



The Steppes Letter



October 2023



Contents

Calendar of events.....	1
Event information.....	2
Words from the Baron and Baroness.....	3
Words from Glaslyn.....	5
Officer letters.....	6
Guilds of the Steps.....	11
Da'ud Bob movie review: Castle of Flames.....	13
Credits and notices	15

10 October 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Archery practice	2 Fighter practice	3 Newcomers academy, scribal, A&S, fighter practice	4	5	6 Namron Procerate and Bryn Gwald Fall Baronial	7
8 Culinary Guild	9 Fighter practice	10 Sewing, A&S, fighter practice	11	12	13	14 Coronation
15 Archery practice	16 Fighter practice	17 A&S, fighter practice, business meeting	18 Financial committee meeting	19	20 Bjornsborg's Quest for the Grail	21
22	23 Fighter practice	24 A&S, fighter practice	25	26	27 Eldern Hills Samhain	28 Seawinds Defender
29	30 Fighter practice	31 Practice canceled!	key  Events  Glaslyn  Steppes			



Event Information

All SCA practices and meetings are free to attend

Steppes Regular Meetings

Tuesdays from 7 PM-9 PM
St Luke's Lutheran Church
1210 W Belt Line Rd,
Richardson, TX

Steppes Business Meeting

3rd Thursday at 6:30 PM
St Luke's Lutheran Church
1210 W Belt Line Rd,
Richardson, TX

Archery

First & Third Sundays
2PM-5PM
Westlake Sports Center
601 Gross Rd, Mesquite, TX

Newcomers Academy

First Tuesday at 6:30 PM
St Luke's Lutheran Church
1210 W Belt Line Rd,
Richardson, TX

Thrown Weapons and Music Guild

On hiatus

Culinary Guild

1st Wednesday 7PM
901 N US 75-Central Expy
1000, Plano, TX

Scribal Guild

First Tuesday from 7 PM-9 PM
St Luke's Lutheran Church
1210 W Belt Line Rd,
Richardson, TX

Glaslyn Practice and Business Meeting

Mondays 6 PM
North Lakes Park
2001 W. Windsor Dr., Denton, TX

Check us out!



Upcoming Events

Hamron Proctorate

October 6th to the 8th

Will Rodgers Boy Scout Reservation
362369 East Hwy 64, Cleveland, Ok 74020

Distance from Steppes: 259 miles

[Facebook event](#)

Seawinds Defender

October 28th

St Christopher's By the Sea,
820 Wildcat Dr, Portland, TX 78374

Distance from Steppes: 397 miles

[Facebook event](#)

Bryn Swald Fall Baronial

October 6th to the 8th

Camp Arrowhead
4325 Sherwood Dr, Belton, TX 76513

Distance from Steppes: 159 miles

[Facebook event](#)

Elden Hills Samhain

October 20th to 22nd

Camp Graham Ball
12442 FM 368, Holliday TX 76366

Distance from Steppes: 149 miles

[Event website](#)

Coronation

October 14 at 8 AM

McNease Convention Center
501 Rio Concho Dr, San Angelo TX 76903

Distance from Steppes: 268 miles

[Facebook event](#)

Bjornsborg Quest for the Grail

October 20th to 22nd

Nolte Island Recreation Center
2220 FM 466, Seguin, TX 78155

Distance from Steppes: 272 miles

[Facebook event](#)

Barony of the Steppes

Twelfth Night

A Tale as Old as Time



JANUARY 6, 2024

8:00 A.M. - 8:00 P.M.

ST LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

1210 W Belt Line Rd,
Richardson, TX 75080

*From US-75, take exit 24 towards Belt Line. Turn Left onto Beltline
then right onto Dover. Destination is on the right.*

ADULT REGISTRATION: \$25.00

ADULT MEMBER REGISTRATION: \$20.00

MINORS 17 & UNDER: FREE

Make checks payable to: SCA Inc./ Barony of the Steppes

*Minors must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. They may also attend
with a 21-year-old or older adult with a signed and notarized Minor Event Waiver
from the parents.*

AUTOCRATS

ESMERALDA MALASPINA

(Nancy Lorenzen)

nancy@lorenzenlawoffice.com

972-741-9283

MARGERY HERON

(Kathryn Gilroy)

katiegilroy04@gmail.com

972-646-1077



SCAN FOR
MORE
INFO

or visit steppes.ansteorra.org

Words from the Baron and Baroness

Salutations Good Gentles All,

We recently released a survey to get information from the populace so that we can use data to make decisions. The information will be presented at a later date, but we wanted to give some preliminary details.

The Steppes is a good mix of very experienced players, and very new players. A significant portion of the populace has been playing for less than 2 years. We look around and see a barony and a canton full of people who contribute to making the group better. Whether it's teaching classes, coming up with new ideas to try out, handling loaner gear, reminding forgetful landed nobility that a newsletter is due, or planning out how to have dancing and music at 12th Night, a lot of folks come together to elevate the group more than any one individual could. The best thing about the Steppes(as verified by the survey responses) is the community, and that community has built something great.

We are a diverse group, even if a bunch of our members chose as their name. Our intention is to keep making this space safe for all to play, and to continue to work towards having people find a home in this community. The results of the survey help immensely with our planning, so if you haven't filled it out yet, we would really appreciate your input.

Moving on to upcoming things, we plan to have an encampment at War of the Rams(BAM) the biggest event in the Kingdom. Check the Discord for more details.

Our next gathering locally, outside our normal ones, will be the Steppes Holiday party in December, date tbd. There will be a white elephant gift exchange and the annual gingerbread house building competition where it seems like everyone in the region has become expert builders.

Our next event is 12th Night, a relaxing day of fun doing things like solving a murder, dancing to live music, and a French feast to match the theme of Tale as Old as Time. Look for more information about the event to come out soon!

To finish, thank you everyone for making this a wonderful and vibrant community! We look forward to seeing you at any of our next gatherings.

Ayo slay slay slay frfr,

Baudoyne and Katerine

Lord and Lady of Glaslyn,
Baron and Baroness of the Steppes





Words from Glaslyn

Greetings Steppes!

It was good to see you at Melees & Meetups by the lake! Despite the ridiculous heat (heat index of 119!?) it was fun to see everyone and get some war practice in. Thank you to Centurion Margery and Lady Hotaru for arranging it, and to all the marshals, commanders, and attendees who came out to support Glaslyn, Steppes, and Elfsea! And a personal thank you to Her Majesty Sonja for the ice cream as I say baking in the sun!

Despite the one last day of miserable heat, the weather has begun to cool, and visitors from near and far are always welcome to our combined practice and populace nights Monday evenings at Northlakes Park in Denton.

hákön the Blacksmith

Seneschal, Canton of Glaslyn



Seneschal

Antigone of York
seneschal@steppes.ansteorra.org

Fellow Steppers and Steppets,

Our weather has tricked us into thinking that summer was fading and yet here it is still. With that in mind we are still making use of the indoor gym and areas on Tuesday. Please be mindful to take your trash with you from the gym and let's be good stewards of the site!

Centurion Margery worked with our friends in Glaslyn and Elfsea to create an amazing day of Melees. Apparently Helios heard us and decided he wanted to play too as the temperatures skyrocketed above 100. I'd like to thank everyone for coming out despite the heat and sun to fight, support our fighters, make delightful music, and bring merriment for all.

I'd like to welcome my new deputy Dómhildr Grímsdóttir as my new deputy for non-event populace outings. They will be starting their office in October and I look forward to seeing more opportunities for our populace to have fun together. If you've got an idea for an outing please let Dómhildr know!

A few business pieces have been completed this month: the financial committee now meets on the 3rd Wednesday online at 7:30pm, new financial policy was confirmed last meeting, physical inventory will occur this year for each office as well as the storage unit, and we have several offices open in the barony. As always all officers are on the lookout for new deputies or anyone who would like to volunteer to help.

If you've read this make sure to high-five our Steppe Dad for being awesome!

Antigone

Steppes Seneschal



Exchequer

Lady Astrid Flokadottir
exchequer@steppes.ansteorra.org

Greeting to the Populace,

As of 8/31/23 the group's bank balance is \$21,061.33.

The end of the year will be here before we know it, which means it will soon be time to work on the barony's budget for 2024. Keep an eye out for more information to come.
in service

We finally have a new quartermaster.

In Service,

Astrid Flokadottir



Chivalric Marshal

Centurion Magnus Creppinson
marshal@steppes.ansteorra.org

As the summers come to an end the heat has certainly not, but luckily we're able to continue to gather for training in comfort. September has gone but we continue our training. This month we got to gather with our Sister Barony Elfsea and our Canton of Glaslyn for some amazing melee training. Other than that we're on our normal routine of fun, fighting, and training in The Barony of The Steppes.

Magnus

Steppes Knight Marshal



Archery Marshal

Eadgyth Beornesdohtor
archery@steppes.ansteorra.org

Unto the populace of the Steppes, your Archery Marshal sends greetings.

With the gloriously cooler Fall weather comes our Second Annual Great Pumpkin Mas-sacree! Bring your pumpkins, bring your kids, bring your friends! Join us on the range the 1st and 3rd Sundays of October for some missile mayhem and squash shenanigans.

If piercing pumpkins doesn't appeal to you, there are several less messy archery events coming up this month, to include:

6-8 Oct- Bryn Gwlad Fall Baronial (Ft Hood, TX)

20-22 Oct- Bjornsborg's Fall Event: Quest for the Grail (Seguin, TX)

20-22 Oct- Wyldewode Northern Border Skirmishes (Park Hill, OK)

27 Oct- Seawinds Defender – Myths and Legends (Houston, TX)

Stay cool, stay hydrated — see you on the range!

Yours in joyous service,

Lady Eadgyth Beornesdohtor



Rapier Marshal

Mathias Grunwalt
rapier@steppes.ansteorra.org

Rapier combat in the Steppes continues to flourish with newcomers and visitors from other SCA groups. The fall rapier tournament season is now in full swing with multiple events happening monthly. If you wish to participate in these tournaments make sure to attend practices to hone your skills. If you need to become authorized for rapier to enter tournaments get in touch with me.

This month we held a regional practice with Glasyln and the Elfsea focused on melee combat. Our Kingdom Rapier General Don Facon, Duke Mahdi, and Master Robin graced us with their expertise and directed skirmishes to train us in rapier melee combat. We greatly appreciate their time and effort to teach us.

The Barony of the Steppes is lacking a formal rapier melee combat unit. I would like to change that. We can't let Chivalric fighters have all the fun! If you are interested in being a part of a rapier melee unit to attend war events for melees please contact me. War events, such as War of the Rams and Gulf Wars, will be upon us sooner than later.

Lord Mathias Grunwalt



Minister of Arts and Sciences

Hadassah Sari Bas Yossi
moas@steppes.ansteorra.org

Greetings unto the Populace of the Steppes

My time as Baronial MoAS will be drawing to a close much sooner than I had anticipated, as I am stepping into a Kingdom At Large Deputy position for Jewish Cultural Studies. I am very excited about this honor and looking forward to contributing not only to our Barony, but to all of Ansteorra and Vindheim. We have a huge project that a group of us have undertaken, with about 5300 years to break down. Please reach out if you are interested in joining us on this journey. There is a Facebook Group, Jews and Jewish Personas of Ansteorra and Vindheim, as well.

If you are interested in applying for the office of MoAS, please see Duchess Antigone's post on the Steppes Facebook page. (I believe it may be on discord as well). All applications must be received by October 21st 2023.

Mark your Calendar's!! In October, we have our "Messy Arts Day" slated for Sunday October 22. Please see the details on our Facebook page. There is a list of the classes both on our Facebook page and on the discord page. If you have not already let me know you're attending, please do so, with which classes you are participating in, no later than October 10th as I need to purchase the supplies.

Please note, for the butter and candy classes, you will see some flavor choices. Please let me know on these as well, as we will make only the most popular choices. If you show up without notifying me in advance, you run the risk of being unable to participate due to lack of materials.

We are making a day of it... bring lunch, wear garb if you want. Dinner is a Homemade Soup and Homemade bread potluck. We are doing a mini competition for the best home made soup and homemade bread for dinner!

If you choose to wear garb, please make sure it is old and you aren't worried about it getting stained. Same goes for mundane clothes. Those making butter and candy may want aprons.

See You Soon

YIS

ThL Hadassah Sarai bas Yossi

MoAS. Steppes



hospitaler

Wilhelm vom Bruck
hospitaler@steppes.ansteorra.org

Hello everyone!

Can you believe that summer is over? It seems like it went by so fast. With the end of summer comes the return of our Hospitaler, Wilhelm, from his yearly pilgrimage to the north! Make sure to give him a warm welcome home.

For September Newcomers Academy on 9/5/23 at 6:30pm at St Luke's Lutheran Church, HL Sean Tabor is going to help with running a class about running events, how to get involved, etc.

You don't have to be a newcomer to attend newcomers academy, all are welcome. We have had a huge boost in numbers this summer and I'm excited to see all of the people that attend our September Newcomers Academy.

If you have any questions about upcoming newcomers academy, suggestions on classes you'd like to see, or any other things I can help with, don't hesitate to reach out!

Mhearai Saoirse Hamelin

Deputy to the Hospitaler



Webminister

Hákon the Blacksmith
webminister@steppes.ansteorra.org



Herald

Elionora inghean Ui Cheallaigh
herald@steppes.ansteorra.org

Hello everyone!

If you missed it, there has been a short online survey to help the Steppes continue to flourish! Check this issue, or online at our website to give your input. The project to scrub old Steppes Letters continues, and 1987's issues should be available by the time this newsletter goes out. We're always looking for more so if you happen to have any physical copies of the Steppes Letter from before 1985 or between 1999 and 2006, we would love to borrow them! We'll just need them for a short while to scan them and then they will be returned to you.

As always, make sure you keep an eye on the front page of the website and our Social Media for any announcements, and sync to our calendar using the button on the Calendar of Events page.

If you see an event that needs updating, have something that needs adding to the calendar, or if you find any other errors or issues with our website, feel free to let me know at webminister@steppes.ansteorra.org!

Yours in service,

Hákon the Blacksmith
Webminister

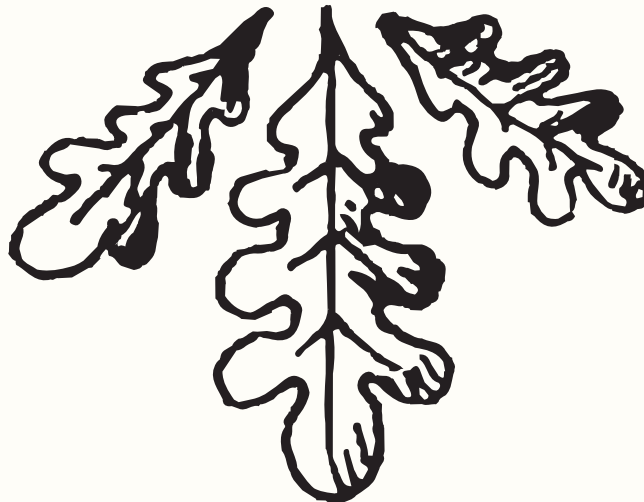
Esteemed Steppes and Glaslyn, Greetings:

My apologies that I've again fallen behind on submissions - it's wonderful that we have so much interest in the heraldic arts, but life has gotten the better of me. I'm out of town this month, but please do not hesitate to reach out if you need an update.

Additionally, my tenure is ending soon, which means we will soon be opening the position for any who want to take over as baronial herald. I've got a few deputies in the making (and I promise we'll get you some training as soon as life stops blindsiding me) so if you're interested in the position, please watch for the announcement from our seneschal. I'll plan for staying on as an emergency deputy until we're ready for training wheels to come off, so don't be afraid to toss your hat in the ring.

In service,

Elionora inghean Uí Cheallaigh





Social Media Officer

Centurion Margery Heron
social-media@steppes.ansteorra.org



Chronicler

Rayya al-Ruqay'a
chronicler@steppes.ansteorra.org

Greetings Mighty Barony!

The Social Media Office has been chugging along! We are always looking for new content, so if you take and photos or videos please consider sharing them with us!

We are also conducting a survey to see how we can better meet the needs of our populace, so please consider filling out the form: <https://forms.gle/sTGPPKLTgtk5D3S6A>

In Service,

Centurion Margery Heron
social-media@steppes.ansteorra.org

I would like to invite everyone to give a hearty welcome to Ade Eszes, the new Deputy Chronicler! Ade and I will be working together on new material, and possibly a new layout. I'm looking forward to seeing the new ideas and energy that they bring to the role as we spread the fame of our artisana, the infamy of our fighters, and the glory of the Steppes entire throughout the known world.

In Service to the Dream,

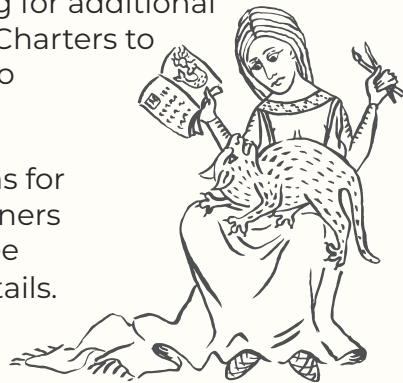
Sayyida Rayya al-Ruqay'a





Scribal Guild

We are looking for additional designs for Steppes Charters to not only add variety to what we currently have, but to also add some simpler designs for those who are beginners to work on. Please see Lady Eagdyth for details.



Steppes Bowyer and Fletcher's Guild

The Steppes Bowyer and Fletchers Guild is the oldest archery guild within Ansteorra that we know of surviving even the later established now defunct kingdom's archery guild.

The Guild exists to share knowledge between members and instruct others how to accomplish all the projects, skills, and items required to round out personal kits for our SCA archery community.

We have recently included thrown weapons and siege weapons to our instructional activities since the kingdom has combined all airborne missile activities together. Guild meetings are a bit sporadic at the moment but ideally we will meet on the last Friday of the month at a guild members' home.

If you want to know when the next meeting is, please contact the Steppes archery marshal at archery@steppes.ansteorra.com

Culinary Guild of bestia

Our next meet will be on Sunday, October 8 beginning at 11 am. We are going to be making blintzes (both cheese and meat) so be prepared to stand over a hot stove. As we don't yet have guild fees/dues, I am asking for contributions towards the cost of the supplies.

Please contact Amanda Lyons either on Facebook or discord for the address. Please try to let me know in advance if you will be attending, so I know how much supplies to purchase.

Steppes Loose Association of Brewers

Greetings Steppes, Currently no meetings are planned, but keep an eye out here each month for more details. Also join the [Facebook group here.](#)



Music and Vocal Non-Guild

Greetings,

Practice at home until further notice. Watch the Facebook group at St. Romanos Chorale and Oakwood Consort. Contact Mistress Xene at music@twmarsh.net for addresses and more information.

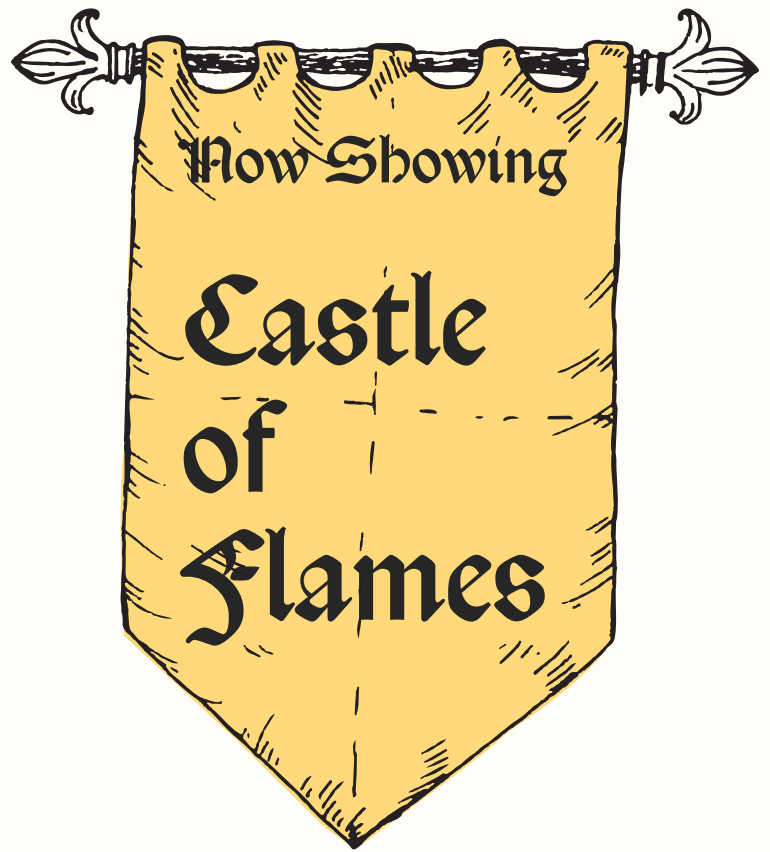
All music practices are cancelled until further notice.

In Service to Crown and Kingdom,
Mistress Xene Theriane, OL, OP

D'aud Bob

movie review

It never ceases to surprise me, when I run across a film that I have never seen before and should have known about. I mean, I spend a fair bit of time on the internet in various groups and websites like IMDb and Amazon specifically looking for certain types of movies. You know, the kinds of movies I review here every month. Movies set in the Middle Ages or Renaissance. Movies set in pre-technological eras. Movies of Shakespeare plays. And when I eventually run across an old (say, just to pick a date at random, 1960) movie that spans more than one of those categories, well, I wonder how I managed to have missed it all these years! But it happens, and it always surprises me. And that's the story behind this month's movie review. I was reading a thread in a Facebook group, and one of the commenters brought up an old movie by a Japanese director who was not Kurosawa, set in samurai-era Japan but which was basically Shakespeare's Hamlet. So of course I had to go and see if I could find it. And, sure enough, there it was, from a site called SamuraiDVD (you'll never guess what kind of movies they sell there, right?), and at a reasonable price. So I bought a copy to add to my Shakespeare shelf, and of course to review for you, my faithful readers. And thus it is that this month, Da'ud Bob reviews for you 1960's Hono-o no shiro, or to give it its name in English, Castle of Flames. Directed by Tai Kato (see? Not Akira Kurosawa!), and starring Hashizô Ôkawa as young Lord Masato (Hamlet), Denjirô Ôkôchi, Mieko Takamine, Ushio Akashi, Yatarô Kurokawa, Kenji Susukida, Yoshiko Mita, Yoshiko Mita, Yoshiya Bando, Ichirô Izawa, Shôsaburô Aihara, Kensaku Haruji, and Masuo Kamiki



(sorry, neither the DVD cover nor IMDb give the roles for each actor. I did write down the characters' names and their matching Shakespearean roles, but I still don't know which actor played which), the story is basically that of Shakespeare's Hamlet, only set in feudal Japan, somewhat abbreviated with parts of the storyline omitted completely and with a number of scenes rearranged from their usual order. I am going to go ahead and assume that you already know the story of this story of the "Prince of Denmark" as told by William Shakespeare. If you don't, it is easy enough to look up on-line. And the ending here is a little different from the Bard's version, in that it lets Hamlet, I mean, Masato, live at the end, even as so many of the other characters die around him.

Good points: The movie stays pretty true to the general story. The costuming, as is probably to be expected of a Japanese movie set in Japan, is pretty decent. The ghost (even though he doesn't say anything). The "play within a play", The Mouse-trap, or here, the Saohime act. We get to actually see the pirates here.

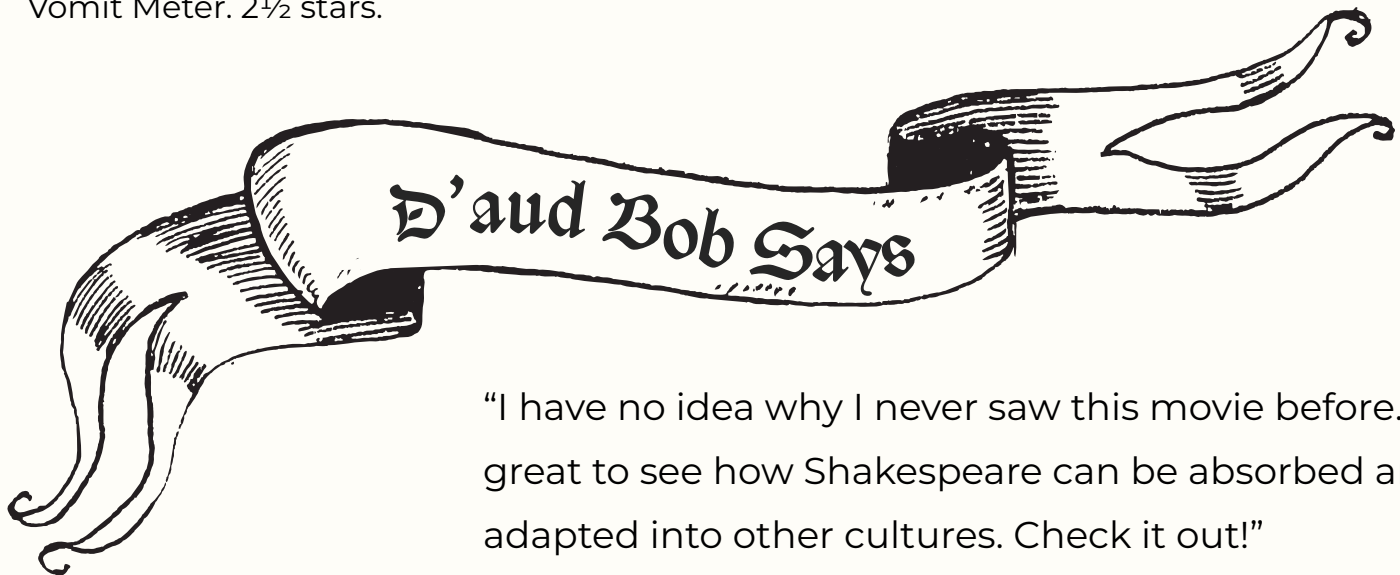
Bad points: You don't see young Lord Masato planning the "play within a play" with the actors. Masato's rejection of the Ophelia character isn't as good as Shakespeare's "get thee to a nunnery". The rearrangement of some of the scenes feels confusing to anyone who is familiar with Shakespeare's work. The peasants are revolting. ("You can say that again; they stink on ice.") It's weird to have Masato live at the end.

Zero breasts. One gallon of blood. 32 dead bodies, plus two acted deaths in the "play within a play". Arrow fu. Wakizashi fu. Matchlock musket fu. Spear fu. Katana fu. Poison fu. Flaming torch fu. Gratuitous shoulder rub. Gratuitous village meeting. Gratuitous bastinado. A mere 57 on the Vomit Meter. 2½ stars.

71 on the vomit meter



2.5 out of 5 stars



"I have no idea why I never saw this movie before. It's great to see how Shakespeare can be absorbed and adapted into other cultures. Check it out!"

Credits and Notices

Title page: Oak tree vector created by ekosuwandono on Adobe Stock

Table of contents, page 2 and 3: Oak trim created by Separisa on Adobe Stock

Page 2: Social media icons created by vadymstockon Adobe Stock

Page 10: Oak leaves created by Dinkoobraz on Adobe Stock

Page 11: Illustration created by Separisa on Adobe Stock

Page 12: Banner created by Dinkoobraz on Adobe Stock
Other illustrations Separisa on Adobe Stock

Page 13: Banner created by Dinkoobraz on Adobe Stock

Page 14: Banner created by Dinkoobraz on Adobe Stock
Stars created by Olga Che on Adobe Stock

This is the October 2023 issue of The Steppes Letter, a publication of the Barony of The Steppes of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. (SCA, Inc.). The Steppes Letter is available from Kathryn DePalma at chronicler@steppes.ansteorra.org. It is not a corporate publication of SCA, Inc., and does not delineate SCA, Inc. policies. Copyright © 2023 Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. For information on reprinting photographs, articles, or artwork from this publication, please contact the Chronicler, who will assist you in contacting the original creator of the piece. Please respect the legal rights of our contributors.