

Iron Baron



February A.S. LVII

Baronial Officers

Baron - Sir Erik Martel

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Cover Art: A Man Without Knowledge of Fire; A Man Riding a Crocodile; A Centaur; Sanrus, 1277 or after, Unknown artist/maker,

<https://www.getty.edu/art/collection/object/105WRG>

Business meetings are normally held the first Monday of the month at 6:30 via Zoom. The meeting link and any changes to the schedule can be found at the Barony of Iron Mountain Facebook page.

Fighter Practice is held Sundays at Patriot Park. (710 Oak Grove Rd, Homewood, AL 35209) Park at Corky Bell Dance Studio. Start time is dependent on weather and proximity of events. Please check the Facebook page for announcement.

Congratulations!

Vitruvia Drusilla - Sable Axe

Upcoming Events

February 10-12 - Knight's Gambit
Shire of Thorngill

February 10-12 - Black Gryphon
Barony of Thor's Hammer

February 24-26 - Meridian Challenge to Arms
Barony of the Osprey

March 11-19 - Gulf Wars
King's Arrow Ranch, Lumberton, MS

March 31-April 2 - Spring Coronation
Shires of Thorngill and Okebourne Keep

April 6-9 - Fools War
Shire of Tir Briste

Da'ud Bob's Movie Reviews for February 2023

Oh, my word! Won't somebody stop me before I buy again?! Please? Let's face it; I have a problem. The problem with having this particular problem is that, frankly, I'm unwilling to do anything to fix it. As a consequence, I find myself periodically going on-line to Amazon or some DVD store and searching for – and what's worse, finding – new (well, new to me) movies of, or based on, the plays of Shakespeare. And, not content with simply finding them, I purchase them, have them sent to my home, and – alas for you – review them. Is this a problem? Well, probably not for you. However, it means that I end up with such things as: three different versions of *As You Like It*; four versions of *Richard III*; five versions of *King Lear*; ten different productions of *Macbeth* (including one set in modern India and another set in feudal Japan); and no less than twenty different versions of *Hamlet* (including one set in modern India, one set in medieval China, two that look at the action through the eyes of other characters in the play, and one done like a news/interview show). Now, having this many different productions of a play isn't necessarily a bad thing. I know that I see something new every time I watch a different version. But that means that I have to take what I see, new or old, and tell you all about it. And so it is that this month, Da'ud Bob reviews for you the 2015 film of a live performance at the Royal Exchange Theatre in Manchester, England, of **Hamlet**.

They did a little gender-bending in this one, as it stars Maxine Peake as Hamlet, John Shrapnel as Claudius, Barbara Marten as Gertrude, Gillian Bevan as Polonia (yes, not Polonius), Thomas Arnold as Horatio, Ashley Zhangazha as Laertes, Katie West as Ophelia, Claire Benedict as Marcella, Claire Benedict in two roles, as Marcella and the Player King, Michelle Butterly as Margaret and as the first Gravedigger, Peter Singh as Guildenstern, and Jodie McNeen as Rosencrantz and as the second Gravedigger (thus at least five women playing what are usually male roles), the plot is

pretty much the same as every other production of Hamlet: Hamlet's father is dead, Hamlet's uncle is the new king, and the new king has taken Hamlet's mother as his wife. Consumed by grief, Hamlet struggles to exact revenge for his father's murder, with devastating consequences. It being a Shakespearean tragedy, most everybody dies at the end.

Good points: It's Shakespeare's words. And it's almost the full version of the play. (We don't get anything about "Old Norway" or "Young Fortinbras" here, but really, they're pretty much all background stuff anyway.) Especially in the first act, Peake really makes Hamlet's depression and grief palpable. Polonia/Polonius, as usual. The sets were minimal (it was done on what was mostly a bare stage, and in the round), but they made it work well. All in all, it's a better than average production.

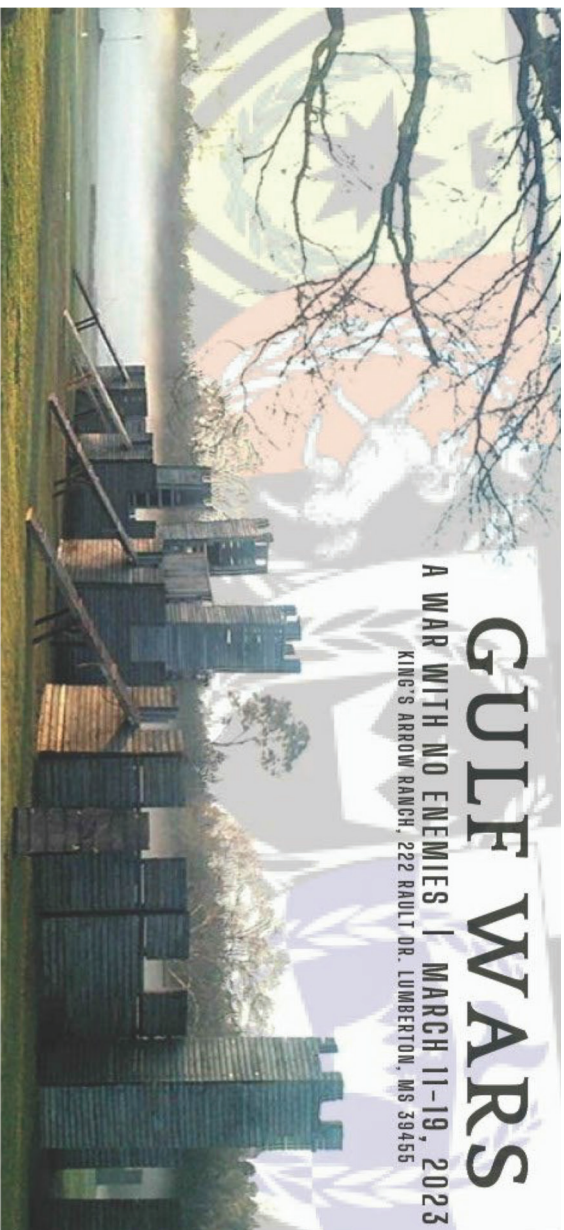
Bad points: Rosenkrantz as a Goth (modern Goth, not medieval Goth) was a little jarring to me. (But then, I'm an old fogey.) There's a little too much yelling in places. It's possible to express deep sorrow and even anger without screaming. At least I thought it was possible. I was a little uncomfortable with Ophelia in her madness stripping down to bra and panties. It did have the effect of making her seem more vulnerable. So maybe it's just me with an issue with this.

Zero breasts. ½ gallon of blood. Five dead bodies. Revolver fu. Sword fu. Poison fu. Hamlet rolls.. Player rolls. Ophelia twirls. Gratuitous poetry. Gratuitous drugs (not ingested). Gratuitous sexual innuendo. Gratuitous heavy metal music. Gratuitous raspberry. Gratuitous rainbow-colored knit cap. Academy Award nomination to Maxine Peake as Hamlet for bringing some new insights into the character. A mere 47 on the Vomit Meter. Three stars. Da'ud Bob says, "It may be 'Just another version' of this classic play, but it will show you Hamlet in ways that you have not seen in other productions. Check it out!"

GULF WARS

A WAR WITH NO ENEMIES | MARCH 11-19, 2023

KING'S ARROW RANCH, 222 RAULT DR. LUMBERTON, MS 39455



SITE OPENS AT 1:00 PM ON SAT, MARCH 11 AND CLOSSES AT 12:00

NOON ON SUN, MARCH 19

AUTOCRAT: MASTER MORGAN DE OSPREY

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RESERVATIONS WILL NOT BE PROCESSED WITHOUT PAYMENT. TO RECEIVE MEMBER PRICING, YOUR MEMBERSHIP MUST BE VALID THROUGH THE START OF THE WAR. CASH ONLY AT THE DOOR. THERE IS NO SEPARATE PRICING FOR DAYTRIP. TRANSFER OF RESERVATIONS ARE NOT ALLOWED.

ALL PRE REGISTRATIONS WILL CLOSE FEBRUARY 26, 2023

FOR ANY QUESTIONS OR ISSUES REGARDING GULF WARS REGISTRATION PLEASE CONTACT THE RESERVATIONIST, MISTRESS JUTTE VONDERBERG, AT RESERVATIONS@GULFWARS.ORG

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Sat-Sun	\$90	\$95	FREE	\$95	\$100
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Wed-Thurs	\$65	\$70	FREE	\$70	\$75
Fri-Sat	\$50	\$55	FREE	\$55	\$60

Online registration information, schedules, and information on attending and participating at the war:

www.gulfwars.org



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