

Jo Ann Mendelson

EDUCATION

California State University, Los Angeles Spring 2018
Masters of Fine Arts in Performance for Television, Film and Theatre

Loyola Marymount University Spring 2008
Bachelor of Arts in Theatre

CERTIFICATIONS & PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Dueling Arts International

Full Instructor	Since 2019
Associate Instructor	Since 2012
Level II Actor Combatant	Since 2012
Level I Actor Combatant	Since 2008

SAG-AFTRA

Union Performer	Since 2012
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STAGE COMBAT INSTRUCTION

Adjunct Professor - Loyola Marymount University 2018-Present

- Instruction of college undergrads in beginning level Stage Combat in the disciplines of Unarmed Combat, Quarterstaff, and Rapier & Dagger
- Lead students through the development of safe and consistent techniques to create the illusion of violence
- Assist students in creating fully realized performances
- The majority of students who complete this course are also awarded recognition as Actor Combatants by the Dueling Arts International governing body

Guest Artist Instructor - Milken Community School 2018-Present

- Introduction of basic stage combat techniques to students age 13-18
- Collaboration with Drama Program Director to create movement exercises and age- and ability-appropriate fight choreography
- Choreography and instruction in unarmed and armed techniques including two swashbuckling sword fights

Private Workshop Instruction 2018-Present

- Instruction of beginner and intermediate stage combat techniques in a variety of workshop formats
- Instruction of Dueling Arts International curriculums for Unarmed Theatrical Combat, Medieval Broadsword, Renaissance Rapier and Dagger, Transitional Single Rapier, Restoration Smallsword and Quarterstaff techniques
- All workshop modules offer skills testing to be recognized by Dueling Arts International as either a Level One or Level Two Actor Combatant

Teacher's Assistant

Summer 2008-Spring 2018

- Assistant to Loyola Marymount University's Theatre Department co-chair
- Responsible for co-teaching Stage Combat instruction during the course of standard semester-length and accelerated courses with up to 22 students
- Co-teach in 3 different class modules:
 - Stage Combat technique: covers Unarmed Theatrical Combat, Medieval Broadsword, Renaissance Rapier and Dagger, Transitional Single Rapier, Restoration Smallsword and Quarterstaff techniques combined with textual analysis of and practical application to both classical and contemporary drama
 - Renaissance Drama in Action: combines theatre history, textual analysis of classical drama and the practical application of stage combat techniques in Medieval Broadsword and Renaissance Rapier and Dagger
 - Commedia d'ell Arte and Shakespeare In Action: combines theatre history, movement technique, textual analysis of Shakespearean texts and the practical application of stage combat techniques to performances of these works as interpreted through Commedia d'ell Arte stock characters in Medieval Broadsword and Renaissance Rapier and Dagger
- The majority of students who complete these courses receive Level I Recognized Actor Combatant status from the Dueling Arts International governing body

Guest Artist Instructor - The Besant Hill School *May 2015 & May 2016*

- Work with students to create presentations and develop performances which put Shakespearean texts into action
- Develop basic stage combat sword fighting workshops for grades 9-12
- Instruct students in age- and ability-appropriate stage combat techniques

Guest Artist Instructor - The Stevenson School *May 2015 & May 2016*

- Work with faculty to create presentations and performances which put Shakespearean texts into action
- Develop basic stage combat sword fighting workshops for grades 5-10
- Instruct students in age- and ability-appropriate stage combat techniques

Guest Artist Instructor - Crespi Carmelite High School *Spring 2013-Summer 2014*

- Work with faculty to direct extracurricular drama performances
- Instruct students in techniques for acting, voice and movement
- Instruct students in age- and ability-appropriate stage combat techniques
- Developed multi-session, specialty workshop to pair stage combat and acting techniques with Shakespeare text analysis

Guest Artist Instructor - California State Thespian Festival *Spring 2013 & Spring 2014*

- Instruct stand-alone introductory workshops in stage combat for high school students selected from across the state of California as high level achievers in the performing arts.
- Instruct students in age- and ability-appropriate stage combat techniques

FIGHT DIRECTION & CHOREOGRAPHY FOR THEATRE

The Crimson Cabaret	unarmed in an immersive setting	The Unmarked Door, 2019
The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime	unarmed	The Greenway Court Theatre, 2019
Taming of the Shrew	unarmed and found object	Milken Community School, 2019
Deadly	unarmed, found object & knife	2019
As You Like It	WWE-style unarmed fighting	Shakespeare on the Bluff, 2019
Treasure Island	cutlass, knife, found object	Laguna Beach Playhouse, 2019
Bloody, Bloody Andrew Jackson	unarmed, found object	Milken Community School, 2019
Peter and the Star Catcher	unarmed, sword, knife	Milken Community School, 2018
The Lady Demands Satisfaction	smallsword, unarmed, found object, comedic violence	Loft Ensemble, 2018
The Dead Guy	unarmed, found object, firearm	Cal State LA, 2018
Romeo and Juliet	unarmed and knife	LOFT Ensemble, 2018
The Bachelors	unarmed and found object	The Tavern Rakes, 2017
School For Wayward Girls	unarmed and found object	LOFT Ensemble, 2017
Latina	unarmed and falls	Cal State LA, 2016
Dracula: Blood Before Dawn	unarmed, smallsword, dagger, falcatta, staff, axe, found object	LOFT Ensemble, 2016
McCready	unarmed and found object	The Hollywood Fringe Festival, 2016 & Off Broadway, 2017
One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest	unarmed	LOFT Ensemble, 2015
Will You Save Them?	found object and unarmed	LOFT Ensemble, 2014
Friend of the Devil	single rapier	The Tavern Rakes, 2014
Hamlet	rapier, dagger, and unarmed	LOFT Ensemble, 2014
Cahoots Macbeth	broadsword	Loyola Marymount University, 2014
Moon Over Buffalo	single rapier	Crespi Carmelite High School, 2012
Pillow Man	found object, firearm and unarmed combat techniques and blood	Back Gate Theatre Ensemble, 2010
FIGHT DIRECTION & CHOREOGRAPHY FOR TELEVISION, FILM & NEW MEDIA		
Recoil	unarmed, pistol, rifle	Go Go Guppie Productions, 2017; 48 Hour Film Project – LA Dir. Moses Guerrero, 2016; CalStateLA MFA short
Vengeance	unarmed	
Hello, Game of Thrones	unarmed, broadsword and found object	Perfectly Serious Productions, 2016
Star Wars: The Path Of Freedom	Lightsaber & unarmed techniques	Star Wars Fan Film Contest, 2016
The Teen Titans Project	broadsword and double gladius	independent episodic, 2013
Tea Time	group melee, unarmed and found object combat and stunts	Top 25 Finalist, Doritos's Crash The Super Bowl, 2012
The Bronze Court	single rapier, smallsword, knife, and unarmed	independent new media short, 2013