

Bess Kaye

Fight and Intimacy Director

she/her

thebesskayescenario@gmail.com
thebesskayescenario.com

757-375-7871

Regional Credits

Intimacy: *Les Miserable*, Syracuse Stage, Dir. Robert Hupp, 2026

Intimacy and Movement: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Shakespeare Theater Company, Dir. Simon Godwin, 2026

Fights and Intimacy: *Romeo & Juliet*, Devil's Isle Shakespeare Company, Dir. Séamus Miller, 2026

Fights and Intimacy: *Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*, Olney Theatre Center, Dir. Eleanor Holdridge, 2026

Fights and Intimacy: *Romeo and Juliet*, Chesapeake Shakespeare Company, Dir. Séamus Miller, 2026

Fights and Intimacy: *Two Gentleman of Killarney*, Avant Bard, Dir. Séamus Miller, 2026

Fights: *Caesar and Cleopatra*, Washington Stage Guild, Dir. Bill Largess, 2026

Fights, Intimacy, Theatrical Firearms, Blood Design: *Cake Eaters*, The Welders, Dir. Seth Rosenke, 2026

Intimacy: *Guys and Dolls*, Shakespeare Theater Company, Dir. Francesca Zambello, 2025

Fights and Blood Design: *Fire Work*, Theater Alliance, Dir. Shanara, 2025

Fights and Intimacy: *Macbeth*, Chesapeake Shakespeare Co., Dir. Katie Keddell, 2024

Fights and Intimacy: *Classics 101*, Chelsea Lane Theater, Dir. Charles Barnett, Andrew Mitakides, 2024

Intimacy and Movement: *The Tempest*, Devil's Isle Shakespeare Co., Dir. Séamus Miller, 2024 and 2025

Fights and Gore Design, Intimacy: *American Psycho*, Monumental Theatre Company, Dir. Micheal Windsor, 2024

Fights and Intimacy: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Chesapeake Shakespeare Company, Dir. Séamus Miller, 2024

Intimacy Coordinator: *Homeless Garden*, Avant Bard, Dir. Kathleen Ackerly, 2024

Fights: *An Unbuilt Life*, Washington Stage Guild, Dir. Stephen Carpenter, 2024

Fights and Intimacy: *Coriolanus*, Avant Bard, Dir. Séamus Miller, 2024

Fights: *Victorian Ladies Detective Collective*, Washington Stage Guild, Dir. Morgan Duncan, 2024

Fights and Intimacy: *As You Like It*, Devil's Isle Shakespeare, Dir. Séamus Miller, 2024

Fights: *Monstress*, Flying V, Dir. Kelly Colburn, 2023

Fights and Intimacy: *Only Love: A Fresh Cut of Romeo & Juliet*; DC Capital Fringe Festival, Dir. Madeleine Smith 2023

Intimacy: *Big Fish*; CF Theater Company, dir. Amanda Herman 2023

Fights and Intimacy: *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare Abridged (Revised) (Again)*; Chesapeake Shakespeare Company, Dir. Ian Gallanar 2023

Assistant Fight Choreographer: *Lear*; The Shakespeare Theater, Dir. Simon Godwin 2023

Assistant Fight Choreographer: *Henry V*, Chesapeake Shakespeare Company, Dir. Alec Wild 2022

Fights: *Romeo and Juliet*; Chesapeake Shakespeare Company, Dir. Séamus Miller 2020

Fights: *Macbeth*; Chesapeake Shakespeare Company, Dir. Ian Gallanar. 2020

Fights: *Be More Chill*; Monumental Theater, Dir. Izzy Smelkinson 2019

Fights: *Macbeth*; Chesapeake Shakespeare Company, Dir. Séamus Miller 2019

Educational Credits

University Productions

Catholic University BA Program:

Fight and Intimacy: *The Rivals*, Dir. Eleanor Holdridge, 2025

Fights and Intimacy: *John Proctor is the Villian*, Dir. Megan Behm, 2024

STC Academy MFA Program:

Intimacy: *Twelfth Night*, Dir. Jess Chayes, 2026

Intimacy: *MacBeth*, Dir. Alec Wild, 2026

Fights and Intimacy: *The Rover*, Dir. Eleanor Holdridge, 2024

Intimacy: *Romeo and Juliet*, Dir. Alec Wild, 2024

Fights and Intimacy: *The Odyssey*, Dir. Alec Wild, 2024

Fights and Intimacy: *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, Dir. Danny Crane, 2023

Fights and Intimacy: *Cymbeline*, Dir. Alec Wild, 2023

Fights and Intimacy: *Pericles*, STC's Academy, Dir. Greg Strasser, 2022

Fights: *Hamlet*; STC's Academy, Dir. Dan Crane, 2018

High School Productions*

Fights and Intimacy: *Twelfth Night*, West Potomac, Dir. Omar Cruz, 2025

Fights: *Les Miserable*, Yorktown High School, Dir. Alani Kravitz, 2024

Fights: *Les Miserable*, Episcopal High School, Dir. Michael Windsor 2024

Fights and Intimacy: *The Curious Case of the Dog in the Nighttime*, West Potomac, Dir. Omar Cruz, 2024

Fights: *The Play that Goes Wrong*, Yorktown High School, Dir. Alani Kravitz, 2023

Fights and Intimacy: *Carrie*, West Potomac High School, Dir. Omar Cruz, 2023

Fights: *The Lightning Thief*, South County High School, Dir. Molly Rumberger 2023

Fights and Intimacy: *Legally Blonde*, West Potomac High School, Dir. Omar Cruz 2023

Fights and Intimacy: *Dracula*, Lake Braddock High School, Dir. RL Mirabel 2023

Fights: *The Play that Goes Wrong*, Robinson Secondary School, Dir. Megan Thrift 2022

Fights and Intimacy: *She Kills Monsters*, South County High School, Dir. Molly Rumberger 2022

Fights: *Be More Chill*, West Potomac High School, Dir. Peelee Clark. 2022

Fights: *Night of the Living Dead*, dir. Peelee Clark 2021

* all productions involving minors adhere to proper intimacy for young actors best practices

Society of American Fight Directors
SAFD Certified Teacher, 2026

Skills Proficiency Courses

Single Sword SPT, Flying V, 2026

Regional Workshops

Instructor:

Scenic City Slam, Chattanooga, TN 2026
Classes: TBA

Mid-Atlantic Melee, Columbia, MD 2024
Classes: Unarmed, Rapier & Dagger, Shakespeare's Deaths

Associate Instructor:

Scenic City Slam, Chattanooga, TN 2025
Classes: Basic Unarmed, Advanced Rapier & Dagger

Mid-Atlantic Melee, Columbia, MD 2024
Classes: Basic Knife, Basic Single Sword

Brawl of America, Minneapolis, MN 2024
Class: Advanced Rapier & Dagger

Tourist Trap, 2024
Classes: Advanced Single Sword, Basic Unarmed/Intimacy

Production Assistant:

The Lonestar Smash, Dallas, TX 2022

Fight Director for Fairfax County Public Schools: *Institute for the Arts, Stage Combat Instructor 2021-2023*

Taught classes of 12 to 16 high school aged students in 3 levels of combat: Unarmed, Two-Handed Sword, Rapier & Dagger with a focus on safety and story leading to performance over summer semester.

STC's Academy: *Assistant Stage Combat Instructor, Intimacy Director 2018-present*

Assist teaching required moves for Unarmed, Rapier and Dagger, and Two-Handed Sword as dictated by the SAFD working towards final adjudication for class of 17 to 24 students over an academic year. Facilitate consent-forward conversations among each cohort and choreograph intimacy for in-class scene work.

Noble Blades: *Certified Teacher, Senior Company Member, Guest Instructor 2018-present*
Instructed Master Classes: Unarmed, Sword and Shield, Two-handed sword, Single Sword, Theatrical Intimacy.

Training

Society of American Fight Directors: Advanced Actor Combatant

Recommended Pass: Rapier & Dagger (2024), Two-Handed Sword (2024), Unarmed (2024), Staff (2023), Knife (2023), Sword and Shield (2023), Single Sword (2022), Small Sword (2023)

Certified in Theatrical Firearms Safety 2026

Intimacy Directors and Coordinators: Consent Forward Artist Certified

IDC Training: Judi Lewis Ockler, Cessa Betancourt, Jenny Male, Ashley White, Dan Granke

Stage Combat Training: Robb Hunter, Casey Caleba, Jon Rubin, Alan Suddeth, Jenny Male, Adam Noble, Ashley White

Fight Choreography Training: Tonya Lynn, Lisa Po Kopitsky, Jon Rubin, Lewis Shaw, J David Brimmer, Robb Hunter

MFA Classical Acting, STC's Academy at The George Washington University, 2018

BA Theatre Arts, College of William and Mary, 2009

References Available