

Bess Kaye

Fight and Intimacy Director
thebesskayescenario.com

Regional Credits

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

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

Intimacy: *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*, Victorian Lyric Opera Company, Dir. Brianna Galligan

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

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

Educational Credits

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: *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

*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 Lightening 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 best practices

SAFD Regional Workshops

Associate Instructor:

Scenic City Slam, Chattanooga, TN 2025

Classes: TBD

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: Advances 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: *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 2021

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

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

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

BA Theatre Arts, College of William and Mary, 2009

References Available