

BOB ANDERSON



BOB ANDERSON (1922 - 2012)

Robert James Gilbert Anderson was an English Olympic fencer, (Helsinki in 1952), and a renowned film fight choreographer, with a cinema career that spanned more than 50 years and included films such as *The Princess Bride* (1973), *Highlander* (1986), *The Mask of Zorro* (1998), *The Lord of the Rings* (2001-2003) and *Die Another Day* (2002). He was regarded as the premier choreographer of Hollywood sword-fighting, and during his career he coached many actors in swordsmanship, including Errol Flynn, Sean Connery, Antonio Banderas and Johnny Depp. He also appeared as a stunt double for Darth Vader's lightsaber battles in *Star Wars Episode V: The Empire Strikes Back* and *Star Wars Episode VI: Return of the Jedi*. Anderson joined the Royal Marines and won several combined services titles in the sport of fencing. He served in the Mediterranean during World War II.

Anderson was interviewed at length for the 2009 documentary on cinematic sword-fighting, *Reclaiming the Blade* where he commented, "I never took up the sword, I think the sword took me up." Anderson died on New Year's Day, 2012 in a West Sussex hospital at the age of 89. Shortly before his death he had been working on *The Hobbit*.

