

Benjamin Curns

Advanced Actor Combatant, SAFD
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AEA
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Black Belt, American Freestyle Karate
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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

Martial Arts Training

- **American Freestyle Karate; Black Belt (6/2012-6/2015)**, John Bowersox, Chief Instructor

Open Handed Kata, Use of Bo, Nunchaku, Kamas, Katana, Fighting Combinations, Sparring, Self-Defense Techniques, some grappling, circle drills, breaking boards, tournament visits, etc

- **Assembly of Martial Arts Academy, Blue Belt (4/19-Present)**, Adam Rylski, Chief Instructor

Stand Up striking, mat grappling, elements of Karate, Tae Kwon Do, Judo, & Brazilian Ju Jitsu. Point Sparring, Boxing, sparring on mat, self defense techniques, some weapons elements

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)

Instructor Credits

- [THR 398] Single Sword Class – Southern Connecticut State University
- 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.
Ken	<i>Where Murder Lies</i>	ID	Andrea DiBrito, Dir
Charles	<i>Play That Goes Wrong</i>	St. Louis Rep	Shaun Shelly, Fight Dir.
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>Twelfth Night</i>	Two River Theatre	Sara Holdren, dir
<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 de Bergerac</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

