

VISS

VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL SWORDPLAY SYMPOSIUM

February 11–13, 2011
Vancouver, BC, Canada

Program Guide

PRESENTED BY



academie duello
CENTRE FOR SWORDPLAY

412 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, BC
VancouverSwordplay.com | 604-568-9907

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Welcome to VISS

On behalf of Academie Duello, I'd like to welcome you to the first ever Vancouver International Swordplay Symposium and to thank you for joining us for this very special event. We hope that this weekend will give you the opportunity to explore new realms of swordplay, make connections with like-minded people, and deepen your connection with Historical European Swordplay and Martial Arts.

Bringing together the Western Martial Arts community was one of the goals of our event, but more particularly, we wanted to invite that community here to Vancouver—to introduce it to our school and students and to introduce our students to the broader world of passionate practitioners, researchers and teachers.

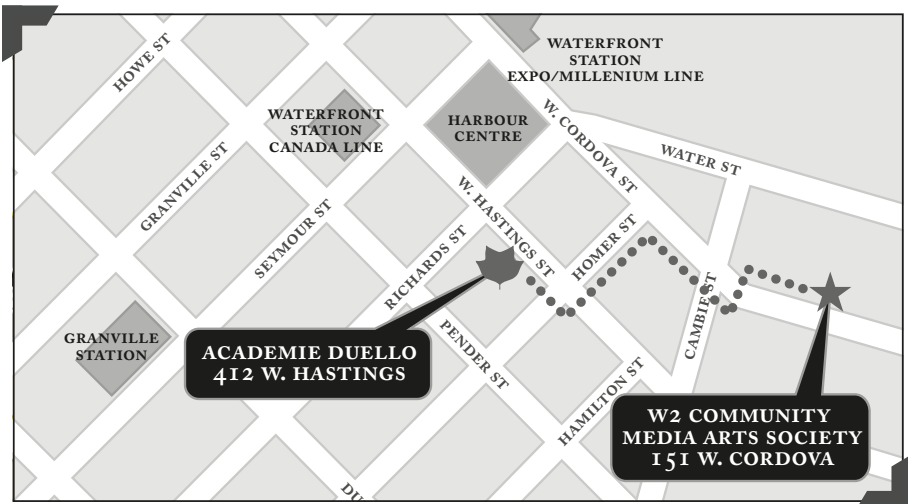
This event has been a long time in development and a few special acknowledgements must be made. The first thank you goes to all of our board members and volunteers. This has been a massive volunteer effort and could not have been accomplished without such a dedicated team! Second, thank you to Greg Mele and Nicole Allen who provided us with

valuable advice from their time and experience organizing WMAW in Illinois. Third, our friends from Academia Della Spada, in Seattle, deserve thanks for inspiring and encouraging us with their event, 4W, which they have run superbly for many years. Thank you also to our generous sponsors VanCity, W2 Community Media Arts, Premium Springs Water Company, R&B Brewing and Firefly Fine Wines and Ales, Michael Loades, Blue Gauntlet as well as Watson Gloves who have made this event financially possible through their contributions and prize donations.

Last but not least, thank you all for coming here to Vancouver, whether you're from down the block or have travelled a great distance. We look forward to shaking hands, crossing blades, and raising a glass with you.

The VISS board and I wish you a terrific time this weekend.

Devon Boorman
*Chair, Vancouver International
Swordplay Symposium*



TIMETABLE

Thursday

12:00	Registration and Informal Meet & Greet
21:00	

Friday

8:00	Warm-Up/Announcements				
9:00	FOCUS BLOCK ONE	INTENSIVE AM1) The Art of Fiore dei Liberi, Father of Italian Martial Arts <i>Guy Windsor</i>	INTENSIVE AM2) The Art of Achille Marozzo, 16th Century Italian Fencing Master <i>Tom Leoni</i>	INTENSIVE AM3) The Tradition of Johannes Liechtenauer, 14th Century Master at Arms <i>Christian Tobler</i>	From Science to Violence: Eittenhard Describes Pacheco's Sidesword System <i>Puck Curtis & Eric Meyers</i>
10:00					
11:00					
12:00					
13:00	Lunch Break/Welcme Ceremony/Free Sparring				
14:00					
15:00	FOCUS BLOCK TWO	INTENSIVE PM1) Measure, Control, and Time: Close-Quarters Combat <i>Sean Hayes</i>	INTENSIVE PM2) Applied Combatives: Taking your Full-Speed Combat to the Next Level <i>Guy Windsor lead</i>	Messerfechten from the Glasgow Fechtbuch <i>Christian Tobler</i>	Fiore vs Modern Knife <i>Devon Boorman</i> 14:30–16:00
16:00					
17:00					Down You Go: Two Ubiquitous Throws of Armizare <i>Greg Mele</i> 16:30–18:00
18:00	Dinner Break				
19:00	Meet and Greet at Academie Duello				
21:00	EVENTS	Tournament Qualifying Round			Open to All!
22:00					



Saturday

8:00 Warm-Up/Announcements						LECTURES
9:00	FOCUS BLOCK ONE	INTENSIVE AM1) The Art of Fiore dei Liberi, Father of Italian Martial Arts <i>Guy Windsor</i>	INTENSIVE AM2) The Art of Achille Marozzo, 16th Century Italian Fencing Master <i>Tom Leoni</i>	INTENSIVE AM3) The Tradition of Johannes Liechtenauer, 14th-Century Master at Arms <i>Christian Tobler</i>	Crossing and Constraint: Rediscovering the Principles of Italian Rapier <i>Devon Boorman</i>	Swords and scabbards in medieval Arthurian literature <i>Dr. Sian Echard, University of British Columbia Department of English 11:00–11:45</i>
11:00						
12:00						
13:00	Lunch Break/Free Sparring					Panel: Bringing History to Life <i>Christian Tobler, Eric Myers, Puck Curtis, and Greg Mele 13:30–14:30</i>
14:00						
15:00	FOCUS BLOCK TWO	INTENSIVE PM1) Measure, Control, and Time in the System of Armizare <i>Greg Mele</i>	INTENSIVE PM2) Applied Combatives: Taking your Full-Speed Combat to the Next Level <i>Devon Boorman lead</i>	Developing and Employing Solo & Paired Drills for Skill Development <i>Sean Hayes</i>	Montante: The Iberian Two-Handed Sword <i>Eric Myers</i>	Swords in Elizabethan Theatre <i>Dr. Patricia Badir, University of British Columbia Department of English 15:00–15:45</i>
16:00						A Timeline of Liechtenauer's Manuscripts <i>Christian Tobler, Selohaar Fechtschule 16:00–17:00</i>
17:00						
18:00	Dinner Break - Academie Duello closed to the public for set-up					
19:00						
20:00	EVENTS	Gala and Tournament finals at Academie Duello				
21:00						
22:00						
23:00						

Sunday

8:00 Warm-Up/Announcements						LECTURES
9:00	FOCUS BLOCK ONE	INTENSIVE AM1) The Art of Fiore dei Liberi, Father of Italian Martial Arts <i>Guy Windsor</i>	INTENSIVE AM2) The Art of Achille Marozzo, 16th Century Italian Fencing Master <i>Tom Leoni</i>	INTENSIVE AM3) The Tradition of Johannes Liechtenauer, 14th Century Master at Arms <i>Christian Tobler</i>	The Illusion of Violence: Stage Combat for Martial Artists <i>David McCormick 09:00–11:00</i>	Writing and Recording Stage Combat Choreography <i>David McCormick, Academie Duello 11:30–12:30</i>
11:00						
12:00						
13:00	Lunch Break/Free Sparring					Panel: Swords in Modern Fiction <i>Neal Stephenson and CC Humphreys 13:30–14:30</i>
14:00						
15:00	FOCUS BLOCK TWO	INTENSIVE PM1) Measure, Control, and Time: The Spanish Tradition Unleashed <i>Eric and Puck</i>	INTENSIVE PM2) Applied Combatives: Taking your Full-Speed Combat to the Next Level <i>Sean Hayes lead</i>	Ponderous, Cruel and Mortal: Dei Liberi's System of Axe Play <i>Greg Mele</i>	Italian Rapier and Dagger <i>Tom Leoni</i>	
16:00						
17:00						
18:00	Break					
18:30	Closing Ceremonies					
19:00						

Tournament

Friday night, 19:30–21:30

Finals at the Gala

Everyone attending VISS is eligible to sign up for the three VISS tournaments: Longsword, Sidesword (Cut and Thrust), and Rapier. VISS registrants will be given the option of signing up for any (or all) of the tournaments when they sign in, but last-minute sign-ups will be permitted right up to 19:00 Friday. The tournaments themselves will start at 19:30 and run in successive half-hour blocks: Longsword first, then Sidesword, ending with Rapier. There will be fifteen minutes between each tournament for participants to gear up and get ready for the next round.

The finals will be held at the VISS Gala on Saturday night.

Prizes

In addition to prizes for the top fighters in each of the tournaments, there will be two vote-based prizes. The coveted Judges' Award will go to the fighter who VISS instructors think showed the best form under duress. For the Accolade award, every VISS participant who shows up to the qualifiers on Friday will get to vote for their favourite fighter of the evening using any criteria they feel appropriate, be it coolest moves, slickest gear, or nicest guy.

Registration

VISS attendees can register for the tournament at Registration when they sign in for the weekend on Thursday or Friday. Anyone who can't make up their mind will have until 19:00 Friday to register in person at the registration desk at Academie Duello. Entry for ALL tournaments closes at 19:00.

All participants are reminded that the W2 space will be closed from 18:30 on, so all sparring equipment must be moved to Academie Duello prior to 18:30.

Gala

Saturday 20:00 till late.

Come and join us for a night of food, fighting and frivolity! You'll see dazzling demonstrations by the VISS instructors as well as our illustrious Performance Team, and you'll cheer on the finalists in the exciting conclusion to the VISS Tournament. This will be a chance to rub elbows with some of the most respected names in swordfighting from around the world!

To top it all off, we are pleased to welcome Lache Cercel and the Roma Swing Ensemble and their amazing blend of Eastern European jazz! Dance the night away then get up again the next morning for more swordfighting!



LECTURES

Code Duello: The Nature of the Duel from the Sixteenth through Nineteenth Centuries

Cecil Longino, Academia della Spada

Saturday 12:00–13:00 A review of the nature of the duel and what has changed since the sixteenth century.

Bringing History to Life: Turning Pictures and Texts into Living Martial Arts

Christian Tobler, Eric Myers, Greg Mele, Puck Curtis, and others

Saturday 13:30–14:30 Discussing the challenges of adapting/creating martial arts from written sources.

“Is This a Dagger Which I See Before Me?” – Weapons of the Shakespearean Stage

Dr. Patricia Badir, University of British Columbia Department of English

Saturday 15:00–15:45 Examining the use of swords as props in plays by Shakespeare and his contemporaries.

A Timeline of Liechtenauer’s Manuscripts

Christian Tobler, Selohaar Fechtsschule

Saturday 16:00–17:00 A look at the development of Liechtenauer’s style by examining the manuscripts left to us by his successors.

Writing and Recording Stage Combat Choreography

David McCormick, Academie Duello

Sunday 11:30–12:30 Lesson on how to come up with exciting fight scenes, keep them fresh in your mind, and then to record your choreography clearly and effectively.





Swords in Modern Fiction

Neal Stephenson and CC Humphreys

Sunday 13:30–14:30 Two highly-regarded authors discuss the role of swords and swordplay in books and literature.







WORKSHOPS

-  Workshop Time
-  Experience Level
-  Prerequisites
-  Required Equipment

From Science to Violence: Ettenhard Describes Pacheco's Sidesword System





*Puck Curtis & Eric Myers, Sacramento
Sword School/Tattershall School of Defense*

-  Friday 09:00–13:00
-  Beginner to Intermediate
-  No Prerequisites
-  Mask, gloves, and sidesword. Padded jacket is recommended, but optional.

A survey of the Pacheco's Destreza as described by Ettenhard. Beginning with simple geometry and moving on to focus on the guard, simple attacks, footwork, distance, defense, and actions on the blade.

Fiore vs Modern Knife





Devon Boorman, Academie Duello

-  Friday 14:30–16:00
-  All Experience Levels
-  No Prerequisites
-  Modern knife trainer (rubber or plastic, not metal) and fencing mask. Gorget recommended, but optional.

Explore how to apply the principals and techniques of Armizare to a modern knife, covering applicable postures vs modern knives, maintaining control of the knife, conducting safe disarms, and knife vs knife.

Messerfechten from the Glasgow Fechtbuch





Christian Tobler, Selohaar Fechtschule

-  Friday 15:00–18:00
-  Intermediate
-  No Prerequisites
-  Mask, gloves, messer or arming sword

Covering all 11 German messer defence techniques for every type of basic attack.

Down You Go: Two Ubiquitous Throws of Armizare





Greg Mele, Chicago Swordplay Guild

-  Friday 16:30–18:00
-  All Experience Levels
-  A working knowledge of Armizare, comfort with falling.
-  Mask, sturdy gloves, dagger and longsword trainer. A spear, staff or poleaxe is recommended, but optional.

Focusing on just two of the basic throws of Armizare, you will learn the “rear leg takedown” and the “collar throw”, and their application using the dagger, sword and polearms.

Crossing and Constraint: Rediscovering the Principals of Italian Rapier





Devon Boorman, Academie Duello

-  Saturday 09:00–13:00
-  Beginner and Intermediate
-  No Prerequisites
-  Practical rapier and fencing mask. Gorget and gloves recommended, but optional.

Covering the general mechanics, strategies, and theory of such Masters as Ridolfo Capo Ferro, Nicoletto Giganti, and Salvatore Fabris. Topics will include the body mechanics of strength and speed, control and constraint of the sword, timing and fundamental strategy.

Developing and Employing Solo & Paired Drills for Skill Development





Sean Hayes, Northwest Fencing Academy

-  Saturday 15:00–18:00
-  All Experience Levels; Moderate to High Intensity
-  A working knowledge of the two-handed sword
-  Mask, sturdy gloves, longsword.

Demonstration of a 24-step solo drill, of which you will learn the first 14 steps, as well as how to create well-designed drills for yourself and your students in order to maximize their training benefit.

Montante: The Iberian Two-Handed Sword





Eric Myers, Sacramento Sword School/
Tattershall School of Defense

-  Saturday 15:00–18:00
-  Beginner to Intermediate
-  No Prerequisites
-  Montante or spadone trainer

A sampling of the works of several different Spanish and Portuguese masters with special attention to the *Memorial of the Practice of the Montante* by Gomes de Figueiredo. Focus on basic skill-building plays and tactical plays designed to address situations such as defending a person or place, or confrontations in streets or in narrow passageways.

The Illusion of Violence: Stage Combat for Martial Artists





David McCormick, Academie Duello

-  Sunday 09:00–11:00
-  Intermediate
-  None, but a general knowledge of any historical sword is desired
-  Weapon of your choice

Geared especially to those who already have a grasp of historical swordplay, you will learn the fundamentals of stage combat, taking into consideration safety, speed, believability and intensity.

The Movement of Conclusion: Spanish Hilt Grappling





Puck Curtis & Eric Myers, Sacramento
Sword School/Tattershall School of Defense

-  Sunday 11:30–13:00
-  Beginner to Intermediate
-  No Prerequisites
-  Mask, gloves, and a sword that can be held in one hand. Padded jacket is recommended, but optional.

Examine hilt grappling as the Movement of Conclusion from both the adversary's and the swordsman's advantage, as well as from each of the general blade actions described by Pacheco.

Ponderous, Cruel and Mortal: Dei Liberi's System of Axe Play





Greg Mele, Chicago Swordplay Guild

-  Sunday 15:00–18:00
-  Intermediate
-  None, but a general knowledge of sword and abrazare is desired
-  Mask, sturdy gloves, poleaxe and dagger trainer

You will learn the fundamental actions of axeplay and follow certain, core actions of sword and spear play: the *colpo di villano*, *scambiar di punta*, *rompere di punta* and the *punta falsa*, adapted for the axe.

Italian Rapier and Dagger

Tom Leoni, Order of the Seven Hearts


-  Sunday 15:00–18:00
-  None, but some familiarity with Italian rapier and rapier terminology strongly recommended.
-  No Prerequisites
-  Practical rapier, dagger, gloves, mask

Employ a companion weapon with the rapier, including: the main guard, four lunges, four parries, openings, lines, feints, how to provoke the opponen and how to defeat them as they attack.

INTENSIVES


The Art of Fiore dei Liberi

Guy Windsor, The School of European Swordsmanship

 Friday, Saturday, Sunday from 09:00–13:00 (12 hours total)

 All Experience Levels


 No Prerequisites


 Practical longsword, practical dagger, mask

Armizare, dagger, and longsword material of Fiore's treatise, as well as the basics of his spear and poleaxe techniques. From basic strikes to understanding the tactical applications of the art.


The Art of Achille Marozzo

Tom Leoni, Order of the Seven Hearts

 Friday, Saturday, Sunday from 09:00–13:00 (12 hours total)

 All Experience Levels


 No Prerequisites


 Single-handed sword (Rapier OK), Buckler (12" max), two-handed sword or waster (longsword OK), Polearm or quarterstaff

A system-wide look at Marozzo's method, focusing on polearms, the sword alone, the sword with a buckler, Italian greatsword, and/or spadone.


The Art of Johannes Liechtenauer

Christian Tobler, Selohaar Fechtschule

 Friday, Saturday, Sunday from 09:00–13:00 (12 hours total)

 All Experience Levels

 No Prerequisites

 Practical longsword, one-handed sword, buckler, polearm


A systematic approach to Liechtenauer's longsword, sword and buckler, and poleaxe.


Measure, Control and Time

Sean Hayes (Day 1), Greg Mele (Day 2), Eric Meyers and Puck Curtis (Day 3)

 Friday, Saturday, Sunday 15:00–18:00 (12 hours total)

 Intermediate

 A basic working knowledge of dagger and grappling is preferred, but new people are welcome.

 Mask, gorget, training dagger, two-handed sword (to allow for close play at the sword). Wrestling jacket is recommended, but optional. No sharps allowed.


A series of techniques in Close Quarters Combat (Day 1), Armizare (Day 2), and Destreza (Day 3). Days 1 and 2 will focus on using initiative, tempo and measure to control the encounter and will employ scenarios of immediate self-defense and close-quarters combat with and without weapons; while Day 3 will apply the Spanish method of distance and time to a variety of different weapons, and moving onto examining geometry, physics, and bladework as offensive measures.

Applied Combatives:


Taking your Full-Speed Combat to the Next Level

Guy Windsor (Day 1), Devon Boorman (Day 2), Sean Hayes (Day 3)

 Friday, Saturday, Sunday 15:00–18:00 (12 hours total)

 All Experience Levels

 Sparring Experience is Required

 Weapon of choice, plus appropriate safety gear for that weapon

Combat coaching in every weapon used at the symposium, consisting of combative drills and guided sparring to improve your speed, form, and overall combat effectiveness.

VISS

would also like to thank

Donation of Prizes

Mike Loades

Blue Gauntlet

Watson Gloves

Guy Windsor

Greg Mele

Catering for the Gala provided by Wild Rice

Lunch catering: Terra Breads, BonChaz
and the Lazy Gourmet

Official VISS Hotel: The Victorian Boutique Hotel

Official Airline: Air Canada

Official VISS t-shirt logo designed by Jordan Bray

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