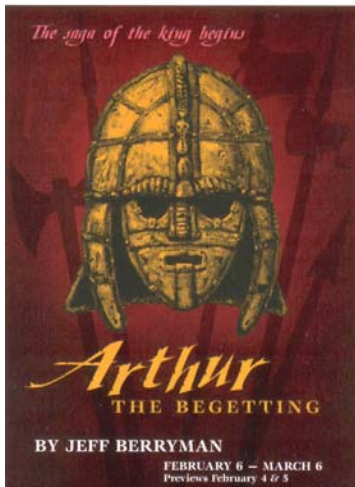


Arthur: The Begetting

By Jeff Berryman

The riveting prequel to the myth of King Arthur: Three men compete for the love of Queen Igraine in the wild and chaotic world of 5th Century Britain. One holds her allegiance, one holds her heart and one will father the future King.



Student Matinee

Wednesday
February 11, 2004

10:00 am

204 N. 85th St.

King Arthur: History or Myth?

The debate whether King Arthur was a true historical figure will live on as long as his legend is alive.

History

A historical Warlord in the early 6th Century held Germanic invaders at bay. The legend of King Arthur is based on this historical figure. His name and his rank (King, Count, Commander or dux bellorum) are unknown.

Myth

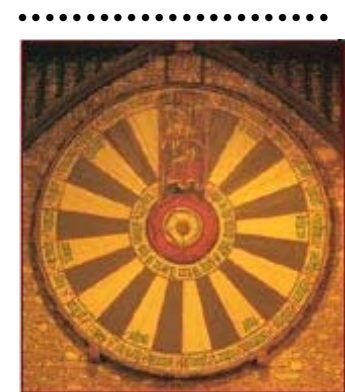
Arthur was the son of Uther Pendragon and Queen Igraine. Upon Arthur's birth Merlin, the sorcerer, gave Arthur to Ector to be

raised in secret. After Uther's death a new king was needed to rule England. Uther's successor was determined by the man who could remove the sword placed in a stone. Arthur removed the sword and Merlin crowned him. Arthur is given a sword, **Excalibur**, from a hand that mysteriously rose from a lake, to aid his leadership of Britain. Arthur held court at his castle in **Camelot**. King Arthur and his knights experience many victories. Arthur married **Guinevere** whose father gave him the **Round Table** as a dowry; it became the place where his knights sat to avoid

quarrels over precedence. Together the knights embarked on a quest for the Holy Grail, the sacred cup used by Jesus Christ at the Last Supper.

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"Do not, nor slay not, anything that will in any way dishonour the fair name of Christian knighthood for only by stainless and honourable lives and not by prowess and courage shall the final goal be reached. Therefore be a good knight and so I pray to God so ye may be, and if ye be of prowess and worthiness then ye shall be a Knight of the Table Round."

Excerpt from a charge given by King Arthur to the Knights.



Above: The Round Table of King Arthur and his knights. The round table signified unity and equality among the knights.

The Knights of the Round Table

The Knights of the Round Table were men of courage, honor, dignity, courtesy and nobleness. They protected ladies, fought for kings, and undertook dangerous quests. The dominant idea among the knights was love of God, men and noble deeds.

The knights were to live pure and stainless lives, lived in allegiance to the king. They were to strive after perfection and thus attain the Holy Grail.

The Knights

- Sir Lancelot
- Sir Arthur
- Sir Gawaine
- Sir Geraint
- Sir Galahad
- Sir Gaheris
- Sir Bedivere
- Sir Percivale
- Sir Lamorak

- Sir Kay
- Sir Bors
- Sir Tristan
- Sir Gareth

Characters in Arthur: The Begetting

Igraine Queen of Dumnonia
Foster daughter of late Ambrosius.
Wife of TEYRNON.
Educated in both Christian and ancient Celtic ways. Early 30s.

Teyrnon King of Cornwall
Husband to IGRAINE. A Roman Christian brought to rule Cornwall by Ambrosius. Late 30s.

Uther King of Gwynedd
A pagan Celt, a warrior.
Early 40s.

Emrys King of Powys
Trained in both Christianity and Celtic Paganism. Early 30s.

Nikki Visel Whitfield & Mathew Ahrens as Igraine & Emrys.
Photo by Matthew Lawrence

Gaius Physician to
Ambrosius, 50 +

Anna Oldest daughter of
IGRAINE and TEYRNON.



Arthur Storyline

- *Arthur: The Begetting* is the story of the death of a Warlord, Ambrosius, and the quest for his successor.
- *Arthur* takes place in 5th Century Britain, a time when the Romans had left Britain and the country is now encountering raids from the Picts, Angles and the Saxons. A leader is sought to see Britain through victoriously.
- Queen Igraine, Ambrosius' foster daughter, has had a vision from a young age of the future warlord, herself and their son.
- After the death of Ambrosius there is a meeting of the tribal council to decide who the future Warlord will be. Queen Igraine's vision is an important voice at the meeting.
- Emrys, Teyrnon and Uther fight for the love of Queen Igraine, and the late Ambrosius' status- the upcoming leader of Britain.

Christianity in Britain • Celtic Traditions in Britain

• Emperor Constantine converted to Christianity in 337 AD. As a result of his conversion Rome became Christian and the faith was brought to Britain when the Romans invaded.

• The missionaries who came to Britain introduced the monastic system. The Celtic gods slowly disappeared from Britain's landscape and culture. The tradition has been preserved in the poetry and myths of later ages.

• After the fall of the Roman Empire Christianity survived in Britain. St. Augustine was instructed by Pope Gregory to go to England and continue spreading Christianity to the country.

• The Celts were highly ritualistic and religious. Their religion included numerous female deities.

• The **Mother Goddess** was a warrior, fighting with weapons and giving instruction to leaders in superior warfare.
• The Celtic deities were tribal by nature. Each Celtic tribe would have its own name for gods and goddesses. In Celtic mythology there are over 300 different names recorded.

• The Druids

• The priests and magicians of the Celtic people, who rose from the ancient Celtic tribes. They possessed the religious wisdom of their culture. Judge, doctor, diviner, mage, mystic and clerical scholars were roles they played in their community.

• The Druids dreamed magic for their people and would bring to the people mysticism, philosophy, insight and learning.

Britain: In the Midst of War

Arthur Terms

Barbarian:

An alien culture usually believed to be inferior to another culture or people.

Context: The code of chivalry dictated how knights were to behave.

Boudicca:

First century A.D.
Queen of ancient Britain who led a temporarily successful revolt against the Roman army that had claimed her deceased husband's kingdom.

Chieftains:

The leader or head of a group, especially of a clan or tribe.

Dux Bellorum:

Latin, "duke of battles"
A Military Leader.

Hadrian's Wall:

A wall constructed in 122 AD along northern Britain, stretching from east at Wallsend to west at Bowness-on-Solway, near the Scottish border. The wall's length is 80 miles long. It was named after Roman emperor Hadrian and was built for the purpose of detaining the aggressive tribes in the north.

Hill Fort:

A fort located on a hillside or a mountainside in the shape of a ring.

Britain's history is saturated with invasions and war.

- **The Celts**
- This group of people did not invade Britain, but made it their home between the years 500 BC and 100 BC. The Celts had a thriving culture and a developed social structure. They were called Keltoi by the Greeks and Celtai by the Romans.
- **Brythonic** Celtic language branch which gave rise to Welsh, Cornish and Breton.
- **Goidelic** Celtic language branch which gave rise to Irish, Scottish, Gaelic and Manx.

Druids, "the hidden people" Word the Celts used to describe their intellectual class. They were the guardians of traditions and learning.

The Romans

Julius Caesar invaded Britain in 55 BC and 54 BC. The result of these invasions did not lead to Roman occupancy. However, in 5 AD Cymbeline is acknowledged as King of Britain. By 77 AD Rome had conquered Britain.

The fall of the Roman Empire in 410 AD resulted in the Roman soldiers leaving Britain to aid Rome's defeat.

The Anglo-Saxons

The term Anglo-Saxon is a modern word to describe the German invaders of Britain in the 5th Century. The Anglos came from

Angeln and the Saxons from Saxony. They used their own language of Germanic origin, which gave rise to the English language.

Anglo-Saxon period lasted 600 years, from 410-1066.

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Tribunal:

A committee or board appointed to make a decision on a particular matter. Something that has the power to determine or judge.

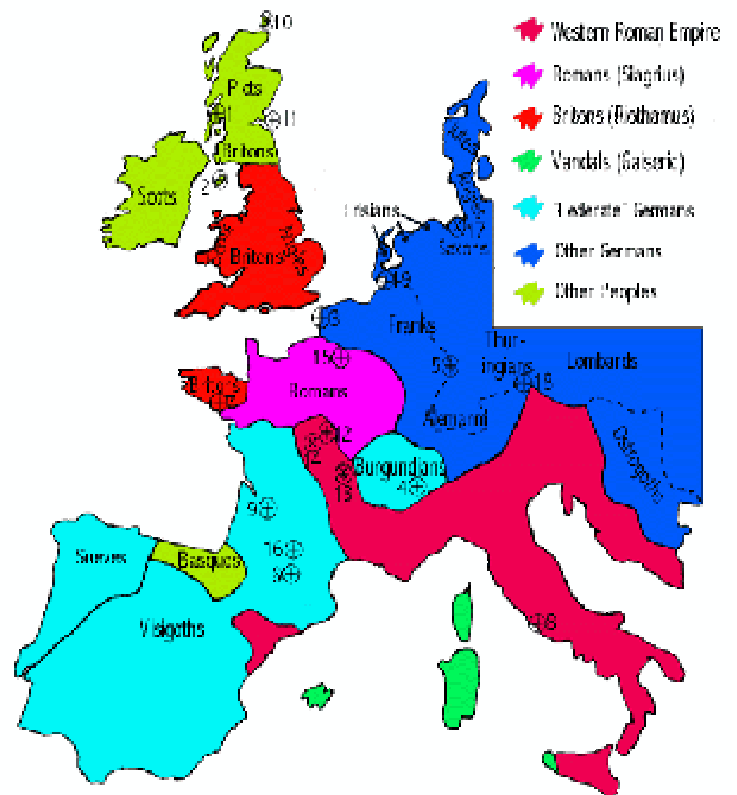
Warlord:

A military commander exercising civil power in a region, whether in nominal allegiance to the national government or in defiance of it.

Military Rank

- King
- Count
- Commander
- Dux Bellorum

WESTERN EUROPE, A.D. 469



This Map shows Europe in the 5th Century. Take note of Western Germanic region, the homeland of the Saxons and the Angles.

Jeff Berryman



History

Actor, Playwright and nationwide speaker. Berryman received his MFA in Directing for the Theatre from the University of Texas at Austin. He received a BA in Theatre from Abilene Christian University.

Life as a Writer

I toyed with writing plays in college and graduate school, but never took it seriously. I wrote my first one-man show in 1995...

[and] I was encouraged to continue.

I taught Theatre at Abilene Christian University from 1990-1996, and moved to Seattle in May of that year.

Since then, I have been writing and performing, mostly one-man shows. I've done a small amount of commercial work, though I am no longer actively pursuing it.

Writer's Drive

Its an age old question for artists...who am I making this art object for? For an audience? For myself? For a critic and the acclaim that might come from their approval? For money?

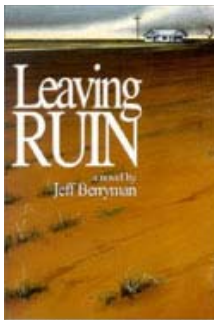
Motives are mixed most of the time. Work needs to be done, bills have to be paid, and honest hearts have to be cultivated and nurtured. What I'm finding is that the scales tip back and forth between the various motivating factors. Some creations are all about inspiration and passion, others are about the mortgage that is due next week. But here's where the difficulty comes: each work commands the attention of the artist. The words in front of me need my full attention, the best of myself I can give them, and as Rilke says, the urge to write must come from the deepest parts of the self. Its seems that too many of my words in recent years have been skimming the surface, not going deep.

My writing goal for the moment, **is to go deep.**

“Each work commands the attention of the artist. The words in front of me need my full attention, the best of myself I can give them...the urge to write must come from the deepest parts of the self.”

www.jberryman.com

Other Written Work



I wrote a novel that was published about a year ago, and Leaving Ruin continues to sell. I didn't really set out to do a novel, and yet . . . here we are. The solo work has been challenging, rewarding, and at times, maddening.

Currently, I am working on a second novel chronicling the life of Cyrus Manning.

The Arthur Cycle

Arthur: The Begetting

During the Seattle Fringe Festival 2000, The Sound Theatre Ensemble mounted *Arthur: The Begetting*, which won one of the picks of the Fest awards. Response was strong to the play, and though we felt it was in

need of some rewriting, we were encouraged by the enthusiastic response of the audiences. *Arthur: The Hunt* received a partially staged reading at the FringeACT FRINGE/ACT new play festival held the weekend of February 28-March 3, 2002.

Arthur: The Wars

The third play of THE ARTHUR CYCLE is entitled *Arthur: The Wars*. A first draft has been completed and read with some compelling findings, including that it is currently three hours long.

The Saga's end?

In completion, there will probably be seven, eight, or nine plays in the Arthurian cycle. This is a very big story.



204 N. 85th St.
Seattle, WA 98103

Box Office Phone:
206-781-9707

Administrative Offices:
206-781-9705
www.taproottheatre.org

Arthur Cast of Characters

Igraine Nikki Visel Whitfield
 Terynon Tim Barr
 Uther Nolan Palmer
 Emrys Mathew Ahrens
 Gaius William Kumma
 Anna Kailie Hunsaker

Production Team

Scott Nolte Director
 Mark Lund Sound & Props Designer
 Richard Lorig Scenic Designer
 Melanie Taylor Burgess Costume Designer
 Andrew Duff Lighting Designer
 Jen King Stage Manager
 Eric Grimes Assistant Stage Manager
 Bob Borwick Fight Director
 Alyssa Keene Dialect Coach
 Cynthia White Dramaturg

*Going to the Theatre:
Audience Etiquette & Theatre Policies*

- It is appropriate to talk quietly until the performance begins.
- If you need to use the restroom, please do so before the performance begins. Restrooms are located in the upper and lower lobbies.
- Be sure to be seated before the performance begins, or you will be asked to sit in our balcony until intermission.
- No food, gum, candy or beverages are to be brought into the theatre. Wearing headphones, caps or hats is unacceptable.
- Please turn off watch alarms, cellular phones, and other electronic devices.
- Students who disturb other members of the audience may be asked to leave the theatre and wait in the lobby.
- Enjoy the show!
- Remember: you will get an opportunity to talk to the actors, director and playwright at the end of the performance. Be prepared with questions about the production!

