



Quality Theatre In Education

ABN: 31 012 483 301

Medieval World – Teachers Notes

Introduction

“Medieval World” is intended as an entertaining, yet educational, introduction to Medieval Europe in general, and is not merely a weapons demonstration.

Aspects of the period covered in the show include; the social structure of feudal society, chivalry, mythology, clothing, early medicine, literature, weaponry, storytelling and superstition. Carefully researched examples of these aspects are presented traditionally, but also with the aid of some modern music and other contrivances to assist with the focus of students.

A quiz format, and regular audience participation, is used to ensure that students come away not only with a spirit of Medieval life, but also with an increased knowledge.

The Play

Camelot

King Arthur & Queen Guinnevere are our hosts, and after musically introducing themselves, we watch Arthur perform his classic fete of removing the sword from the stone. This section is, of course, mythology of the time, and it may be useful to discuss with students how Kings and Queens really got their jobs.

Medical Science

During this King Arthur's fete, we cut to a "commercial break", in which ancient remedies are prescribed for various ailments. None of these cures would be considered effective today, of course, so teachers may wish to explain this to younger students.

Nobility & Chivalry

Arthur decides he needs to appoint knights to help him in his rule of the kingdom. Students are selected to participate in a "Who Wants To Be A Knight Of The Round Table" quiz, in which they learn about the duties of various levels of society.

Literature

A poem from Geoffrey Chaucer's, "The Canterbury Tales", is used to provide an example of Medieval literature. This may prove an interesting introduction for students to the concept of our language changing over time.

Weaponry

The various weapons at the disposal of a fully equipped knight are discussed, and Arthur selects broadswords to do battle with a selected student. (This section is entirely safe – the requirements are fulfilled through comedy, and no genuine or solid object is ever in the hands of a student.)

Superstition

Another skit takes a humorous look at tests such as dunking, used to establish whether or not a person was a witch.

Clothing

Following the successful completion of the quiz format, a student is dressed as a knight, with the role and importance of the various accessories discussed.

Storytelling

Merlin makes an appearance to tell the story of the future of our newly anointed knight, who rides off to the crusades, returns to inherit his family estate, but is slain by a fire-breathing dragon.

Conclusion

Medieval times consisted of more than just great battles between large numbers of heavily laden individuals doing hand-to-hand combat. “Medieval World” attempts to give a snapshot of many aspects of life, whilst using well-known stereotypes and characters to promote interest in those attending.

The show is also packed with pure entertainment, and will therefore serve well to enhance a school’s Medieval theme day.

We hope you enjoy “Medieval World”