

The Illusion of Violence

Combat Acting 103: Basic Quarterstaff

“Safety. Simulation. Storytelling.”

–David McCormick

The Illusion of Violence

- **Safety:** Performer, partner, actors, crew, audience
- **Simulation:** Making it appear **realistic** or **authentic**
- **Storytelling:** Intentions, character, story impact, audience response

Safety Methods

- Distance
- Target
- Timing
- Cooperation

Rehearsal rules

- Maximum **safe** velocity
- Choreograph everything

Warm up

- Jogging
- Jumping
- Joint rotations

Lesson 1: Movement A

- Stance
- Grips
- Footwork
- Cut technique

Lesson 2: Injuries

- Slash-type injuries
- Cut-type injuries
- Thrust injuries
 - shared poke,
 - push to back-fall
 - ground poke

Lesson 3: Slashes A

- Review Horizontal slash with sword
- Long form slashes
- Short form slashes

Lesson 4: Parries *A*

- Review cut technique
- Short form 6 parries

Lesson 5: Corps-a-corps A

- Entering and finishing the classic confrontation
- Binds and safety hazards

Lesson 6: Flourishes A

- Upward cuts
- Downward cuts
- Ending in a guard
- Changing direction

Lesson 7: Preparations *A*

- Beats from fore and butt in short form
- Beats in long form

Lesson 8: Parries B

- Review Parries 1-6
- Long form parries

Lesson 9: Preparations B

- Review Beats
- Bind
- Envelopment

Lesson 10: Flourishes B

- Review of vertical flourishes, volte and turn.
- Horizontal cuts with arms crossed
- One-handed finish

Lesson 11: Movement B

- Review of Movement A
- Full turns

Lesson 12: Slashes B

- Review horizontal slashes
- Diagonal Slashes vs. Thwarts
- Ribbon Cuts

Lesson 13: Disarms

- Disarms by pain
- Disarms by threat
- Disarms by leverage

Lesson 14: Corps-a-corps B

- Review Corps-a-corps A
- Choke
- Trip

Choreography and Rehearsal

FDC Examination

- A scene with dialogue from a published play (3 minutes maximum)
- A fight in which both sides can display a variety of techniques from each lesson
- Performed at full performance speed as if in a professional play.
- A written test to show understanding of terminology and theory.



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