

## Drew Fracher ~ Director / Fight Master SAFD

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Tom Bloom, Chairman  
Dept. of Theatre, University of VA  
Culbreth Rd.  
Charlottesville, VA

Dear Tom,

It is with a great deal of pleasure that I write to you in support of Ms. Colleen Kelly as an addition to your fine faculty there at UVA. As you know, Colleen and I have been colleagues for many years, almost thirty to be exact. She is a very well known and highly respected member of the Stage Movement community here in the U.S. as well as a long time member, officer and standard-bearer for the Society of American Fight Directors. Her contributions to the SAFD and the world of stage combat have been many and integral to the growth of the art form in this country. I cannot speak highly enough of her continued efforts on behalf of actor safety, aesthetics and in particular the role of women in the fight director world.

Colleen is a long time and well regarded Certified Teacher of the SAFD, having completed her training in one of the first classes offered on the national level by the organization. Since then she has taught at a wide variety of institutions throughout the U.S. including, Alabama Shakespeare Festival PATP, University of San Diego, Ohio University, American Shakespeare Center as well as with you folks at UVA. During that time she has successfully moved students thru the Actor/Combatant skills proficiency testing process more than six hundred times, and her success rate is among the top 2% of teachers in the organization. Of those individual tests, only ten did not receive a passing mark. These rates of success are VERY high and speak volumes as to her skills as a trainer and pedagogue. One must also remember this is only one area of expertise which Colleen is recognized in. As her colleague in the fight world, I speak only of this specific, however, a quick glance at her CV will show that she has a myriad of skills and specialties.

Colleen served as Vice President of the SAFD during my first tenure as President of the organization and together we worked to streamline and codify our

pedagogy on the national level and helped bring a more professional face to an organization that had been operating for many years like a club. She continues to represent the SAFD as a teacher and fight director and her contributions to the organization are well known and applauded universally.

I count Colleen as one of my most trusted colleagues and I know that she will once again bring her high standards, terrific acumen and many skills to your program. I commend your wisdom in providing such a teacher for your students, they will be all the better for their contact with her. Thank you for the opportunity to write on her behalf. I look forward to working with both of you in future.

Yours very truly,

Drew Fracher, Director/Fight Master SAFD