

# IRON BARON



JANUARY A.S. LVIII

# Baronial Officers

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(Brian King) - Chron.IronMtn@meridies.org

Chatelaine - Vacant

Historian - Lady Emma Wyatt

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Minister of Children - Lady Ailith de Steddaham

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Cover Art: Unknown, illuminator

Ostriches, about 1250-1260

Pen-and-ink drawings tinted with body color and translucent washes

Leaf: 21 × 15.7 cm (8 1/4 × 6 3/16 in.)

The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles, Ms. 100, fol. 24v, 2007.16.24v

<https://www.getty.edu/art/collection/object/109B2H>

## Meetings

The Barony of Iron Mountain meets in Room 108 at Valley Christian Church, 2600 Cherokee Place, Mountain Brook, Alabama 35216. Room 108 is best accessed by driving around to the far right side of the building, parking in the back of the church, and entering on the ground floor covered entrance. Meetings are held the first and third Thursdays of the month from 6:30 to 8 pm central. The first Thursday is the Barony's business meeting. The third Thursday is class night.

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.

## *Upcoming Events*

January 6 - The Sovereigns of Misrule  
Barony of Bryn Madoc

January 12-14 - Panhandle Skirmishes  
Shires of Phoenix Glade and Arenal

January 13 - Wing Ding  
Canton of South Reach

January 20 - Menhir  
Shire of Rising Stone

January 27 - Fighters Collegium  
Barony of Iron Mountain and Canton of  
South Reach

## Da'ud Bob's Movie Reviews for January 2024

It can be a lot of fun, reviewing a movie that I would consider to be “Shakespeare-adjacent”; that is, the basics of the overall plot match those of a well-known play by Shakespeare, but the setting, script, outcome(s), and/or placement in time have been changed. Ian McKellan’s Richard III (set in 1930s England) is one example of that, as is Akira Kurosawa’s Throne of Blood (based on Macbeth), set in feudal Japan. I note this because I always find it interesting to see a treatment of one of Shakespeare’s plays from a new perspective. And this month’s movie is definitely from a new perspective; it is one that changes the setting, the script, the outcomes for many of the main characters, and placement in time to the late 20th century. All that notwithstanding, it does pretty much follow the plotline of the Shakespeare play on which it is loosely based, and so I felt that I should review it for you, despite Anna Sue’s naysaying. And so it is that this month, Da’ud Bob reviews for you the 2000 “hip-hop kung fu” movie version of Shakespeare’s Romeo and Juliet, entitled Romeo Must Die.

Starring Jet Li as Han Sing (Romeo), Aaliyah as Trish O’Day (Juliet), Isaiah Washington as Mac, Russell Wong as Kai; Delroy Lindo as Isaak O’Day (the head of the Capulet family), D.B. Woodside as Colin, Henry O as Ch’u Sing (the head of the Montague family), Jon Kit Lee as Po Sing (Mercutio), Edoardo Gero as Vincent Roth, and Anthony Anderson as Maurice, I’ve tried to put the matching roles from Romeo and Juliet in parentheses for you. The basic plot remains the same (Romeo, looking to avenge the death of his brother, meets and falls for Juliet, a match frowned upon by both of their fathers), but some of the underlying motivations have been completely changed, as the Sing and O’Day crime families are secretly working together to clear a bunch of businesses out of some waterfront properties so that they can sell it to a conglomerate to build a stadium on the newly-available land. As might be expected,

not everyone wants to sell, and mayhem and deaths ensue.

Good points: The movie is chock full o' martial arts. Most of the fight choreography. There's even a balcony scene between Han (Romeo) and Trish (Juliet), though it is much abbreviated. You can see some of the future Amenadiel (of the Netflix series Lucifer) in D.B. Woodside's acting here.

Bad points: The movie is so very loosely based on Romeo and Juliet that the connection often seems extremely tenuous (for example, Han and Trish are about the only two main characters still alive at the end of the movie, which is vastly different from the play). You can almost see some of the wires in Jet Li's wire work in some of the action scenes.

1 breast. ½ gallon of blood. 19 dead bodies. Nunchaku fu. Kung fu. Automatic rifle fu. Police baton fu. Bowl fu. Chain fu. Football fu. Bomb fu. Baseball bat fu. Machine gun fu. Crab fu. Pistol fu. Chair fu. Firehose fu. Fire ax fu. Brazier fu. Three-way kung fu. Goons roll. Motorcycles roll. Gratuitous rap song. Gratuitous flashback. Gratuitous blue-tinted sunglasses at night. Gratuitous defenestration. Academy Award nomination to Aaliyah as Trish O'Day for "You drive like shit"; to Jet Li as Han Sing for being the martial arts star that he is; and to Anthony Anderson as Maurice for being such a great comic relief in what would otherwise be a very serious role. D.B. Woodside as Colin was better as Amenadiel in Lucifer, but Anna Sue likes him here anyway. An 82 on the Vomit Meter. 3 Stars. Da'ud Bob says, "Maybe it's Shakespeare, and maybe it's just a 'hip-hop kung fu' movie. I mean, the basic story is still there, but there's so much else happening around it that you can sometimes lose the thread of that basic story. Still, it's a pretty decent martial arts movie with a really good soundtrack by Aaliyah. Check it out!"

To All of My Readers,

This month's (January 2024) movie review marks the end of a full 38 years of Da'ud Bob ibn Briggs Goes to the Movies monthly movie reviews. 38 years that began in February 1986 with a "one-off" review of a movie I thought the other members of my barony should hear about. That review led people to suggest some others that I should review, which led to still others, and now, here we are, almost four decades later!

But all good things must come to an end sometime, they say, and it's time for me to hang up my keffiyeh and cowboy hat and ride off on my camel into the sunset. This month's movie review will be the last one I will be mailing out for publication in your newsletter.

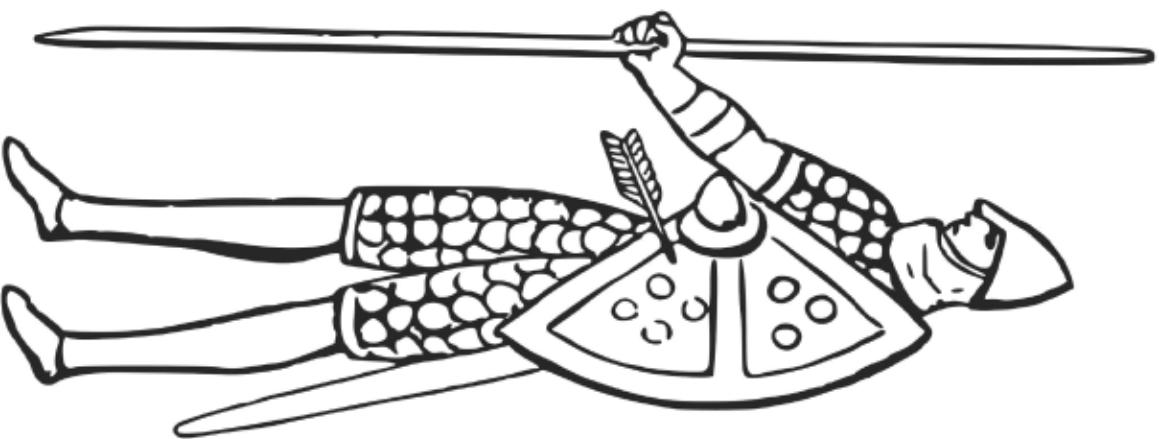
That doesn't mean I'm going to disappear entirely, only that I won't be writing any new movie reviews (though new movies of the type that I review – set prior in the Middle Ages and Renaissance or before, or in pre-technological fantasy worlds (or based on Shakespeare's works) – have gotten very thin on the ground in recent years). I still plan on posting a movie review each month on my website, <http://www.appletonstudios.com/movies2.htm>, but they will mostly be "re-runs"; after all, I've got 37 years of movie reviews in the can, and I suspect that most of you have not seen them all! And I may still write the occasional new movie review. For example, I currently have three DVDs sitting on the shelf that I haven't reviewed, and there's still some stuff on the Netflix list that Anna Sue has "selected" for me to watch. So, yeah, there may be the occasional new review for you to read on that webpage, along with the more regular stream of republished ones. So be sure to stop by the website and "Check it out!"

Of course, if you just can't wait to read each month's review as they show up on the website, I sell the complete collection of reviews, all 38 years of them, packaged with a PowerPoint show entitled "You Might Be Watching a Da'ud Bob Movie If ..." on the website (same URL as above, only "movies1.htm").

And you can always write to me at [davidbappleton@att.net](mailto:davidbappleton@att.net) with questions or comments or complaints or praise or criticisms or whatever. Like I say, I'm not disappearing entirely.

Thank you all for 38 wonderful years!

Da'ud Bob ibn Briggs  
Historical Drive-In Movie Critic  
"We watch 'em so you don't have to."



The Barony of Iron Mountain and  
the Canton of South Reach present

## War College

January 27, 2024

Giles County Agri Park

2030 Elkton Pike, Pulaski, TN 38478

Fighting, fighting, and more fighting!  
Oh, and a fundraiser lunch, too!

Site opens at 7:00 a.m. and closes at 7:00 p.m.

Directions from I-65: Take Exit 14 and head west on Highway 64 toward Pulaski. Continue to  
US-31 S/Elkton Pike. Turn left on US-31 S/Elkton Pike and continue to the park.

Site fee: \$15 per person, \$10 with member discount.

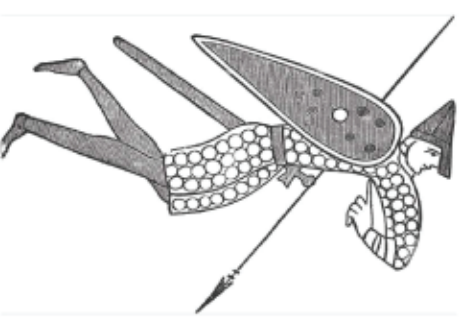
Make checks payable to SCA Inc/Barony of Iron Mountain.

Autocrats: Genevieve Alaiz d'Avignon, CP (Kayla Adams)

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and Roy Maclucas (Karl Casort) Roy.Maclucas@yahoo.com, 931-638-9261

Reservationist: Lady Emma Wyatt (mka Jenn King), Excheq.IronMtn@meridies.org,  
1579 Vestridge Circle, Vestavia, AL 35216



Iron Baron  
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