NY 1999 – Present

Program Head, Full - Time Faculty – *designing and implementing curriculum; teaching armed and unarmed disciplines in a four-semester program; fight directing student showcases and scenes; hiring and scheduling staff; managing program; researching, organizing and presenting “Sword History Day” to second semester students.*

Swordplay Stage Combat, New York, NY 1995 - Present

Founder, Managing Director, Instructor – *teaching, scheduling and staffing stage combat classes and workshops in both armed and unarmed disciplines for NYC’s oldest continuous running stage combat school; designing curriculum; offering SAFD & FDC Skills Proficiency Test classes preparing students for “certification”.*

SUNY Rockland Community College, Suffern, NY 1998 – 2001

Adjunct Professor of Physical Acting and Stage Combat - *teaching physical acting and unarmed stage combat techniques to performing arts majors; designing curriculum; course is a degree requirement.*

Lee Strasberg Institute, New York, NY Summer 2002

Instructor – *teaching unarmed techniques to teen program acting students; designing curriculum.*

Mannes College of Music, New York, NY Spring 1998, Spring 1999

Instructor – *teaching unarmed stage combat to opera students; designing curriculum.*

Summer Theatre Institute, Columbia University, New York, NY Summer 1999

Instructor – *teaching unarmed stage combat to high school students; designing curriculum.*

Private Teaching Experience – 1988 – 1994

Teacher – *teaching armed and unarmed stage combat techniques at all levels.*

Workshops Taught -

Swordplay Stage Combat, NYC, 1995 – Present

Teacher – *a wide variety of workshops for all levels and in many disciplines*

SAFD Regional Stage Combat Workshops 2002 - 2012

Guest Teacher – *teaching a variety of armed and unarmed techniques on all levels at SAFD sanctioned regional workshops in New York, Chicago and Philadelphia.*

Stage Combat Workshop, Rapier Wit Studios, Toronto, Canada Summer 2006

Instructor– *teaching Talhoffer Medieval Dagger techniques*

SUNY Albany, Spring 2010, Winter 2012

Instructor – *teaching unarmed combat to University Theatre Majors*

Colgate University Fencing Club, Hamilton, NY 2006

Teaching basic rapier techniques to club members

Bard College, Annondale-on Hudson, NY 2005

Unarmed workshop for acting students

New York University, Music Theatre Department, New York, NY Fall 1999, 2000

Teacher – *teaching unarmed stage combat to Music Theatre majors*

Horace Mann School, NY Spring 2011

Instructor – *teaching unarmed combat to high school students*

AMAS Repertory Theatre, New York, NY 1996, 2004 - 2006

Instructor – *teaching unarmed techniques and theatre movement games to high school theatre arts students.*

Additional Information –

American Heart Association Certification First Aid, CPR, AED, Renewed 2011

AHA Certified Instructor 2005

authorized by the American Heart Association to teach adult, child, infant CPR, First Aid and AED use.

References available upon request.

Production Credits -

Broadway –

Bronx Bombers

Director

Eric Simonson

Off – Broadway -

Playwrights Horizons

Dead Man's Cell Phone

Essential Self - Defense

Fran's Bed

Spatter Pattern

100 Saints You Should Know

Blue Door

Chinese Friends

Wilder

Anne Bogart

Carolyn Cantor

James Lapine

Michael Greif

Ethan Mc Sweeney

Leigh Silverman

Robert Egan

Lisa Portes

Primary Stages

Bronx Bombers

Eric Simonson

New York Theatre Workshop

Too Much Memory

Meg Gibson

Irish Repertory Theatre

Playboy of the Western World

Charlotte Moore

Jean Cocteau Repertory

Henry V

Romeo and Juliet

Small Craft Warnings

Sus

David Fuller

Rod McLucas

Scott Shattuck

Woodie King, Jr.

New York Theatre -

Riverside Theatre

Joan of Arc: Voices in the Fire

Kristin Linklater

The Tank

Anna Christie

Michael Laibson

Metropolitan Playhouse

The Great Divide

Michael Hardart

Ensemble Studio Theatre

Heaven Knows

Jamie Richards

American Globe Theatre

Macbeth

Hamlet

Much Ado About Nothing

John Basil

Nate Merchant

John Basil

Regional Theatre –

New Repertory Theatre

Bakersfield Mist

Director

Jeff Zinn

Wellfleet Harbor Actors Theatre

Bakersfield Mist

The Betrothed

Neighborhood 3: Requisition of Doom

Born Yesterday

Cyrano

The Pillowman

Hunter Gatherers

What the Butler Saw

Mojo

On an Average Day

Red Light Winter

Robin Hood

Jeff Zinn

Jesse Jou

Jesse Jou

Dan Lombardo

Brendan Hughes

Jeff Zinn

Gip Hoppe

David Wheeler

Mark Wilkinson

Jeff Zinn

Rand Foerster

Stephen Russell

Harbor Stage Company

Fool for Love

Jeff Zinn

Bickford Theatre

Moonlight and Magnolias

Deathtrap

Barbara Krajkowski

David Christopher

Seaside Music Theatre

Peter Pan

Disney's "Beauty and the Beast"

Oklahoma

Singing in the Rain

Ragtime

Earl Weaver

Lester Malizia

Chuck Hoenes

Chad Larabee

Lester Malizia

Wayside Theatre

Les Liaisons Dangereuses

Bullshot Crummond

Christopher Owens

Christopher Owens

Attic Ensemble

Les Liaisons Dangereuses

True West

As Bees in Honey Drown

Art

The Credeaux Canvas

A View from the Bridge

Fuddy Meers

The Lion in Winter

Billy Mitchell

Christine Dalzell

Tom Rowan

Wanda Maragni

Paul Zeller

Wanda Maragni

Jerry Beal

Wanda Maragni

Gallery Players

Othello

Medea

Macbeth

West Side Story

Mark Harborth

Mark Harborth

Mark Harborth

Craig Rosen

University/College Theatre -

Columbia University

The Caucasian Chalk Circle
The Corsair
As You Like It

Northeastern University

Bethany

Bard College

The Lower Depths

New York University

Edward II

Lee Strasberg Institute

Ballad of Eddie and Jo

Fordham University

Titus Andronicus

SUNY Albany

Great Expectations

Brooklyn College

Fences

Opera -

Modus Opera

Don Giovanni

Seaside Music Theatre

A Tale of Two Cities

Gallery Players

Pirates of Penzance

National Tour -

National Shakespeare Company

Romeo and Juliet
Hamlet

National Theatre of The Performing Arts

The Three Musketeers
Romeo and Juliet
Cyrano de Bergerac

Director

Mei Ann Teo
Katie Naka
Shannon Fillion

Jeff Zinn

Johanna McKeon

Rebecca Holderness

Lorca Peress

Dennis Reid

Chad Larabee

Shirley Parkinson

Savannah Stevens

Lester Malizia

Sidney Fortner

Matt August
Vincent Masterpaul

Scott Barton
Rosie Haye
Scott Barton

A more extensive list of production credits is available upon request.