



the knight after

unofficial newsletter of the minnesota renaissance festival

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by Wednesdays or at Cast Call each weekend.

Volume #1999 Issue #4

Notes From The Editor

It's hard to believe that this Sunday marks the mid-point of this year's season! Soon we will be approaching the Millennium and a hopefully better life for everyone will come to be. As we enter the year 2000, I think about the fact that I will be celebrating the half century mark on my birthday next July! I have also been reflecting on the many people who have touched my life since joining the Festival in 1989. Some of my treasured memories are: the encouragement of Bill Peltzman (our Mayor) to audition, the advice from Bill Hohen (The Lord High Sheriff) on what is expected at the audition, the words of wisdom from Stephanie Lindorff (Mother Superior) when I tried the Woo-Off my first year, Gary Parker for telling me that he could see that I would be a "lifer" and the teachings of Karol and Bob Alexander. I know there are many more people I could name, but without those 4 people, my life surely would have taken a vastly different road. I sincerely wish to thank them for this journey. We all need to remember how truly precious this life is and how wonderful our Festival "Family" is. Blessings, Sherry

Why men get to stand up to pee...

Seems God was just about done creating the universe, but he had two extra things left in his bag of creations, so he decided to split them between Adam and Eve. He told the couple that one of the things he had to give away was the ability to stand up while urinating. "It's a very handy thing", God told the couple, who he found under an apple tree. "I was wondering if either one of you wanted the ability." Adam jumped up and blurted, "Oh, give that to me! I'd love to be able to do that! It seems a sort of thing a man should do. Oh please, oh please, oh please, let me have that ability, it would be so great! When I'm working in the garden or naming the animals, I could just stand there and let it fly. It would be so cool, I could write my name in the sand. Oh please! God, let it be me who you give that gift to, let me stand and pee, oh please..." On and on he went like an excited little boy who had to pee. Eve just smiled and told God that if Adam really wanted that so badly, that he should have it. It seemed to be the sort of thing that would make him happy and she really wouldn't mind if Adam were the one given this ability. And so Adam was given the ability to control the direction of his misdirection while in a vertical position. And so, he was happy and did celebrate by wetting down the bark on the tree nearest him, laughing with delight all the while. And it was good. "Fine," God said, looking back into his bag of leftover gifts, "What's left here? Oh yes.....multiple orgasms...."



The Evolution of a "Rennie"

By Brian "Rusty Bear" Walko (Rogue Guild Webmaster) <http://shadowzone.com>

This article speaks of the apparel and behaviors of an emerging rennie from season to season. Opinions may vary on this but after some research, this is the general idea of how most rennies evolve. (Reprinted with permission)

1st Season: Foreplay

Child on no garb. Basically checking things out and not of course taking it seriously. Males sometimes just buy a sword, knife, or staff, just for the heck of it because they think it looks cool. Chances are it was the cheapest they could find at Faire. The general thought here is, This is cool but boy do all these people dress funny.

2nd Season: Birth

Male: The appearance of either a samurai sword or cheaply made chromed aluminum blade of poor quality. Still no garb. Black jeans and maybe, I mean maybe, a pirate shirt or cheaply made poet shirt. Probably wearing combat boots or sneakers. On the arms you may find heavy metal accessories such as spiked gauntlets the kind you would find at any flea market. (You know the kind). Maybe a studded belt so far away from period garb it isn't even funny. The sword makes this new infant rennie feel powerful and as if he fits in. not quite. The apparel on this individual looks more like a rock concert junkie than that of a Faire goer, but he feels as if he looks cool. Not.

Female: On the other hand the ladies probably either made, or ordered a peasant dress to start things off. An old pair of sandals she found in the closet or a pair of boots left over from the 70's she found in a box somewhere. A piece of rope or old belt she had hanging around finishes the look so far. Of course she still hasn't gotten rid of that damned purse yet. I must admit, judging from what I have seen, the ladies tend to have a bit more fashion sense than the guys do. The guys want the toys first, clothes second. Now don't get me wrong, there are some ladies out there who look like Elvira on a really bad day or, maybe even scarier than that.

3rd season: Infancy

The child gets adopted as it were into the Rennie circle and is taught the ways of the Rennie world. Many willing groups of parents come out of the proverbial barwork for this one. The newbly will normally garner Rennie Status in this society and maybe asked to join the SCA or even an SCA household or two. Their look becomes a little less Dragonlance-esque and a little more Medieval (just a little.)

Male: Mail order catalog poet shirt or pirate shirt. Either dance tights that are too small as to see right through them or the infamous shiny black spandex leggings you can find almost anywhere. Chances are at this point he is already thinking of purchasing, or has purchased a real belt of period styling and decent quality. Either way it would probably be purchased by the end of the season. Has probably made a huge mistake in buying or ordering a nylon cape or cloak. Bad move. Footwear probably remains as sneakers, combat or work boots, or possible moccasins. While at faire this year he may pick up a cool pendant that will last for years to come. His first leather pouch. A tankard is also quite possible this year. Not too flashy but functional.

Female: First Bodice. Oh boy! Chances are though it isn't of very good quality or contains a fabric not found in the period in which she is trying to portray. It probably is loose fitting compared to true bodice tightness. Meaning, she can breathe. Since the bodice probably ended up to be more than expected, she probably hasn't bought that new skirt yet. A 50% chance she was talked into a new skirt from the merchant who sold her the bodice exists though. Footwear will probably remain the same until next season. Quite possibly this season is the introduction of her first tankard.

4th season: Adolescence

A "revamping of the wardrobe". At this point, the adolescent rennie has gotten a real taste for it, met some new friends, (hopefully friends knowledgeable about such things) to guide them. By suggestion, a revamping of the wardrobe is in order. Guild membership gives the adolescent a sense of belonging, dedicated to a higher purpose.

Male: New shirt. A medium to good quality shirt has been chosen. One this time with no nylon or cheap grommets in it. Spandex leggings that fit right and are not shiny or a pair of britches. That new belt he got at faire, and his new leather pouch after discovering his old one was too small for all the stuff he wants to carry. Here is where it gets difficult to judge. Choices here are dependent on the income of the individual. New boots (if of course he bought britches), or new moccasins of knee high length. Same sword. He just can't justify spending that much money for a quality sword, or, a better quality sword that just falls under the mark for a mature rennie. A vest in probably introduced this season, although probably not early on. He has thrown out the nylon cape or cloak, realizing nylon

(Continued on Page 4)

The Green Fairy Folk

Advice For The Eternally Flustered

Reporters: Woo and Lucky Thirteen

Critical Praise For The Open Fh

Sherry Roth: Cuter than my husband Brad in fishnets!

Robert Schug: I laughed so hard I almost became hetero!

Terry Fox: I'd rather take a folk in the worst!

Jay King: Hey man, you got any beer?

The cast of Pulanami Puppets were moved to tears as was came upon the box located at Bad Manor Sunday evening, as thousands of crumpled dollar bills completely engulfed the table. The outpouring of affection and concern was overwhelming. "Good job," said Pam, "My cut is 20%, right? Forget anything I said about getting a PO Box." Since that crisis has passed, we have decided to put the money to good use. The Puppet Project has committed itself to better the lives of all entertainers. We raised between \$20 and \$4000, and some of the good causes we will be contributing to will be: MAF, so they can buy more Peasants; Lucky, so he can purchase a date on Saturday night; Virgo, to obtain a case of mace to repel unwanted advances; Jim Peterson, to make up for the lack of beer sales and pay his site crew; and the CKC hawkers, so they can buy the tickets to the special events they are supposed to be selling. A small amount has also been set aside to hire the now-unemployed writers of MST 3000 to write this column so Lucky and Virgo can take credit where none is deserved. Thank you for your support.

1. I was watching TV last week, and I saw Kevin Sorbo announce a Xena/Hercules day at the Festival! I was very excited, but I never saw any Hercules look-alikes, nor did I see Kevin Sorbo anywhere. What happened? I wanted his autograph on my breasts. (Angel - Resident Gimp)

Willie: That was scary. I was looking for him, too. I wandered up to front gate late in the day and heard the faint cries of someone in distress. When I opened the tower door, I found Kevin Sorbo and 73 Hercules look-alikes hog-tied and gagged. I quickly undid the binds that tied him, he explained he was jumped at cast call by a horde of ugly Xena look-alikes, forced to watch a tape of the entire Lilith Fair Concert, and prodded against his will into being a wine boy for the Fops. He said he had a great time, and was considering a new career as a maid for Puph and Phluff. We then found Angel, but he could only fit KS on her breasts.

Penelope: Well I myself dressed in enough leather to make a bull horny...and it was just toooooo easy turing those hunk-wanna-be's into the tower...all we did was leave a trail of green M&M's leading into the shrubbery and we snatched them there. We also grabbed two Xena's that upon closer inspection peed standing up. Fun like this should be illegal...and probably is.

2. I was at the Funky Formal Saturday, and I tried to get laid, but every woman had at least five guys hitting on her! What happened to the good old days when they all said yes? (Three of the Four Musketeers)

Willie: Sad but true, there does seem to be one chaste virgin for every fifteen horny guys this year. It does appear that the word is out about our drunken, all night orgies, and the ladies are staying home in droves. Don't give up hope, however, and remember, beauty is only a light switch away. Have patience. Lower your standards, consider farm animals, there is a cute llama over in the field. Hell, you're lucky; I don't even have a right hand. And there is nothing to stand out from the crowd than a good pick-up line- here's one that always works for me. Say Penelope, wanna f'ck in my van Saturday night? .

Penelope: Uh let's see...Saturday night? Looks like I have an 8:05 to 8:10 time slot available....that should do it for you, right? I seem to remember the last time you asked me for a date you wanted to meet me in the handicapped privy, I see you have moved up in the world. Sounds OK, but you better be good, otherwise I will find a bigger pr'ck.

3. Since starting the Fest this year, I have developed a strap throat, explosive diarrhea, migraine headaches, persistent or chronic cough, mono, tingling sensation in my fingertips, loss of sight in my right eye, and the loss of several limbs. How can I prevent this from happening? (Angelis LaBaruro - Part time Puppeteer)

Willie: Sounds like an average day to me. What you are referring to in a common affliction called the Plague, and it was very popular in the 15th Century. It is most commonly spread by, uh, sharing mugs. I suggest you see a doctor, and compare the cost of that with your income for the season, I would say you are probably about \$100 in the hole so far this year. Not bad.

Penelope: It is obvious that you are a rookie.....as any seasoned vet can tell you...this can easily be prevented by not eating, drinking or breathing during festival hours.....you then must thoroughly saturate yourself with Guinness all night long....stagger down to the campground and pass out immediately. The next morning you may have to find your own tent to change into your costume, but heck, that's part of the fun...and also, try my rennie breakfast cure - bottle of Pepto-Bismol, caffeine pills, and a Twinkie. Works every time.

Thought of the Week: "Never waste your time trying to help a woman improve her self - esteem: once you have succeeded, she will realize she no longer needs you." (From Lucky Thirteen)

"Nothing is fool proof to a sufficiently talented fool" or "Make something idiot-proof and someone will make a better idiot." (From Virgo)

(Evolution of A Rennie continued from Page 2)

Isn't a good choice for the serious rennie. Coming to the conclusion that cloaks are too hot for most faires hasn't replaced it with a good one. By this time he has learned some terms and phrases to begin creating his character.

Female: That new skirt and leather pouch or wool bag has arrived. She will not be buying a new bodice as of yet because she can't see parting with the money for a new one since she only just bought one last year. Period shoes or boots are probably introduced late this season. Jewelry such as rings, pins, and/or necklaces finish out this season's shopping spree.

5th season: Puberty

OK now we are getting somewhere. Our rennie project is reaching Puberty. The first overnighter faire/party weekend is a welcomed treat.

Male: That new sword he has been wanting for so long is finally a reality. The introduction of this fine blade makes him feel even more powerful than his last. His first pair of quality boots is a welcomed feel under foot. Not much else changes for our mature rennie male this season, as he has spent all his money on the boots and steel. Character develops from this point on at an alarming rate. He now becomes a "sponge". Sucking up all the information he can pull out of mature Rennies on clothing, lingo, and history. The how and why syndrome. Or the what do ye think about this? Disease.

Female: The quality Bodice. After much investigation, she purchases that full-blown bodice from the highest quality merchant she can find. The Rogues rejoice! Finally a horizontal chest you can serve drinks on. (Or bury your face in.) A new skirt to match. Also most of her time is taken up learning from the mature Rennies this season. More faires. More friends etc.

6th season: Maturity

It is the Lemming season. Many try to replicate the ideals and styling of their favorite Rennie. (If both male and female hasn't already), that pair of quality boots is purchased now. New blouses/shirts and jewelry.

Male: Gauntlets. After recognizing the fact he has wasted so much money on cheap accessories in the past he will not take the chance here. Quality garb from here on in. An introduction of a dagger is quite possible for our young adult Rennie. A bigger, more attractive metal tankard is also purchased this season. Bigger being the key word here.

Female: Skirt/skirte, and the introduction of milady's first steel. A bodice dagger. A more attractive pewter tankard. Probably a larger leather or wool pouch are all purchased or bartered for this season.

7th season: Full-fledged Rendom

With a worn and tattered copy of the Ye Olde Rennie Bible. (Any Guild book will suffice.) They have also learned the art of buying roses and grapes for diving. Characters are really showing their face this season with a larger vocabulary and quick-witted comebacks. Purchases this season will consist of: More Steel. More shirts. More Steel. More blouses. More Steel. More toys. More Steel.

8th Season: Blackbelt Rennie

Probably a revamp of wardrobe here. All the normal clothes but of the highest quality possible. Most items will be tailored or custom made. More Steel Of course and more toys and jewelry.

9th season: Ren Zen

The rennie has reached Ren Zen. Knows all the vendors, the Rennies, the SCA people, the wenches, the rogues, picks on the newbies Men may have bought armour by now. Women acquire a tighter bodice and the art of totally changing in a parking lot so that no one can see a thing. Some may have even become full-fledged SCA people. Others may have decided to kill the entire SCA by now. Tough choices.

10th season on up: The Veteran. (Rennie Nirvana)

You are seen as a legend. The newbies don't really believe you exist. You have seen every renaissance movie, listened to every lyric, and study countless books of Ye Ole English. Ye seen it all, Ye done it all, Ye bought the bleedin' tavern. Now what?



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