

Robin Hood nearly steals the show

By Kayla Berge
Co-Editor in Chief

Have you ever been slapped at full force and then after a few moments of reflecting on the taste of tangy iron in your mouth, you realized you actually enjoyed it? I hadn't either until I sat through the first 15 minutes of the newest Robin Hood story.

Robin Hood is the kind of tale that's been retold a thousand times, each time dressed up with some slight twist that keeps the audience excited. As most of us know, Robin Hood is a tale about a knight – Robin of Loxley – who returns home from warring in the Holy Land alongside King Richard the Lionheart.

On Robin's return, he sees his homeland – England – in dire straits. Instead of playing the political game in the noble's court he decides to cast off his nobility, build a band of interesting characters, don a hood and become the rather eccentric and charismatic outlaw: Robin Hood. At this point he robs from the rich, gives to the poor, courts a beautiful maid and waits for the king to return from the Crusades.

Here's the newest twist, and that bittersweet slap I was referring to: within those first 15 minutes, two of those major characters die. If you haven't guessed it, they would be Richard the Lionheart and ... Robin of Loxley.

So how does this tale even get off the ground? Well, now with the main character dead the newest blockbuster hit can focus on the supporting cast and a new Robin. Let me tell you, they do an AMAZING job of that.

The newest Robin, Robin Longstride (played by Russell Crowe) was an archer in the King's army and after promising Loxley to return his father's sword, he starts off his quest for freedom with a few of his army buddies.

Longstride's band of merry men consists of a silver-tongued bard by the name of A'Dayle (Alan Doyle), a lively Scot named Will Scarlet (Scott Grimes), a brute of a man nicknamed "Little" (Kevin Durand) and later, the child of the damned. OK they aren't really children of the damned, but they run around in pigskin masks terrorizing and stealing from the villagers.

Friar Tuck (Mark Addy), the always interesting man of the cloth, has a side job keeping and with a little bit of persuasion joins the new Robin in stealing back grain seeds from the village of Loxley.

Maid Marion (Cate Blanchett) is no longer a maid; she is the widow of the Robin of Loxley with a blind and a father-in-law (Max von Sydow).

Prince John (Oscar Isaac), excuse me King John is no longer the conniving man one might remember from the last Robin Hood. This time he is a rather likable character which you find yourself pitying. All his life he's been choked in the shadow of his oldest brother Richard and just receives the crown the nobles of England wish to rise up and claim freedom from.

Congratulations Brian Helgeland, despite all the rough edges, you've written a fine film. I could go on and explain all the hidden plot twists, but this is an adventure you'll have to experience on your own.



Illustration by Brian Steele Clackamas Print

Grade: B+

Top 20 things you never knew that you really wanted to know

By Annemarie Schulte
Arts & Culture Editor

1. It is believed that Shakespeare was 46 around the time that the King James Version of the Bible was written. In Psalms 46, the 46th word from the first word is "shake" and the 46th word from the last word is "spear."
2. A blue whale's throat is the size of an orange.
3. Martha Washington was the only woman to appear on U.S. paper currency.
4. Each of the suits on a deck of cards represents the four major pillars of the economy in the Middle Ages: hearts represent the Church, spades represent the military, clubs represent agriculture and diamonds represent the merchant class.
5. Canadian researchers have found that Einstein's brain was 15 percent wider than normal.
6. The largest number of children born to one woman is recorded at 69. From 1725-1765, a Russian peasant woman gave birth to 16 sets of twins, 7 sets of triplets, and 4 sets of quadruplets.
7. The roar that we hear when we place a seashell next to our ear is not the ocean but is really the sound of blood surging through the veins in the ear. Any cup-shaped object placed over the ear produces the same effect.
8. During his presidency,

Eisenhower was so popular with women that marketers modeled Mr. Clean products after him, hoping to appeal to their target audience of housewives.

9. Approximately two-thirds of people tip their head to the right when they kiss. Some scholars speculate this preference "starts in the womb."

10. If Facebook were a country it would be the fifth largest country in the world, after China, India, the U.S. and Indonesia. Doesn't that blow your mind?

11. Harvard is the oldest college in the United States. It is also the first and oldest corporation in the United States.

12. Thongs are illegal in Melbourne, Fla. as of January 2008. The punishment is a \$500 fine or 90 days in jail. (Guess they don't appreciate the "Thong Song.")

13. No one in Greece can choose to not vote. Voting is required by law for every citizen who is 18 or older. Imagine if the U.S. had that policy.

14. Only 53 percent of Haitians can read and write.

15. Because Venus rotates very slowly on its axis (taking 243 days to make a complete rotation), a day on Venus is longer than its year.

16. If a man is colorblind, it is a sure thing that his grandson will be as well.

17. The full name of the Barbie doll is "Barbie Millicent Roberts." She is from Willows, Wis., and went to Willows High School.

18. The first couple to be shown in bed together on prime time TV was Fred and Wilma Flintstone.

19. It takes 3,000 cows to supply the NFL with enough leather for a year's worth of footballs.

20. Leonardo DaVinci could write with one hand and draw with the other at the same time.



Fred getting his rocks off.

Illustration by Brian Steele Clackamas Print

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