



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Thrilling Sport of Fencing Coming Soon to Downtown Hollywood

HOLLYWOOD, FL – September 17, 2009 – The thrilling sport of fencing will soon be introduced in Downtown Hollywood with the opening of the Hollywood Sabre Fencing Academy.

Bulgarian fencing champion Boris Iordanov, president of the nonprofit Hollywood Sabre, will open his academy at 2000 Harrison Street, Bays 6 & 7 on October 1st. Iordanov signed a lease for the 2,500-square-foot space with the property owner, Seattle Properties, LLC, on August 8th.

Hollywood Sabre Fencing Academy will offer beginner to advanced-level sabre and foil classes for adults and children ages 8 and older. Coaches will include Iordanov, who placed third and fifth in the European and World championships, respectively; and his stepmother, Antoaneta Spassova, a Bulgarian National Foil Champion and three-time gold medalist in the Balkan Championships.

Iordanov, whose father Edmond is a fencing champion and former secretary of the Bulgarian Fencing Federation, took up fencing at the age of 9. "I grew up with the sport at a time when Bulgaria was leading," Iordanov said. "It's a very big sport in Europe."

Fencing also has been enjoying increasing popularity in the U.S. in recent years. Iordanov hopes to introduce the Hollywood community to the sport of fencing through after-school programs and demonstrations at local schools. He points out that many Ivy League colleges have fencing teams and offer scholarships for the sport.

"It's getting very big," Iordanov said. "There are many more clubs than there were just 10 years ago. And you regularly have American fencers in the top three in world tournaments."

Fencing is an extremely athletic sport characterized by movements that are so fast, the touches are scored electrically. In addition to strength, speed and quick reflexes, fencing requires deep concentration and mental strategies.

"You're really in combat with an opponent. That's part of the thrill of the sport," Iordanov said. "Once people are hooked on the sport, they never leave."

As a resident of Hollywood, he didn't have to look very far to find the ideal location for his new fencing academy in the Historic Downtown District. "I wanted a place where people would like to come, where people would like to bring their kids, in an environment with nice surroundings," Iordanov said. He continued, "Also, the location of the school is conveniently located within steps of the municipal garage which offers two free hours of parking."

Hollywood Sabre Fencing Academy will offer \$15 classes on weekdays from 4:30 to 6 p.m. for children ages 8 to 14 and from 6:30 to 8 p.m. for ages 15 and older. The facility also will be open from 2 to 5 p.m. Saturdays for individual exercise and training.

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Hollywood Sabre Fencing Academy

For additional information, call 954-966-1240, visit www.ilovfencing.com or email hollywoodsabre@gmail.com.

For more information on Downtown Hollywood businesses or events, call 954-921-3016 or visit www.downtownhollywood.com.

The Hollywood Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) was created under the authority of Florida's Community Redevelopment Act of 1969. The CRA's mission is to encourage economic development through the use of tax increment financing by funding development, special projects and enhanced services that address areas of community concern. The Downtown District was established in 1979 to promote Hollywood's central business district including Historic Hollywood Boulevard, Young Circle and nearby residential neighborhoods. The Downtown District is approximately 580 acres and extends from 22nd Avenue on the west to generally 17th Avenue on the east, Johnson Street on the north and Washington Street on the south.

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