

Benjamin Curns

Advanced Actor Combatant, SAFD
benjamincurns@gmail.com

AEA
(646)415-4700

Black Belt, American Freestyle Karate
www.benjamincurns.com

Stage Combat Training

- **NEUTRAL CHAOS STUDIOS, NEW YORK, NY (February/March 2018)**

Kali Stick Intensive: Scott and Kelly Mann
Knife Renewal: Jason Tate, Recommended Pass
Single Sword Renewal: Jason Tate, Recommended Pass

- **NORTH CAROLINA STAGE COMBAT ACADEMY (Fall 2016, Spring 2017)**

Quarterstaff: Jeff A.R. Jones, Recommended Pass
Sword & Shield: Jeff A.R. Jones, Recommended Pass

- **NATIONAL STAGE COMBAT WORKSHOP WINSTON-SALEM, NC (7/2016)**

Broadsword: David Brimmer, Recommended Pass (Award for Best Scene)
Rapier/Dagger: Dale Girrard, Recommended Pass
Master Class: Knife (Jason Tate)
Master Class: Quarterstaff (Mike Lupke)
Unarmed: Richard Raether, Recommended Pass (Founder's Award for Excellence in Unarmed Combat)

- **VIRGINIA BEACH BASH, VIRGINIA BEACH, VA (4/2015)**

Unarmed Renewal: Bob Aronson, Recommended Pass;
Master Classes in Sword and Shield, Small Sword, SWAT Technique, Krav Maga

- **MARY BALDWIN UNIVERSITY, STAUNTON, VA**

Knife and Single Sword Renewal: JP Schiedler, (12/13, Recommended Passes)
Unarmed: JP Schiedler, Recommended Pass (12/12)
Knife Renewal: Recommended Pass 5/08), Recommended Pass (1/11)
Rapier/Dagger Renewal: Basic Pass 5/08, Basic Pass (1/11)
Single Sword: Colleen Kelly (2007: Recommended Pass, 2010: Basic Pass)

- **SUMMER SLING, NEW YORK, NY (2005)**

Rapier/Dagger: Denise Hurd, Basic Pass
Knife: Michael Johnson, Basic Pass

Further Education & Training

- MFA, Acting: University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill Professional Actor Training Program (2017)
- BA, History & Secondary Social Studies: State University of New York, Cortland, NY (1999)
- American Academy of Dramatic Art – Summer Training Intensive (1997)
- Black Belt, American Freestyle Karate, Staunton, VA, John Bowersox, Instructor (2015)
(Fighting Combinations, Open-Hand & Weapons Kata, Sparring, Self Defense, Grab Techniques)
- Gold Belt, Assembly of Martial Arts Academy (MMA), Edward Reccia, Instructor, Present
(Stand up sparring, floor grappling, self defense: blending karate, Tae Kwon Do, BJJ, Aikido, Judo)

Instructor Credits

- Shakespeare Academy @ Stratford: Six Week Summer Course for College Students: led guest classes in Quarterstaff, Knife, and Unarmed. Also staged fights for camp production of *Coriolanus*.
- Southern Connecticut State University: THR 121: Intro to Performance included a unit of Unarmed Combat with focus on good partnering, safety, audience awareness, basic strikes and holds
- Lincoln Center Shakespeare Lab: Assisted Teaching Artists in teaching combat sequences from *Julius Caesar*: cueing, safe targeting, blending character with choreography
- University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill: DRA 135 Acting for Non Majors included a unit of Unarmed Combat
- American Shakespeare Center Theatre Camp: six summers teaching unarmed and knife techniques to high school aged students for specific use in thrust theatre configuration

Publications

'Tis Pity We Open in Ten Days, The Fight Master Fall/Winter 2007 pp.25-27 Refereed Article
An exploration of actor-created choreography for early modern productions based on textual clues.

Instant Prince of Cats, The Fight Master Fall/Winter 2014 pp.27-29 Refereed Article
A documentation of the use of a cat-like glove for the character of Tybalt in *Romeo & Juliet* and how this untraditional weapon was supported through text and casting “against type”.

Fight Captain

<i>The Taming of the Shrew</i>	ShakespeareNYC	Al Foote III, Fight Dir.
<i>1&2 Henry IV</i>	ShakespeareNYC	Al Foote III, Fight Dir
<i>The Play That Goes Wrong</i>	St Louis Rep	Shaun Shelly, Fight Dir
<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>	PlayMakers Repertory Company	Shana Cooper, Dir.
<i>The Jew of Malta</i>	American Shakespeare Center	Tyler Moss, Fight Dir.

Selected Roles Played Including Stage/Screen Combat

Ben	<i>Quantico</i>	ABC	Greg Harvey, Stunt Cor.
Gordon	<i>Batman: Master of Fear</i>	Red Fist Productions	Matt Kohler, Stunt Cor.
Dromio (S)	<i>Comedy of Errors</i>	Elm Shakespeare Company	Michael Johnson, Fights
Macbeth	<i>Macbeth</i>	Philadelphia Shakespeare Theatre	Josh Kashnycz, Fight Dir.
Toby Belch	<i>Twelfth Night</i>	Actors' Shakespeare Company	Denise Hurd, Fight Dir.
Hamlet	<i>Hamlet</i>	American Shakespeare Center	Colleen Kelly, Fight Dir.
Bastard	<i>King John</i>	American Shakespeare Center	Colleen Kelly, Fight Dir.
Mercutio	<i>Romeo & Juliet</i>	American Shakespeare Center	JP Schiedler, Fight Dir.
Falstaff	<i>1&2 Henry IV</i>	ShakespeareNYC/Theatre Row	Al Foote III, Fight Dir.
Sly	<i>The Taming of the Shrew</i>	ShakespeareNYC/Theatre Row	Al Foote III, Fight Dir.
Richard III	<i>Richard III</i>	American Shakespeare Center	Jeremy West, Fight Dir
Achilles	<i>Troilus & Cressida</i>	American Shakespeare Center	Jeremy West, Fight Dir.
Falstaff	<i>1 Henry IV</i>	Shenandoah Shakespeare	Drew Fraser, Fight Dir.
Dromio (E)	<i>Comedy of Errors</i>	Shenandoah Shakespeare	David Doersch Fight Dir
Macbeth	<i>Shakespeare for Kids 3</i>	Hampstead Stage Company	Michael Phillips, Fights

Professional Fight Choreography Credits

<i>King Lear</i>	The Shakespeare Forum	Sybille Bruun, dir.
<i>Coriolanus</i>	The Shakespeare Academy @ Stratford	Benjamin Curns, Dir
<i>Romeo & Juliet</i> (Education Tour)	The Shakespeare Forum	Jim Warren, dir.
<i>The Parchman Hour</i>	Virginia Stage Company	Mike Wiley, dir.
<i>Macbeth</i> (National Tour)	American Shakespeare Center	Benjamin Curns, dir.
<i>My Fair Lady</i>	PlayMakers Repertory Company	Tyne Rafaeli, dir.
<i>The Crucible</i>	PlayMakers Repertory Company	Desdemona Chiang, dir.
<i>Cyrano deBergerac</i>	American Shakespeare Center	Jim Warren, dir.
<i>Macbeth</i>	American Shakespeare Center	Jim Warren, Dir.
<i>Disgraced</i>	PlayMakers Repertory Company	Shishir Kurup, dir.
<i>Peter & The Star Catcher</i>	PlayMakers Repertory Company	Brendon Fox, dir.
<i>Romeo & Juliet</i>	American Shakespeare Center	Jim Warren, Dir
<i>Julius Caesar</i>	American Shakespeare Center	Benjamin Curns, dir.
<i>2 Henry IV</i>	American Shakespeare Center	Ralph Cohen, dir.
<i>Macbeth</i>	Excellent Motion Shakespeare Company	Dennis Henry, Dir
<i>Macbeth</i>	Roust Theatre Company (NYC)	James Phillip Gates, dir.
<i>Henry IV</i>	Live Arts	Sara Holdren, dir.
<i>Superior Donuts</i> (w/ Jeremy West)	Live Arts	Chris Baumer, dir.
<i>Romeo & Juliet</i> (National Tour)	American Shakespeare Center	Benjamin Curns, dir.
<i>Cymbeline</i>	American Shakespeare Center	Jim Warren, dir.
<i>Othello</i> (National Tour)	American Shakespeare Center	Jim Warren, dir.
<i>1 Henry IV</i> (National Tour)	American Shakespeare Center	Jim Warren, dir.
<i>Hamlet</i> (National Tour)	American Shakespeare Center	Jim Warren, dir.
<i>The Comedy of Errors</i>	American Shakespeare Center	Ralph Cohen, dir.

Fight Choreography for Academic and Youth Productions (selected)

<i>Merchant of Venice</i>	Elm Shakespeare Company Teen Troupe	Sarah Bowles, dir.
<i>Cymbeline</i>	Elm Shakespeare Company Teen Troupe	Sarah Bowles, dir.
<i>Romeo & Juliet</i>	Guilford Technical Community College	Meredith Stephens, dir.
<i>Macbeth</i>	Longwood University	Bruce Speas, dir.
<i>As You Like It</i>	UNC Chapel Hill	Hope Alexander, dir.
<i>Romeo & Juliet</i>	Stonewall Jackson High	Kate Quinlan, dir.
<i>Margaret: A Tyger's Heart</i>	Mary Baldwin University	Kelly Elliot, dir.
<i>King John</i>	Mary Baldwin University	Jemma Levy, dir.
<i>Romeo & Juliet</i>	St. Anne's-Belfield Academy	Doreen Fischer, dir.
<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>	Greenbrier Valley Youth Company	Laurie Riffe, dir
<i>Romeo & Juliet</i>	Greenbrier Valley Youth Company	Laurie Riffe, Dir
<i>Macbeth</i>	ASC Theatre Camp	Matt Sincell, dir.
<i>Titus Andronicus</i>	ASC Theatre Camp	Sybille Bruun, dir.
<i>Cymbeline</i>	ASC Theatre Camp	Benjamin Curns, dir.
<i>2 Henry IV</i>	ASC Theatre Camp	Benjamin Curns, Dir.

Awards / Recognition

- David Boushey Founder's Award for Excellence in Unarmed Combat National Stage Combat Workshop 2016 (*Boardwalk Empire*)
- Best Scene Award (*Gangs of New York*) – SAFD National Stage Combat Workshop 2016
- Intern's Award for Dynamic Acting Choices – SAFD National Stage Combat Workshop 2016
- David A. Hammond Award for Excellence in Dramatic Art – University of North Carolina Chapel Hill 2017
- Broadway World Nomination for Best Featured Actor: Mr. Marks in *Intimate Apparel* (PlayMakers, 2017)
- Shakespeareances.com: #1 of Top 40 'Shakespeareances' for *Richard III*, American Shakespeare Center, 2012
- "The Justin Award" for Best Actor as The Bastard in *King John* (American Shakespeare Center, 2012)
- Falstaff Awards: Best Supporting Actor Nomination for Parolles in *All's Well That Ends Well* (ASC, 2013)

References:

- Jim Warren, Artistic Director American Shakespeare Center, retired (540) 849-0465
- Sara Holdren, Artistic Director Shakespeare Academy at Stratford (434) 825-4788
- Jeff A.R. Jones, SAFD Fight Director & Certified Teacher (919) 539-7674
- Lia Wallace, Director of College Prep & ASC Theatre Camp (267) 974-2273
- Doreen Bechtol, Director of Training, Mary Baldwin University, (540) 849-8571

