



April 23, 1982 — Nobel Prize winner Isaac Singer came to USC as the final guest of the 1982 Writers Series. Singer's haunting writings focus on spirits and the supernatural.



## A knight's T A L E

BY MACKENZIE CLEMENTS  
THE GAMECOCK

### MOVIE REVIEW

**MOVIE:** *A Knight's Tale*  
**STARRING:** Heath Ledger, Paul Bettany  
**DIRECTOR/WRITER:** Brian Helgeland  
**GRADE:** ☆☆☆ out of ☆☆☆☆

**FROM TOP:** William (Heath Ledger, right) celebrates his victory with Chaucer (Paul Bettany).

Jocelyn (Shannyn Sossamon) surprises her battered "knight" in a secret, late-night rendezvous.

Roland (Mark Addy), Kate (Laura Fraser) and Wat (Alan Tudyk) are William's biggest fans, helping train him for victory.

Amid the adrenaline-charged cries of spectators, rookie squire William tries to become a sports superstar of his time.

Special to The Gamecock

**A** soundtrack featuring Queen, screaming peasants and big sticks — what more does a movie need?

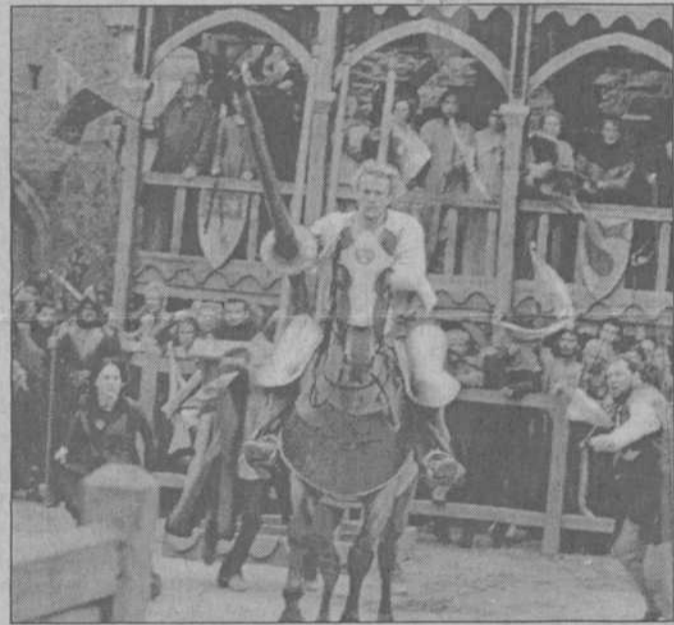
*A Knight's Tale*, which hits theaters May 11, stars Heath Ledger and an ensemble of mostly British unknowns. Imagine Monty Python meets *Braveheart*.

Ledger holds his own as a lowly squire who masquerades as a knight so he can compete in the 14th-century jousting tournaments, the equivalent of today's pro-football games.

But he's on equal footing with the rest of the cast, who are all great actors.

The noblewoman of his dreams is played by newcomer Shannyn Sossamon, who was discovered while DJing at one of Gwyneth Paltrow's parties.

And Paul Bettany makes his American debut as Geoff Chaucer — the Chaucer, whose life story had convenient holes during the time this film takes place.



Special to The Gamecock

William rushes toward an opponent during a jousting match — the 14th-century version of professional football today.

The most credit, however, should go to writer/director Brian Helgeland (*L.A. Confidential*). He wrote a script that combines romance, rock 'n' roll and raucous laughter.

Of course, there are definitely some cheesy moments in the movie. But that's almost expected from a film about knights.

What's amazing is how much of the movie actually works.

Blaring "We Will Rock You" while men ride at each other with sticks is something that hasn't been

done before, and somehow, *A Knight's Tale* pulls it off. In addition, the onscreen camaraderie of the actors is as genuine as it gets.

"I hope people get the sensation ... that we're just a good bunch of people that you'd like to spend an evening with," Bettany said about the film.

While *A Knight's Tale* might not stir deep inner reflection, it's a decent way to spend a couple of hours during the summer.

The spotlight desk can be reached at [gamecockspotlight@hotmail.com](mailto:gamecockspotlight@hotmail.com)



## TOP TEN Week of April 16

- 1 Shuggie Otis  
Inspiration Information...
- 2 Gorillaz  
Tomorrow Comes Today
- 3 Mouse on Mars  
Idiology
- 4 Moods For Modern  
Loud And Clear
- 5 The Danielson Family  
Fetch the Compass Kids
- 6 John Hammond  
Wicked Grin
- 7 Bardo Pond  
Dilate
- 8 Bis  
Music For a Stranger World
- 9 Mice Parade  
Mokoondi
- 10 Paul Newman  
My Pal God

## IN THE NEWS

### Paul McCartney ranks as Britain's richest musician

**LONDON (AP)** — Baby, you're a rich man.

Paul McCartney, who sang that song with The Beatles, is Britain's richest musician, according to the *Sunday Times*' annual list of the country's wealthiest people.

McCartney's personal fortune grew by \$235 million last year to \$1 billion, the newspaper reported Friday. That put him No. 1 among musical moguls, but 36th on the full list. The paper didn't release the name of the wealthiest person overall.

The former Beatle's worth increased with \$200 million inherited from his late wife Linda, who died in 1998. McCartney, 58, also reaped rewards from The Beatles anthology I, which has sold more than 12 million copies.

Composer Andrew Lloyd Webber is ranked second with an estimated fortune of \$605 million, and producer Cameron Mackintosh is third with \$575 million. In fourth place is Robert Stigwood, producer of musical films including *Grease* and *Saturday Night Fever*, worth an estimated \$290 million.

In fifth place is Chris Wright of Chrysalis Media Group, valued at \$275 million.

Among rock 'n' roll's richest are Madonna and her British filmmaker husband Guy Ritchie, valued at \$260 million and sixth on the list.

### Sting takes his 'Brand New Day' tour to Middle East

**DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)** — Sting opened the Middle East leg of his world "Brand New Day" tour in the tiny Gulf emirate of Dubai as part of a regional swing that also includes Jordan, Egypt and Lebanon.

The Egyptian superstar, one of the biggest names ever to play in Dubai, began his Middle East tour Thursday evening in the emirate normally known for its world-class hotels and rich horse racing, but not its cultural offerings.

"It is something that does not happen too often around here. Whatever we can get on a cultural basis, we take it, because there is not much choice," said German national and Dubai resident Sabine Auris, 33.

The loudest applause of the evening came when Algerian Rai singer Cheb Mami joined Sting on stage for their Arabic-English duet "Desert Rose."

Sting travels next to Amman, Jordan, for a concert on Sunday, then to Cairo, Egypt, for a show on Wednesday.

## COLUMBIA MOVIE DIRECTORY

**MOVIES AT POLO ROAD  
9700 Two Notch Road  
788-7818**

- Joe Dirt (PG-13)  
3:05, 5:05, 7:05, 9:05
- Spy Kids (PG)  
3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00
- Along Came a Spider (R)  
3:10, 5:15, 7:20, 9:25
- Freddy Got Fingered (R)  
3:10, 5:10, 7:10, 9:10
- Blow (R)  
3:45, 7:25, 9:45
- Josie and the Pussycats (PG-13)  
3:20, 5:20, 7:20, 9:20
- Bridget Jones's Diary (R)  
3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30
- Someone Like You (PG-13)  
5:15, 7:15, 9:15
- Pokemon 3: The Movie (G)  
3:15

**GENERAL CINEMA DUTCH  
SQUARE 14  
DUTCH SQUARE SHOPPING  
CENTER  
750-3576**

- Joe Dirt (PG-13)  
1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:10
- Spy Kids (PG)  
1:00, 3:10, 5:10, 7:10, 9:10
- Along Came a Spider (R)  
1:40, 4:30, 7:30, 9:50
- Freddy Got Fingered (R)  
1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:50, 10:00
- Blow (R)  
1:10, 4:00, 7:00, 9:35
- Josie and the Pussycats (PG-13)  
2:00, 4:20, 7:10, 9:30
- Bridget Jones's Diary (R)  
1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:40, 9:50
- Exit Wounds (R)  
7:20, 10:00
- Heartbreakers (PG-13)  
1:30, 4:20, 7:20, 10:00
- Someone Like You (PG-13)  
1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 9:40
- Pokemon 3: The Movie (G)  
1:10, 3:15, 5:20

**Kingdom Come (PG)  
1:40, 4:10, 7:30, 9:40**  
**Crocodile Dundee in Los Angeles (PG)  
1:00, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:50**

**The Brothers (R)  
1:20, 4:00, 7:00, 9:20**  
**Just Visiting (PG-13)  
1:50, 4:10, 7:40, 9:35**

**REGAL CINEMAS 7  
RICHLAND MALL  
748-9044**

- Joe Dirt (PG-13)  
12:45, 2:50, 4:55, 7:25, 9:45
- Spy Kids (PG)  
12:40, 2:55, 5:05, 7:20, 9:30
- Along Came a Spider (R)  
12:25, 2:40, 5:00, 7:40, 10:00
- Freddy Got Fingered (R)  
12:35, 2:35, 4:45, 7:45, 9:50
- Exit Wounds (R)  
3:00, 5:10, 7:30
- Heartbreakers (PG-13)  
12:30, 9:45
- Chocolat (PG-13)  
1:00, 4:00, 7:10, 9:40
- Enemy at the Gates (R)  
1:20, 4:10, 7:05, 9:55

**CARMIKE CINEMAS 14  
122 AFTON COURT  
781-3067**

- Joe Dirt (PG-13)  
1:45, 4:15, 7:30, 9:30
- Spy Kids (PG)  
1:15, 4:00, 7:15, 9:30
- Along Came a Spider (R)  
2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30
- Freddy Got Fingered (R)  
1:45, 4:00, 7:15, 9:30
- Exit Wounds (R)  
1:00, 4:00, 7:30, 9:45
- Heartbreakers (PG-13)  
1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45
- Just Visiting (PG-13)  
1:45, 4:15, 7:30, 9:30
- Malena (R)  
2:00, 4:30, 7:30, 9:30
- Finding Forrester (PG-13)  
1:00, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45
- Traffic (R)  
1:15, 4:00, 7:00, 9:45
- Shadow of the Vampire (R)  
1:30, 4:00, 7:15, 9:30
- The Wedding Planner (PG-13)  
1:30, 4:15, 7:15, 9:30

**The Mexican (R)  
2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30**  
**Tomcats (R)  
1:00, 4:00, 7:30, 9:30**

**CARMIKE CINEMAS  
WYNSONG 10  
5320 FOREST DRIVE  
782-8100**

- Blow (R)  
1:10, 4:20, 7:10, 9:45
- Josie and the Pussycats (PG-13)  
1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 9:40
- Bridget Jones's Diary (R)  
11:45, 4:45, 7:30, 9:45
- Someone Like You (PG-13)  
1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 9:40
- Pokemon 3: The Movie (G)  
1:20, 4:20, 7:00, 9:10
- Kingdom Come (PG)  
1:00, 1:30, 4:00, 4:30, 7:00
- 7:30, 9:15, 9:45
- Crocodile Dundee in Los Angeles (PG)  
1:45, 4:15, 7:00, 9:20
- The Brothers (R)  
1:15, 4:15, 7:00, 9:15

**Crouching Tiger, Hidden  
Dragon (PG-13)  
1:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30**

**PASTIME PAVILION CINEMA  
8  
929 NORTH LAKE DRIVE  
951-3603**

- Joe Dirt (PG-13)  
1:30, 3:30, 5:35, 7:40, 9:40
- Spy Kids (PG)  
1:15, 3:20, 5:20, 7:30, 9:30
- Along Came a Spider (R)  
2:00, 4:25, 7:10, 9:50
- Freddy Got Fingered (R)  
1:00, 3:05, 5:10, 7:20, 9:20
- Blow (R)  
1:35, 4:15, 6:50, 9:35
- Josie and the Pussycats (PG-13)  
1:45, 4:05, 7:05, 9:15
- Bridget Jones's Diary (R)  
2:30, 4:45, 7:50, 10:00
- Crocodile Dundee in Los Angeles (PG)  
2:15, 4:35, 7:00, 9:10