

LISA KOPITSKY

lisa.kopitsky@gmail.com

919-621-0820

EDUCATION

New York University

Master of Arts, Movement Dramaturgy and Pedagogy

Duke University

Bachelor of Arts, English; Theatre Studies, Psychology (*minors*)

AWARDS

Excellence in Leadership, New York Kids Club, 2017

Best Female Actor/Combatant, National Stage Combat Workshop, 2007

Best Scene, National Stage Combat Workshop, 2007 (*Romeo and Juliet*)

Outstanding Achievement in Musical Theater, Duke University Theater Department, 2006

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

American Musical and Dramatic Academy

January 2019-present

Substitute Teacher, *Stage Combat*

Teach stage combat classes to first, second, and third semester acting students when primary teaching staff unavailable.

Classes taught in unarmed combat, rapier and dagger, and broadsword.

Active Arts NYC

Teaching Artist

Teach "Active Warriors" after-school class for students in 1st-3rd grade at Corlears School: basics of sword fighting, footwork, partnering, and rehearsal.

New York Kids Club

Lead Teacher

December 2011-present

Teach preschool (ages 2, 3, and 4), gymnastics, art, music, cooking, science, and dance classes for students ages 6 months - 10 years.

Jewish Community Center of Manhattan

November 2016-present

Shabbat Chefs for R&R - Leader

Developed a program of kosher, Shabbat-friendly cooking classes for children ages 3-7 years.

Lead one cooking class per month (November-March) with an average of 40 students.

Supervise teams of 2-3 assistants.

New York University

September 2011-May 2013

Tisch Classical Studio - Teaching Assistant, *Stage Combat*

Assisted instructors J. David Brimmer and Michael Yahn in both teaching unarmed and single rapier technique for classes and choreography for productions.

Taught classes when J. David Brimmer/Michael Yahn not available.

Tisch Theatre Studies - Graduate Assistant, *Introduction to Theatre Production*

Assisted three different professors over four semesters in lecture class (140-190 students).

Designed midterm and final exams in part to in full for each semester, depending on professor.

Graded 50-100% of exams, depending on professor.

Taught one lecture per semester in 2012-2013 school year.

Classes taught:

Elizabethan Private Theaters

History of Stage Combat

En Garde Entertainment

March 2008-July 2011

Stage Combat Teacher

Co-taught with or assisted David Dean Hastings and guest instructors in classes in all weapons.

Taught classes when David Dean Hastings not available.

Over 20 classes taught.

Classes taught include:

Broadsword 101 (2011)

Knife 101 (2011)

Rapier 101 (2010)

Unarmed 101 (2 classes, 2010)

Rapier Applications - moving students out of drills and into choreography (2010)

Rapier and Dagger (2010)

Fight Club - combination unarmed choreography and practical martial training class (2010)

Quarterstaff (2010)

Bullwhip (2008)

Freelance Stage Combat Teacher and Fight Director

December 2005-present

Create violence for theater and film.

Teach actors the skills needed for fights in both rehearsals and master classes.

Master classes taught include:

Vixens En Garde - New York, NY (January-February 2018)

Breath and acting technique within single sword choreography

Biomechanics of single sword - moving from the core, utilizing leverage and momentum

Circular footwork

Specificity of point work

Galhalla NYC - New York, NY (June-August 2017)

Biomechanics of unarmed combat - moving from the core, utilizing leverage and momentum, selling the hit for both victims and aggressors

Pris de fer - regaining advantage from a defensive position

Riposting - redirection of blade, speed and specificity

Vertigo Theater - New York, NY (January 2015)

Unarmed combat - boxing-style punches, isolation, reactions

Contact improv

New York University - New York, NY (April 2013)

Circular footwork via Argentine tango

Apache dance

Winter Wonderland Workshop - Chicago, IL (January 2010)

“Slinging Swords and Wielding Shields:” Introduction to Sword and Shield with a focus on ambidexterity

“The Duel Rules!:” Introduction to Smallsword with a focus on dueling etiquette

Princeton University - Princeton, NJ (February 2009)

Basics of single rapier - footwork, parries, cuts, thrusts, croisé

Basics of unarmed combat - non-contact punches, contact stomach punch, contact stomach kick, back-sit fall, faint fall, front fall, hair pull, chokes

Winter Wonderland - Chicago, IL (January 2009) (*intern*)

Classes assisted include:

Zoot Suit Riot: Interaction between Swing Dance and Combat (Scot Mann)

Filipino Knife (MJ Johnson)

Shaolin Kicks (Michael Chin)

Multiple Attackers (Lewis Shaw)

Fighting for Film (David Boushey)

Falls and Rolls (Ian Rose)

Bard College - Annandale-on-Hudson, NY (April 2007)

Basics of unarmed combat - non-contact punches, contact stomach punch, contact stomach kick, back-sit fall, faint fall, front fall, hair pull, chokes

Found object combat - turning an everyday object into a weapon

Duke University - Durham, NC (March 2006)

Basics of unarmed combat - non-contact punches, contact stomach punch, contact stomach kick, back-sit fall, faint fall, front fall, hair pull, chokes

TRAINING/CERTIFICATIONS

CPR/First Aid (renewed every two years; December 2017)

Recognized Actor Combatant by the Society of American Fight Directors (2006); Intermediate Actor Combatant (2007); Advanced Actor Combatant (2008).

Recognized as Proficient by SAFD in Unarmed, Rapier and Dagger, Smallsword (2006; renewed in 2007); Single Sword (Examiner’s Award for Excellence, 2007; renewed in 2008); Knife (2007; renewed with Recommendation, 2009); Sword and Shield (2007; renewed with Recommendation, 2010); Quarterstaff (2008).

Recognized as Proficient by SAFD and Fight Directors of Canada in Broadsword (2007).

SELECTED WORKSHOPS ATTENDED

Silat Intensive - New York, NY (July 2018)

One day workshop.

Introduction to Bruneian martial arts (Adam Rector) with emphasis on footwork, falls, arm locks and traps.

Kali Intensive - New York, NY (June 2018)

Two day workshop.

Introduction to Filipino stick martial arts (Scot and Kelly Mann).

Intimacy Pedagogy and in Performance - New York, NY (4 workshops attended from 2016-2018)

One day workshops.

Intimacy direction pillars and techniques (Alicia Rodis), including creating space for consent, instant chemistry, communication with actors, setting boundaries and containers, contact improvisation, relationship building, and physical communication and storytelling.

Summer Sling - New York, NY (August 2016)

Four day workshop.

Attended classes on Fight call auditioning techniques (Rick Sordelet), Mass battles (Alicia Rodis), Brazilian Jiu Jitsu (Robb Hunter), Dramaturgy of the Fight (Meron Langsner), and others.

Summer Sling - New York, NY (August 2014)

Four day workshop.

Choreographer's Track: inaugural class focusing on professional fight directors.

Masters classes included: The Geometry of Stage Combat (K. Jenny Jones), Choreography for Musicals: *Aladdin* (J. Allen Suddeth), Choreography in the Round (Michael Jerome Johnson), Outdoor Stunt Shows (Jenny Male), Communication with Actors (J. David Brimmer and Jonathan Cole), Collaboration with Directors (Lewis Shaw and K. Jenny Jones).

Mask Making and Performance - San Juan, Puerto Rico (January 2012)

Three week workshop.

NYU - Steinhardt School of Education study abroad program - Leaders in Educational Theatre
Papier-mache mask-making and LeCoq neutral mask techniques (Nan Smithner and Deborah Hunt).

Winter Wonderland - Chicago, IL (January 2008)

Three day workshop.

Attended classes on Fighting for Film (Mike Yahn), Shaolin kicks (Michael Chin), Blood effects (J. David Brimmer), Mass Battle (Ron Piretti), and others.

Action Film Workshop - Winston-Salem, NC (August 2006)

Three week workshop.

On-set training for fighting for film. Produced six short films or trailers. Attended classes/implemented additional skills such as makeup/SFX, prop building, and ADR. Taught by J. Allen Suddeth and A.C. Weary.

National Stage Combat Workshop - Las Vegas, NV (July 2006 and 2007)

Three week workshops.

Attended master classes and skills-proficiency training. Tested for proficiency in Unarmed, Broadsword, and Rapier and Dagger (2006); Knife, Single Sword, and Sword and Shield (2007).

ADDITIONAL RELEVANT TRAINING AND SKILLS

Brown belt in San Shin Kai Aiki karate

Argentine Tango

Studio dance training: ballet, hip hop, some tap

Bullwhip

Can pick handcuffs

Licensed driver

MEMBERSHIPS

Society of American Fight Directors

Intimacy Directors International

Teaching Artists of New York