

J O K E R

Vol. XLIII Bard O'Later No. 1 June 2024

ISSUE 2B
(OR NOT)



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The King's Message

Greetings to all my fellow Fools!

I am grateful for all the efforts to make my May 4th coronation event a success.

I am indebted to you all! I have already thanked many of you in person, but I must make public mention of a few names of people who were essential to getting the plans put into action. Many thanks to the gracious King Mighty Flighty for his leadership, master of ceremonies skill, and his generous help during the transfer of Foolish power! Christine Bartley Williams did a masterful job of event coordination. Catherine St. Claire and Terry Hill provided a superb post-event feast with a dedicated on-site crew. John Young is praiseworthy for his carpentry work to restore the parade cart. Kudos to Cal Smith & Daniel Rover Singer for providing the manpower to propel the cart. Ex-Rexes Justeen Ward & Christina Linhardt did meritorious service in being the face of the guild by handing out red noses and toys on the parade route. Andy Davis wins honors for ensuring that Fools Colors & banners were on proud display. There were many others who did great service on that day. I will happily thank you in person when I see you again! (Remind me.)



We have met with the privy council and now have many events for your enjoyment and entertainment scheduled in the year ahead. I hope you can join us. Look for event updates on foolsguild.org and in the Foolander. (Are you on the email list?)

The first event is coming soon! **The Bard & The Barbie, A Summer Solstice Event** is scheduled for Saturday, June 22nd. Details are on p. 5, and at foolsguild.org (Next Party link) and in the *Foolander*. I'm looking forward to a Foolish Year ahead!

My final word: In these current times of disagreement and emotional flashpoints, please remember to BE KIND to each other. We can disagree about almost anything and still treat each other with respect.

Sending you Love, Peace, & Foolishness,

King Bard O'Later

*"Our doubts are traitors
And make us lose the good we oft might win
By fearing to attempt." - Measure for Measure*

Cover Illustration by JJ Moore



JAMES BRITON HENDRICKS



1955 - 2024

**Memorial for James
at Green Man Lodge
Sunday July 21
2 - 7 pm**



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No. 1
June 2024**



Contributors

Kevin McGrath, James P Kelly
Justeen Ward, Daniel Rover Singer
JJ Moore, Breezy Dae, John Young
Russell Frazier

Staff

Russell Frazier
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FoolsFund@foolsguild.org via PayPal
or at **www.foolsguild.org/Donate.htm**
(Select *Send Money to friends or family*)
linked here:

Showing Bard Taste

Who is this Shakespeare, now all the rage,
whose plays are polluting The Globe from the stage?
His Hamlet's neurotic, Ophelia's a ditz...
I cannot believe that his plays have been hits!

Is Hamlet crazy? Why does it matter?
When time comes to act, he's all idle chatter.
Will he, or won't he? His blather is endless.
It's not a surprise that he ends the play friendless.

MacBeth, he's a nebbish who wants to be king
but before that can happen there's one little thing,
a murderous plot that he got from a witch.
He enlists Lady M, a certified bitch!

She washes and wishes to vanish a spot
in that mannish way that I fancy she's got.
She'll be dead by the end I'm glad to report,
as a hostess she sucks and she's not a good sport.

From Plutarch he lifted historical plots
and Hollingshead twisted more often than not.
I don't give a fig for his fairies or kings
Shakespeare's OK, but he's just not my thing.

Frivolous II
JAMES P KELLY



OR



venmo





Kevin McGrath was crowned KING BARD O'LATER - THE UPSTART CROW on May 4, 2024 at the Renaissance Faire in Irwindale. He was discovered on the swing, dressed as a pinata and being pummeled by beautiful women. A perfect start for the reign of a King of Fools. Kenny Elvin, King Mighty Flighty, handed over the crown and scepter in a good natured fracas well worthy of The Fools Guild!



"Be not afraid of greatness: some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them." - *Twelfth Night*

Andy Davis
Anonymous I
1981-1982

Dennis Day
The Mother King
1982-1983

Q Siebenthal
Easy Off
1983-1984

Billy Scudder
1984-1985

Greg Dean
1985-1986

Adam Long
Rex Marks the Spot
1986-1987

Jack Albee
Feniculee of Farts, Esq.
1987-1988

John Mackey
Mackey the VIII-who gives a rat's ass
1988-1989

Billy Barrett
*Billiam the Stiff,
9th King of the Jackanapes*
1989-1990

Jack Tate
Jack II
1990-1991

Jonnathon Findlater
Ludicrous I
1991-1992

David Springhorn
King Ignoramus I
1992-1993

Jim Kelly and Jim Layne
Frivolous Wrex II
1993-1994

Rocky McMurray
Stymie the Flatulent
1994-1995

Steve Marshall
King Dome the Cranky
1995-1996

Jeff Weissman
King Dingaling
1996-1997

Kings of the Fools Guild

Daniel Singer
Rover "the Ruff" Canine Rex I
1997-1998

Michael "Tuba" Heatherton
*His Royal Hiney King Toobah IV of the
Bucking Brasshole (Tuba-Interruptus-Reeks)*
1998-1999

Dario Benjamin
*His Lordship of Perpetual Knumbness
King Doodah I of the Maximus Bottomus*
1999-2000

Gary Morgan
Flautus Proboscis the Reluctant
2000-2001

Sandey Grinn
Carpe Cockus
2001-2002

Paula Chambers
King Delecta Eubetta Genuflecta
2002-2003

Christina Linhardt
Venus Creamus
2003-2004

J. Paul Moore
Supercilius I
2004-2005

James Briton Hendricks
Magnanimous I
2005-2006

Roger Wilson
King Jolly the First
2006-2007

Heidi Barthelemy
King Lickity Split
2007-2008

Paula Re
and Fred Lehto
*KinKi Korazon and
Klimax Konundrum*
2008-2009

Qcumber, *The Oracle*
2009-2010

Danielle Guzenske
King Good and Plenty
2010-2011

Wendi Bird
Atlasta King, The Chosen One
2011-2012

Wim Griffith
King Nezaparte the Puppet King
2012-2013

J. Craig Williams &
Chris Bartley Williams
King James Charming the 007th
Quing Lily Lamé, 34D
2013-2014

Richard Beard
King Bodacious Spoonfool
2014-2015

Rachel Neff
Quing Bijou Precieux
2015-2016

The Royal Honey-Lulus
Kate Friedrichs
Justeen Ward
Christina Linhardt
Duke Diga Diga Doo
Justeenie Wahine
Huki Pookie
2016-2017

Ken Collins
King Archivus, Circler of Confusion
2017-2018

Mike Hruska
King YaHuha, The Snack King
2018-2019

Cal Smith
King Huggable the Useless X2
2019-2021

John Young
King Cock Doodle the Null
2021-2022

Bonnie Morgan
King Cock n' Bells
2022-2023

Kenny Elvin
King Mighty Flighty
2023-2024

Kevin McGrath
King Bard O'Later
2024-2025

More information at:
foolsguild.org/Royalty.htm

THE FOOLS GUILD PRESENTS:
THE BARD & THE Barbie
A Summer Solstice Event

An evening of Food,
Fellowship, Cosplay, and
Sharing* the Works of
William Shakespeare!
(or Barbie)

*Sign up for stage time:
Music, monologues and
readings begin at 7pm.

Potluck
Please bring a dish to share & anything you
would like to grill. HAMBURGERS, HOT DOGS,
BUNS, ICE, WATER & MIXERS will be provided!
BYOB

June 22, 2024
5 to 10 pm
Andy Davis' Backyard, Pasadena CA
TEXT Andy at 626-683-3904 if you need the address.
Parking is limited. You may need to park and walk a block or two.

FRAZIER



Ex Rex Carpe Cockus the inimitable Sandey Grinn passed away in May of 2024 after a long struggle with lung cancer. He was the 21st King of Fools and well known at the Renaissance Faire as one third of Cock'n'Feathers. Sandey had the support of his performing partner, William Q Barrett, until the end. His amazing talent, hilarious antics and enormous personality will be missed.



The Celebration of Life for our one and only Sandey
will be on Saturday August 3rd, 6PM-10PM
Woman's Club of Hollywood
1749 N La Brea Ave Los Angeles CA 90046



GREEN EGGS & SHAKESPEARE

by Rover

"Green Eggs and Ham," published in 1960, was written by Dr. Seuss, whose publisher bet him \$50 that he could not write an engaging children's book using a vocabulary of only 50 distinct words. The resulting "Green Eggs and Ham" was widely praised for its simple brilliance and ranked as the best-selling children's book in 1967. At the end of 2000, it had sold more than eight million copies, making it the most popular book by Dr. Seuss and the all-time fourth best-selling hardcover children's book in the United States.

At the age of three, I was obsessed with it, and insisted that my mom read it to me every night, until I could recite it by heart. She then traced the printed words with her finger as we recited, so that I began to understand the process of reading long before kindergarten. The sing-song rhythm and rhyming structure not only made memorization and comprehension easy, but began to wire my brain to read at an early age.

Jumping ahead to ninth grade, my English teacher handed out an abbreviated "Romeo & Juliet" for the class to read aloud—my first-ever exposure to the work of William Shakespeare. My initial thought was—hey, it's Dr. Seuss for grown-ups! I don't know how or why theatrical dialogue in the form of iambic pentameter appealed to me so much. The sound of it was so liltingly rich and satisfying and masterful... just like a supercharged "Green Eggs and Ham."

I was hungry for more. When PBS started showing a BBC series of new video adaptations of all of Shakespeare's plays, I watched AND read along. I saw live productions whenever I could. I'd become a voracious teenage Shakespeare sponge.

By the time I'd finished drama school and offered my services to the Living History Centre's seasonal Renaissance Faires at the age of 21, I'd noticed that Shakespeare's language, while infinitely brimming with flowery details, was easily trimmed for easier consumption by modern audiences with shorter attention spans—after all, the first time I'd read "Romeo & Juliet" the text had been drastically shortened for students, and I was none the worse for whatever had been left out. I later learned that in fact Shakespeare's plays were rarely left intact—the very idea of performing unabridged versions of his original texts was relatively new. Laurence Olivier's 1948 Oscar-winning film version of "Hamlet" cut the script's length roughly in half.



So was there anything outrageous, unprecedented, or inappropriate about my drastic editing of the Bard's revered texts for use at the Renaissance Faires? Other than the fact that I was using a red marker to turn tragedies into comic send-ups—not at all. Reducing Shakespeare was a time-honored tradition.

Phyllis Patterson once asked me "How do you go about reducing Shakespeare?" The question caught me off-guard, but I did have an answer. "I get to the point, keep all the famous lines, and try to retain the meter whenever possible." She seemed satisfied with that.

Shakespeare's audiences liked long shows—good value for their money in terms of minutes. Nowadays we have different priorities. That's why our 97-minute show "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)" is performed constantly around the world—audiences love its ridiculous compactness. But if our show is MORE popular than WS's first folio in a hundred years' time, somebody's gonna be spinning in his grave, and it's not gonna be me.



"Good, but not immortal."



Mr. William Shakespeare's Insult Generator Pick 3 kings...



1

Anonymous 1
The Mother King
Easy off
Billy Scudder
Greg Bean
Rex Marks the Spot
Feniculee of Farts Esq.
Mackey the Vill
Who Gives a Rats Ass
William the Stiff
The King of Jackanape
Jack 11
Ludicrous 1
King Ignoramus 1
Frivolous Wrex 11
Stymie the Flatulent
King Bome the Cranky

CLOUDED
BOOTLESS
CURRISH
DANKISH
MAMMERING
LUMPISH
MANGLED
PUNY
RANK
REEKY
VAIN
CRAYEN
FOBBING
GORBELLED
LOGGERHEADED
PRIBBLING
TOTTERING

2

The Oracle
King Good and Plenty
Atlasta King, the Chosen one
King Nezeaparte the puppet king
King James Charming the 007th
Quing Lily Lane
King April Prime
King Bodacious Spoonful
Quing Hijou Preciex
The Royal Honey-Lulus
King Archivus Circler of Confusion
King BaHuna the Snack King
King Huggalble the Useless
King Cock Doodle the Null
King Cock'n'Bells
King Mighty Flighty
King Bard O'Later

Half Faced
HEDGE-BORN
BOIL-BRAINED
ELF-SKINNED
MILK-LYERED
DOG-HEARTED
ONION EYED
FEN-SUCKED
ILL-BREEDING
POX-MARKED
FOOL-BORN
PLUME-PLUCKED
FLAP-MOUTHED
RUMP-FED
SHEEP-BITING
TICKLED BRAINED
SWAG-BELLIED

3

King Dingaling
Canine Rex 1
His Royal Hiney
King Toobah 11
of Buckingham Brasshole
His Lord of Perpetual Kumbness
King Doodah 1 of the Maximus Bottomus
Plautus Proboscis the Reluctant
Carpe Cockus
King Belecta Eubetta Genuflecta
Venus Creamus
Supercilius 1
Magnanimous 1
King Jolly the first
King Lickiety Split
KinKi Korazon
Klimax Conundrum

BUM-BAILEY
CODPIECE
COXCOMB
FOOT-LICKER
LEWDSTER
KNAYE
MOLDWARP
NUT HOOK
RATSBANE
BOAR-PIG
CLOT POLE
DEWBERRY
MAGGOT PIE
WHEY-FACE
WAGTAIL
MALTWORM
JOITHEAD



You warped,
half-faced,
pignut!



The
JOKER



Upcoming Events:

The Bard & The Barbie

{June 22}

As You Like It

{Griffith Park}

Paradise Cove Rove

{August 4}

**FOOLSTOCK '24
Music Festival**

{The Mayflower, September 7}



The Fools' Guild

5758 Bevis Ave
Van Nuys, CA 91411

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Coat of Arms Pin

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