



Contact: Carissa Edwards  
[info@touchemovie.com](mailto:info@touchemovie.com)  
Telephone: 405.431.0600

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**ON GUARD!  
BLIND FENCING STUDENTS SUBJECT OF A NEW DOCUMENTARY**

OKLAHOMA CITY – January 3, 2012 – Oklahoma documentary producer/director George Adams is turning his passion of Olympic sport fencing into a new documentary. The film, *Touche: A Blind Fencer's Story* follows several Oklahomans with low or no vision, as they learn the sport using swords, blades and sabres.

Adams, who fences regularly at the Oklahoma Sport Fencing club in Edmond, learned about “blind fencing” from a coach in Boston who also teaches the sport to people who have lost their eyesight. One of those students is Catherine Bolton who moved from the east coast to Oklahoma last year. She and Adams literally bumped into each other one afternoon and found they had a mutual interest in fencing.

Ms. Bolton lost her eyesight three years ago to foveal schisis, a disease where patients can develop a macular hole or retinal detachment in the eye. After several surgeries and no change, she came to accept the fact that she was legally blind. As part of her vision rehabilitation, she learned fencing. Adams introduced her to his coaches at the fencing club in Edmond where she is enrolled and has been taking classes.

According to Oklahoma Sport Fencing’s website, they offer classes for low and/or no vision adults. The students are taught all of the same rules and regulations as sighted fencers and at the conclusion of the two-month class, a tournament is held. The class is free and open to any able-bodied low vision or blind adult. They even offer transportation to and from the club, free of charge. The OSF coaches strongly believe that every fencer benefits from the sport. The first class was so successful they already have a waiting list for the next class, which begins on January 10<sup>th</sup>.

Fencing can be a daunting sport for a sighted person yet the abilities needed are extremely important to a person without sight. The sport requires thick protective jackets, masks, gloves and uses weapons of swords and blades. It promotes balance, tactical thinking, exercise and is a fun sport.

Adams, who is also a coach’s aid at the fencing club says they are invited to take part in the first international blind fencing tournament in Boston next June. He plans to follow the fencers with his camera crew, documenting their adventure of overcoming the obstacles and taking on challenges of a life with impaired vision... a story of blind fencers.

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If you would like more information about this topic, or to schedule an interview with George Adams, please call Carissa Edwards at 405.431.0600 or email Carissa at [info@touchemovie.com](mailto:info@touchemovie.com)