

THE
Noble Blades
STAGE COMBAT TROUPE



Course Catalogue

Please visit our website at
NobleBlades.org
or email us at
noble@nobleblades.org
to inquire about a workshop!

Introduction

This catalogue contains all of the courses previously taught or planned to be taught by The Noble Blades. New courses are always being developed and if you have a particular need, we would be happy to create a custom class or workshop bespoke to your needs.

Contact us at Noble@NobleBlades.org.

Difficulty

Classes are classified as Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced, or Open.

Beginner - Beginner classes are designed for those with only basic experience in the art of stage combat. No prior knowledge or prerequisites are required and all subject matter will be explained.

Intermediate - Intermediate classes are those that further education on basic topics, and may require a basic understanding of technique. Beginner topics may be reviewed, but not taught in their entirety.

Advanced - Advanced classes are for those with a solid understanding of basic technique. Beginner topics will not be explained and subject matter will be covered quickly.

Open - Open classes have the capacity to take students from multiple experience levels, and cover general or extracurricular topics that beginner and advanced students alike can benefit from. Instructors for these courses are skilled in teaching multiple experience levels.

Instructors

The Noble Blades assign instructors on a case by case basis, based on need, skill, and availability. Most classes can be taught by all of our instructors, however some are specialties of a particular instructor.

Classes

Intro to Stage Combat

Difficulty: Beginner / Open

Class Length: Varied, based on needs, 1-3 hrs

Course Description: This class mixes lecture and on-your-feet work that gives a small overview and taste of modern staged violence. Covering a brief history of stage combat and stunt performance, we examine what theatrical combat can look like, teach some basic unarmed technique, and provide context and examples for weapons props used in the field.

Intro to Stage Combat - Unarmed Basics

Difficulty: Beginner / Open

Class Length: Varied, based on needs, 1-3 hrs

Course Description: This is an on-your-feet class that steps through the basics of Unarmed Stage combat. Punches, kicks, falls, will all be taught through the lens of storytelling, technique, and safety. Time will also be spent on the context of conflict.

Intro to Stage Combat - Swordplay Basics

Difficulty: Beginner / Open

Class Length: Varied, based on needs, 1-3 hrs

Course Description: This is an on-your-feet class that steps through the basics of Single Sword Stage Combat. Based in Italian Fence, this class will teach techniques of swordplay as well as the context of violence in a theatrical setting.

Intro to Stage Combat - Rapier and Dagger Basics

Difficulty: Intermediate / Open

Class Length: Varied, based on needs, 1-3 hrs

Course Description: This is an on-your-feet class that steps through the basics of dual-wielded weapons in stage combat. How two weapons were used in historical context, and how this can be used for storytelling and dramatic conflict on stage.

Intro to Stage Combat - Broadsword Basics

Difficulty: Beginner / Open

Class Length: Varied, based on needs, 1-3 hrs

Course Description: This is an on-your-feet class that steps through the basics of two handed sword play. Exploring the technique of a longer blade weapon, these skills easily translate to other two handed swords, such as the German Longsword, or the Katana.

Intro to Stage Combat - Sword and Shield Basics

Difficulty: Intermediate / Open

Class Length: Varied, based on needs, 1-3 hrs

Course Description: This is an on-your-feet class that steps through the basics of how the sword can be matched with another implement used in historical context, and how the shield can be a both offensive and defensive implement.

Intro to Stage Combat - Quarterstaff Basics

Difficulty: Intermediate / Open

Class Length: Varied, based on needs, 1-3 hrs

Course Description: This is an on-your-feet class that steps through the basics of storytelling using the quarterstaff. A stout 6ft to 8ft, this weapon can be an analogue for many pole-arm style weapons and remains a versatile set of tools and techniques for the stage combatant.

Intro to Stage Combat - Smallsword Basics

Difficulty: Intermediate / Open

Class Length: Varied, based on needs, 1-3 hrs

Course Description: This is an on-your-feet class that is heavily based in the technique and skill on Italian Fence. This class examines the fine technique of the small sword, and how its thin and shorter blade can be used for great dramatic and martial effect.

Basic Theatrical Firearms Safety

Difficulty: Open

Class Length: Varied, based on needs, 0.5-2 hrs

Course Description: Suitable for a production safety talk or for more hands on training of theatrical firearms. This class is tailor made to your needs and covers the basics of safety and protocol for using functional or nonfunctional theatrical firearms in your theatre.

The Ground Will ALWAYS Be There

Difficulty: Open

Class Length: Varied, 1-2 hrs

Course Description: Examine your relationship with the ground beneath your feet...or hands...or head. This class looks at safe interaction with the ground and gravity through falls, tumbles, and movement while on the ground. A great way for theatre artists to stay grounded.

The Fight that Goes Wrong

Difficulty: Intermediate / Open

Class Length: 2 hrs

Course Description: Examine and practice bailouts, falls, defenses, and consent practices that actors and performers can have in their bag of tricks to help keep themselves and others safe.

Rub Some Dirt In It

Difficulty: Intermediate / Open

Class Length: 2 hrs

Course Description: This class focuses on translating classic stage combat techniques into modern staged violence. How safe technique and practiced skill can be implemented to produce greater illusion and heightened storytelling.

Vocal Violence

Difficulty: Beginner / Open

Class Length: 1 hr

Course Description: Taking a look at the sound of violence, this class explores vocal technique for performing believable, yet safe and unstraining sounds of stage combat.

Partnering and Heightened Physicality

Difficulty: Intermediate / Open

Class Length: 1 hr

Course Description: This class focuses on the partnering aspects of performing staged violence, moving with and remaining engaged with another. Using concepts to mirror neurons and movement technique, we will build on common stage combat techniques by incorporating mindfulness in movement.

Choreography in Performance

Difficulty: Intermediate / Open

Class Length: Varied, based on needs, 2-4 hrs

Course Description: This class gives students the opportunity to experience staged violence choreography in a performance setting. Building, rehearsing, and adjusting choreography based on various situations and staging variables.

Maintaining the Actors' Body

Difficulty: Open

Class Length: 2 hrs

Course Description: Stretches, warmups, and exercises for directors, stage managers, and actors for performing movement on stage. This class examines safe and repeatable techniques for performing staged violence.

The Blades of Shakespeare

Difficulty: Open

Class Length: 1.5 hrs

Course Description: This lecture explores the history and significance of the various bladed weaponry that appears throughout the works of William Shakespeare. Examples of these weapons will be provided, along with brief demonstrations of their usage.

Stage Combat Meets Stagecraft

Difficulty: Open

Class Length: Varied, 1-2 hrs

Course Description: Solving the quandary of what to do when the script simply states "A fight ensues" should involve more than just a director and their actors. Stage combat can impact (not literally, e hope) almost every aspect of a production, including set, lights, costumes, and props. We will address what designers, producers, stage managers, and other staff must consider when a fight is part of their show. This workshop includes safe weapon show-and-tell, a demonstration of stage combat techniques, and perhaps the opportunity to try a few moves yourself.

Consent and Boundaries on Stage

Difficulty: Beginner / Open

Class Length: Varied, based on needs, 1-3 hrs

Course Description: This class makes consent the focus, both to maintain safety and to allow for even more creativity and experimentation in the arts. We will look at tools and processes to maintain consent in class, rehearsal, production and devising or improvisation. collegiate theatre.

Basics of Theatrical Intimacy

Difficulty: Beginner / Open

Class Length: Varied, based on needs, 1-3 hrs

Course Description: This class will look at how theatrical intimacy is handled in the live entertainment industry. Walking through process, practices, and how consent based, and trauma informed practices go into choreographing, rehearsing, and ultimately performing scenes of intimacy.

Note: Theatrical Intimacy is defined here as physical acts telling the story of heightened emotional states, including intimate gestures such as hugs or caresses, kissing, simulated sexual acts, states of undress and nudity. Classes including or involving students under the age of 18 will not demonstrate or experience simulated sexual acts or nudity, though may cover them in general discussion at the request of the class coordinator in order to prepare students for a future in professional or collegiate theatre.

SAFD Skills Proficiency Test Classes

Difficulty: Beginner / Open

Class Length: 30 hr

Course Description: The Noble Blades regularly host Skills Proficiency Classes under the instruction of a Society of American Fight Director Certified Teacher. Weapons included are Unarmed, Single Sword, Broadsword, Rapier & Dagger, Sword & Shield, Smallsword, Quarterstaff, and Knife. This class concludes in a performed scene and fight, adjudicated by an SAFD Fight Master.

SAFD Theatrical Firearms Safety Course

Difficulty: Beginner / Open

Class Length: 14 hr

Course Description: Learn the terminology for the most common types of firearms and ammunition, the protocols for handling these firearms, techniques for gun wrangling on a set or on stage, procedures for cleaning these weapons as well as protocols for handling jamming and other potential firearm malfunctions (which will happen), a brief history of firearms. At the end of the workshop there will be a test with both a written and a practical portion.