



© Wikimedia

**Her complete name is
Beatrice "Bebe" Maria Vio.**



SIMPL4ALL
Promoting inclusive learning



Co-funded by
the European Union



The main **aim** of the international project **Tools for an Inclusive Learning Mediation: Promoting inclusive learning (SIMPL4ALL)** is to develop a baseline and methodology for a simplified language version. The SIMPL4ALL Language is intended **for all people**. SIMPLE FOR ALL. It is a highly inclusive approach to making information accessible to all people. We hope the SIMPL4ALL tools will help make communication, education, and understanding of the individual and society better.

Layout rules

Main characters are **bolded and colored**.

Difficult words are in **bold**.

A definition follows the difficult word.

Bebe Vio is the most popular Italian wheelchair fencer.

Her complete name is **Beatrice « Bebe » Maria Vio**.

Bebe Vio is a living example of how a terrible misfortune can change into a glorious destiny.



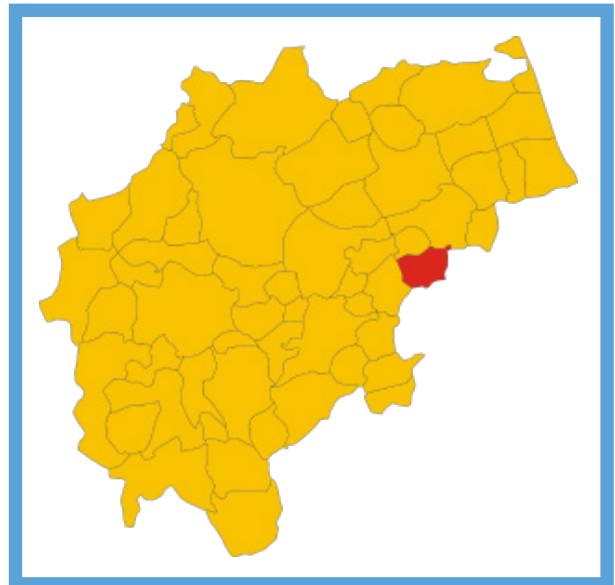
© Wikimedia

Bebe Vio was born in Venice.



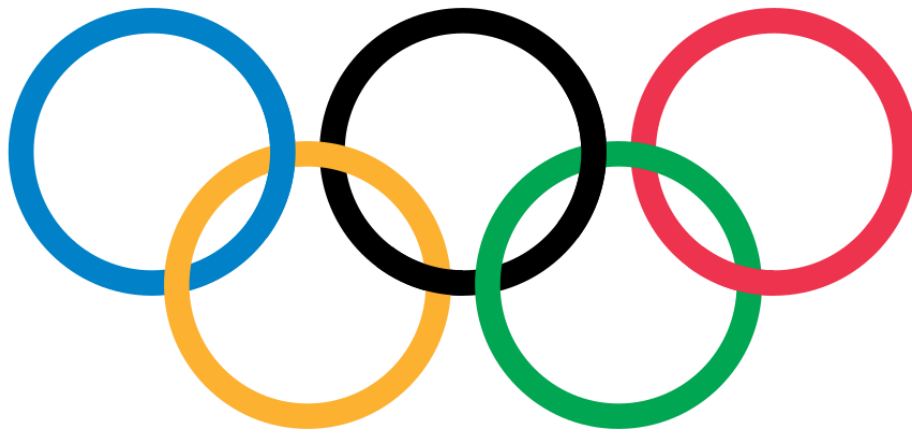
© Wikimedia

Venice is the capital of the Veneto region in Italy. She grew up in **Mogliano Veneto**, a city near Treviso.



© Wikimedia

Bebe Vio won the Gold Medal in the 2016 Paralympic Games.



© Wikimedia

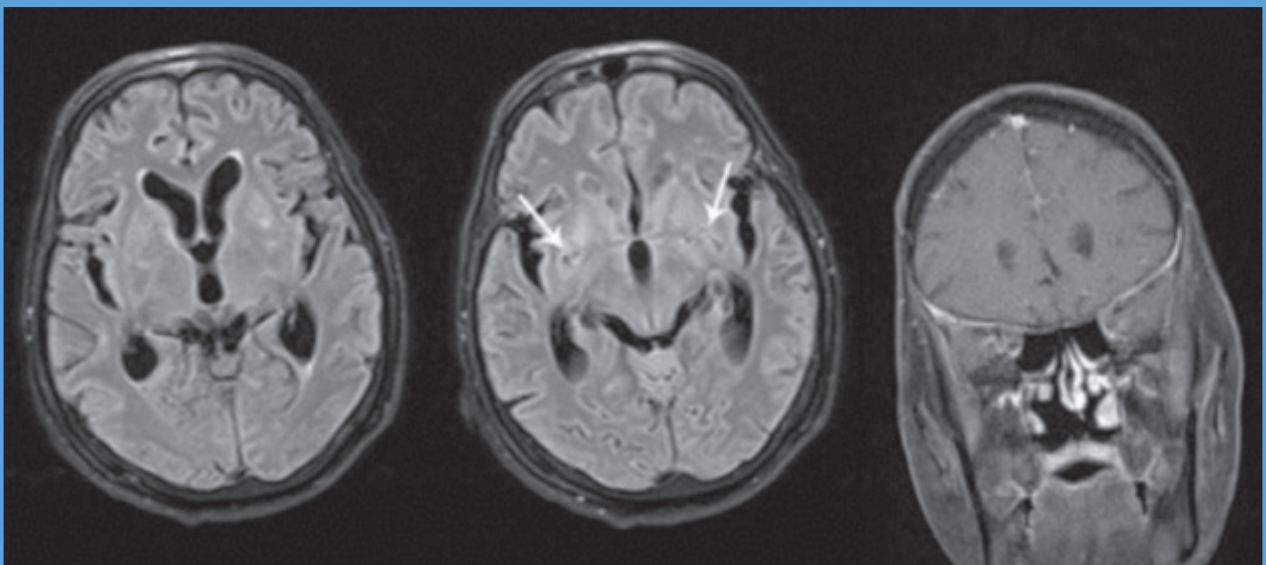
The Olympic Games were in **Rio de Janeiro**.



© Wikimedia

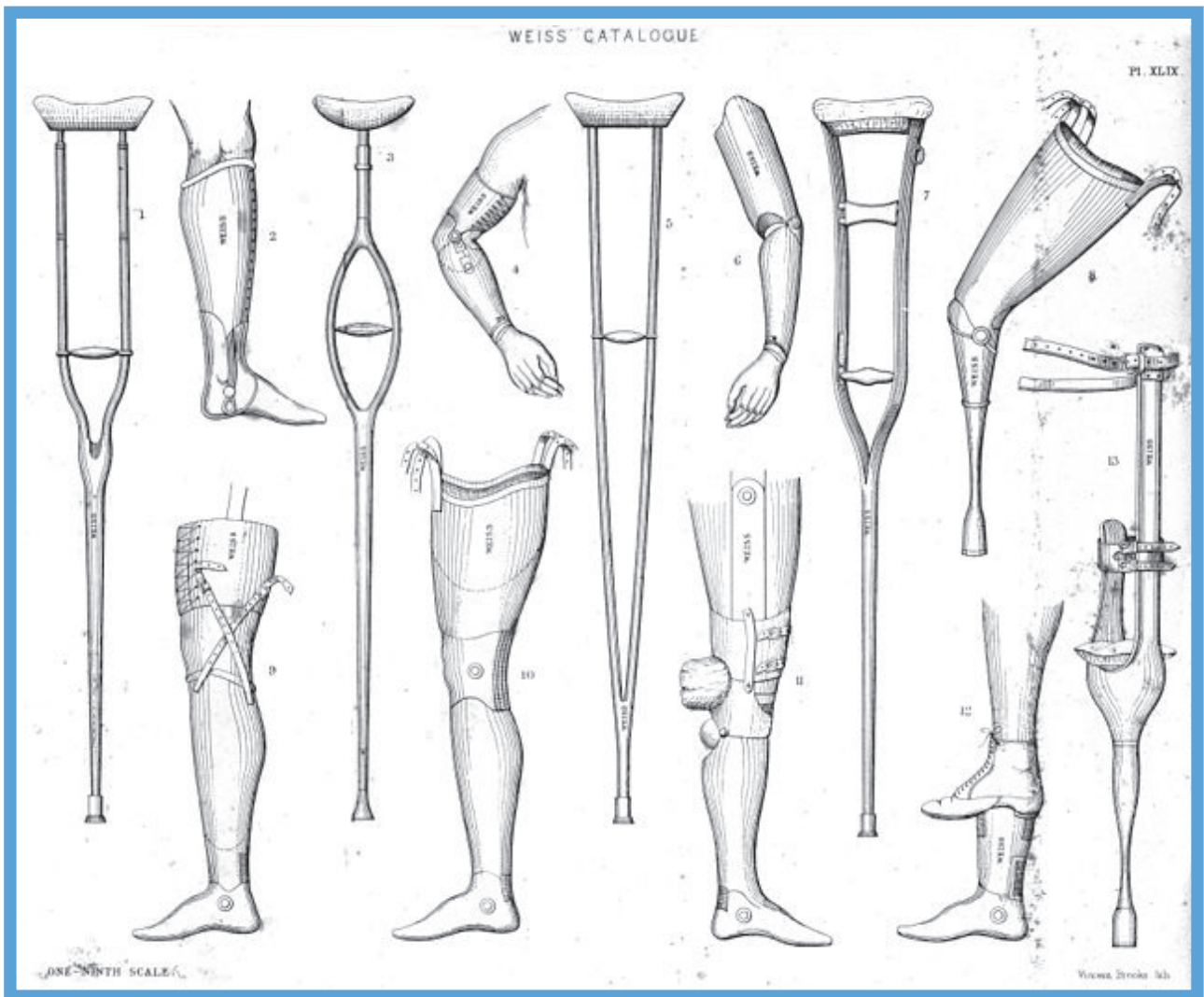
Rio de Janeiro is a city in Brasil, South America.
In Rio de Janeiro **Bebe** won against the Chinese Zhou Jingjing.
The event brought **Bebe** huge media attention.

Bebe is 11 years old when she contracts a severe **meningitis**.
Meningitis is a disease inflaming the brain.
Meningitis can either cause severe disabilities or death itself.



© Wikimedia

Bebe lost her arms and her legs. Several scars marked her face. After months of intense rehabilitation and with the use of a prosthesis specifically designed for her, she was able to go back to fencing.



© Wikimedia

Indeed, **Bebe Vio** has been practising fencing since the age of five.
What is **fencing**?

Fencing is a sport where two people fight with swords.
The aim is to hit the other person with your sword
without them hitting you back.



© Wikimedia

You score points by touching your opponent with your sword.
Fencing is a mix of physical skill, quick thinking, and strategy.
Fencing is a sport that is played at the Olympics.
Fencing includes different types of swords and rules.

After her rehab, **Bebe** wanted to go back practising fencing. The professionals told her about the possibility to fence on a wheelchair.



© Wikimedia

Bebe thought first

“It is stuff for disabled people”

Then she realised she was just extremely ignorant about

- The paralympic world
- Disability in general.

Bebe Vio shows an

- authentic
- undefeated

courage.

Bebe Vio's

- inner strength
- optimism
- spirit of competition

accompanies every moment of her daily life

Bebe Vio has two coaches.

Bebe's coaches are called Federica Berton and Alice Esposito.

Bebe took her first wheelchair fencing competition in 2010.

Bebe is the first athlete in the world to pull fencing with prosthetic arms.

She gained sport awards:

- 20 Italian Championship in 2011
- Double gold at the Strasbourg Europeans of 2014
- Gold 17 World Cup in Warsaw
- Gold in the 2015 World Championships in Eger
- European gold the games of Casale Monferrato in 2016



© Wikimedia

Bebe's sports career has become emblematic.

It is a model for turning a severe impairment into a special gift.

This inspired **Bebe**'s parents to create a non-profit organisation.

The organisation is called "**Art4sport Onlus**".

"Art4sport Onlus"

- promotes sport for amputee young people
- helps their efforts succeed.

On **Art4sport Onlus**' website, it is said:

"Sport as therapy, we believe in it!"

"We help amputees children

- to enjoy the beauty of life
- and to be better integrated into society

through sport."

Today **Bebe** is very engaged in other things than sports. **Bebe** got involved in many campaigns for vaccination against **meningitis**.



© Wikimedia

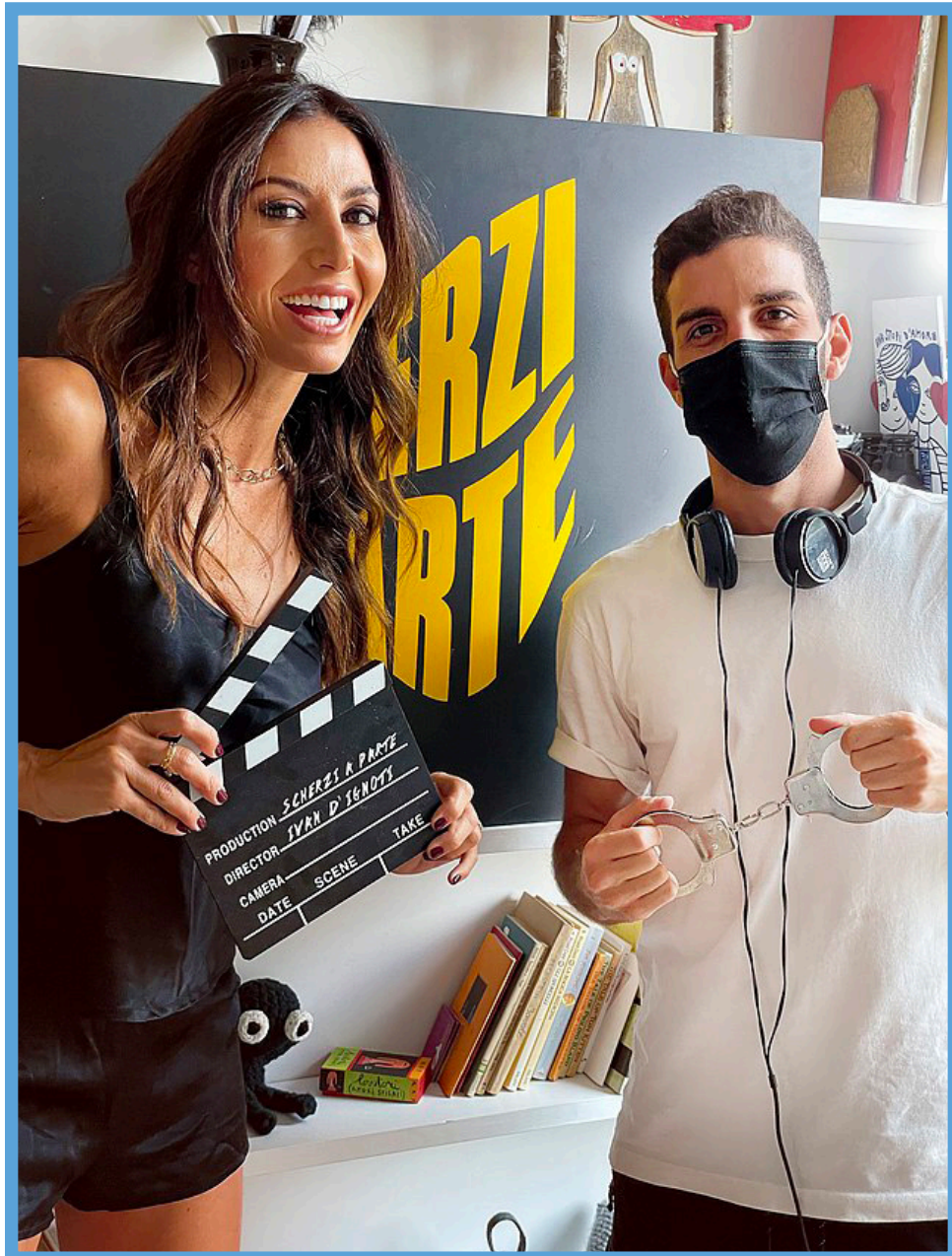
She posed for the Australian photographer called Anne Geddes.

She was a special guest of the Italian government for the last dinner of President Obama at the white house.



© Wikimedia

When she was invited,
Bebe thought she was mocked by “Scherzi a parte”.
“Scherzi a parte” is an Italian TV pranks series.
The audience loves her for her self-irony.



© Wikimedia

Bebe has a beautiful way of thinking about what society thinks about weaknesses.

“Being special means being able to make people understand that your weakness can be one of the things you can be proud of the most”.

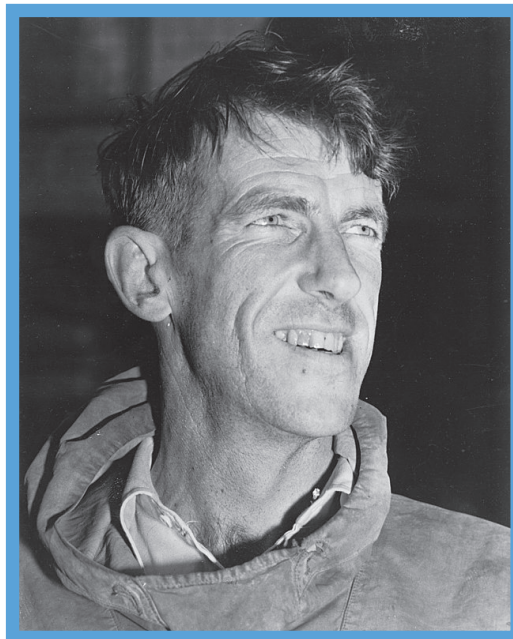
That means that for her everybody must be proud of their weaknesses.

Weaknesses make us unique.

Because weaknesses require everybody to work in harmony with their special needs.

Bebe quotes **Sir Edmund Hillary**:

“It’s not the mountain we conquer, but ourselves”.



© Wikimedia

Edmund Hillary was a famous mountain climber of the 20th century.

Bebe is one of the subjects of the documentary "Phoenix Rising".
"Phoenix Rising" was published on Netflix in 2021.

Bebe is one of the nine paralympics athletes presented
in the documentary.



© Wikimedia

Bebe Vio doesn't let her disability define her.

The example of **Bebe** tells us that our weaknesses can become our strengths.

To reach this aim,

- we have to listen to our desires,
- to our physical and mental capacities,
- and work but remaining self-conscious.

This why **Bebe** is an example of:

- motivation and perseverance
- mobilising resources
- learning through experiences
- vision.

**Find all resources
on the SIMPL4ALL project website:
SIMPL4ALL.EU**



Co-funded by
the European Union

