

FAIRE PLAY

Based on an original concept by
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Written by

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The STAGE MANAGER drives into fair. After exiting her vehicle, we hear a FIDDLER who passes by her as she walks through staff entrance. She is carrying her backpack and a formal-looking letter in one hand. She is talking to camera.

STAGE MANAGER

My day usually starts around 6:30 in the morning with the daily staff meeting. It's really the last chance I have to talk to the players normally before they get into character. Once the fair opens it can be... challenging.

We follow the Stage Manager. Cast members are revealed as she walks through "backstage" towards the morning meeting. The Stage Manager tries talking to a Larp performer in full costume, a SQUIRE

STAGE MANAGER (CONT'D)

Our juggling hobbit called in sick with some kind of rash, can you juggle, coz we need someone to spot him on the Queen's stage?

SQUIRE

Nay, a pox on that bull's pizzle.

STAGE MANAGER

It's a yes or no answer.

The squire dances away singing a tune to himself, leaving the Stage Manager perplexed. She speaks to camera.

STAGE MANAGER (CONT'D)

Things have been a bit crazy this season. I'm not used to running things without Tony. He wasn't just the King- he was the heart of the fair- treated us all like family- which is why, when I heard that he had passed, and that his kids were back and taking over the family business, I knew they would need my help.

She passes two men, SIR GALAHAD and the DRAGONSLAYER, practicing their swordplay together.

STAGE MANAGER (CONT'D)

That would be our Master of Ale and resident Dragonslayer, Terry.

(MORE)

STAGE MANAGER (CONT'D)

His opponent there is our newly appointed Sir Galahad- and Tony's youngest- Jake. It's been about fifteen years since he's picked up a sword and he's...

The Stage Manager watches as Jake struggles.

STAGE MANAGER (CONT'D)

Still warming up. Quite the ladies man...used to be at least...it's been a rough year for him. As my Buba used to say, (in jewish accent) "he's lost a bit of his Chutzpa."

CUT TO:

2

EXT. HORSE CORAL- INTERVIEW GALAHAD- DAY

2

Jake, in costume as Sir Galahad, sits with horse.

SIR GALAHAD

(Forcing smile) Sooooooo, I'm back...here...Yayyy. And I have been...reaclimating. As a kid, I used to joust in the King's tournament. I was his champion, but um, recently I got a DUI. Actually, I was on my horse at the time, so more of a Rooey, you know; Riding under the influence type thing. An RUI, at least in the state of California. And as a result I'm not allowed to ride horses currently. Which makes jousting a little tough...And as a result I'm not allowed to ride horses currently. Which makes jousting a little tough...And to make matters worse they hit me with an animal abuse charge. They say I got trigger drunk. Can you believe that? What's wrong with sharing a beer with your best friend? I love this horse!

CUT TO:

3

EXT. FAIR PATH WITH STAGE MANAGER

3

Mystic Meg finds the Stage Manager, furious.

MYSTIC MEG

Damn it, Mina, Malcolm has been hotboxing the changing rooms again and I have to change!

STAGE MANAGER

I got it. Thanks.

A UNICYCLIST appears- The Stage Manager struggles to avoid collision.

STAGE MANAGER (CONT'D)

Anyway, moving on...

We pass a picnic area where Lute Player sits with CALEB playing Dungeons and Dragons.

We pass a costume trailer, where MALCOM pulls up his tights.

STAGE MANAGER (CONT'D)

THAT is Malcom- Tony's eldest...and heir to the throne, which makes him...

KING MALCOLM

Hey! The royal jewels are not for public display!

STAGE MANAGER

The new King...

Stage Manager notices DAISY, who is leading a dance practice WITH 3 AVERAGE DANCERS on platform.

STAGE MANAGER (CONT'D)

And that is Lady Daisy- Tony's only daughter and apple of his eye. He would be so thrilled to know she was back- and in charge of entertainment. Her and her two brothers used to love it here as kids. I hope some of that carries over, for all our sakes.

STAGE MANAGER (CONT'D)

She is...

Camera pans to Daisy who demonstrates a shimmy to the girls.

STAGE MANAGER (CONT'D)

Quirky... and a bit unpredictable as far as the attention span goes but we've missed her.

(MORE)

STAGE MANAGER (CONT'D)

She moved out to Vegas a while back to be a showgirl in Donny Osmond's Spectacular... but apparently things got a little crazy there.

CUT TO:

4 INT. OF MYSTIC MEG'S TENT- MYSTIC MEG INTERVIEW- DAY 4

Mystic Meg sits with a couple mid-reading

MYSTIC MEG

I heard it had something to do with Thunder from Down Under and some incident at the Bellagio. I'm not sure of the specifics, but it involved Bob Saget, Corey Feldman, and like... three grams of coke. That's really all we know.

CUT TO:

5 EXT. FAIR PATH - DAY 5

DAISY

(running up to Manager)

Um... question... what do you think about adding a foam canon?

STAGE MANAGER

To the court dance?

DAISY

Well, I just thought that maybe...

As camera pans to awkward dancer

DAISY (CONT'D)

...it would spice things up a bit.

STAGE MANAGER

Um... sorry Daisy... no foam cannons... it says so in your contract.

Daisy frowns and runs back to dancers.

EXT. STAGE MANAGER SITDOWN INTERVIEW - DAY

STAGE MANAGER

I actually have no idea what's in their contract. But if anything sounds difficult, I just tell them they can't and that it says so in their contract... Because I know for a fact they didn't read it.

EXT. PATH FAIR - DAY

A BEARDED LADY sits outside holding a coffee. Stew is practicing spells with his wand when he notices the Stage Manager. He waves at her and bows.

STAGE MANAGER

Morning guys... meeting in 10.

An extra, Annie, and Ian are playing Zip, Zap, Zop out front. Stew sees Stage Manager and bows hello- Annie waves.

STAGE MANAGER (CONT'D)

Don't get me started on the magical folks...

We follow the Stage Manager as she walks into the wagon office door.

CUT TO:

6 INT. STAFF AREA MEETING - MORNING

6

All cast has assembled into tent, getting ready, warming up.

STAGE MANAGER

A few quick notes before our major announcement... Daisy, we still have an hour available on the main-stage. Have you finalized how you're going to fill that space?

Daisy thinks about this for a beat...

CUT TO:

7 EXT. ON PLATFORM- DAISY INTERVIEW- DAY

7

Daisy taps on stage and then...with mic and wearing Wizard Beard.....

DAISY
 "Hey, Vito ...come on in. Hey
 Vito...COME ON IN."
 (confidently)
 Peter Clemenza- Godfather 2.

CUT TO:

8 INT. OF STAFF MEETING AREA

8

STAGE MANAGER
 (grimacing) Um... lets stick with a
 Middle Eastern dance workshop for
 now, Daisy. You can't do
 impressions anyway.... It says so
 in your contract. And - a reminder
 that this weekend is our Pirate
 takeover. Any patron wearing Pirate
 Garb receives 25% off the ticket
 price.

KING MALCOM
 Also, don't forget- to greet them
 with an "Ahoy!" or "Avast!" And
 give them a good "Arrrrrrrrr"

No reactions.

MALCOM
 Or... whatever... uh... sorry.

STAGE MANAGER
 Moving on... to parking. We are
 still getting complaints...cars are
 getting clipped left and right out
 there. A season ticket holder found
 his bumper completely detached when
 he retuned to his car last night.

DAISY
 That's weird...

CUT TO:

9 EXT. STAFF MEETING AREA - DAISY SITDOWN INTERVIEW - DAY

9

DAISY
 Well that thing came out of
 nowhere.

INTERVIEWER
So you're responsible?

DAISY
Probably.

INTERVIEWER
For all of the damage?

DAISY
There is a strong possibility.

CUT TO:

10 INT. OF STAFF MEETING AREA - DAY

10

STAGE MANAGER
So... as a reminder to everyone...
lets remember to keep two hands on
the wheel. Okay, moving on...
Malcom- the big announcement!

KING MALCOM
(clearing his throat)
Uh, as you know - we aren't the
only fair in town. For 30 years,
the county has allowed both our
fair and the Hooper family fair to
run simultaneously. But when Pop
Died, Parks n Rec got involved in
the permitting process and it's
just been hell. Anyway, uh, this
town only has so much room so...

STAGE MANAGER
What Malcom is trying to say is
that both fairs can't co-exist
anymore. They are going to be
shutting one of us down. But Malcom
has talked to the Hooper crew at
and we're going to be handling this
the old fashioned way.

TERRY THE DRAGONSLAYER
(stoked) A dual!!!!!!

KING MALCOM
(nodding)
Our knight against theres. Winner
takes all- loser's fair leaves
town.

TERRY THE DRAGONSLAYER
 (rising to his feet)
 Malcom, I promise that I will not
 let you down.

KING MALCOM
 Yeah... uh, Terry- as our Resident
 Master at Arms--

TERRY THE DRAGONSLAYER
 --And Dragonslayer...

KING MALCOM
 Yes - and Dragonslayer... you would
 typically be the obvious choice but
 it's not just about the permit-
 this rift goes back a while now. It
 can only be settled between
 families- soooo... It's got to be
 Jake.

Jake is shocked. Room erupts-worried. Annie The Elf covers
 her ears.

CUT TO:

11 EXT. STAFF MEETING AREA- ANNIE THE ELF INTERVIEW- DAY 11

ANNIE THE ELF
 My ears have always been very
 sensitive- Every morning, I commune
 with the trees. They whisper
 secrets of the old world. Mostly
 things like "it's going to be
 windy" or "someone's carved their
 name into me. These suckers (ears)
 are guided by the Fae and most of
 the time I have little to no
 control over them. Except on
 Tuesdays. Tuesdays, I know that if
 I stand by my television just so
 and tug on my left ear like this-
 (she demonstrates) I don't need to
 DVR Dr. Phil- it just records
 automatically.

CUT TO:

12 INT. OF STAFF MEETING AREA 12

KING MALCOM
 Hey! Jake was the King's champion.

DAISY
Yeah...In like 2007....

KING MALCOM
Come on guys... Jake can do this.

MYSTIC MEG
Jake got shitfaced and took his
horse to 711!

SIR GALAHAD
(defensively)
Trigger likes the taquitos.

TERRY THE DRAGONSLAYER
You've got to be kidding me,
Malcom. I kill Dragons. Jake kills
nerds.

SIR GALAHAD
Terry's right! I'm not the guy for
this- not anymore. Have you seen
the knights over at the Hooper
fair? They're huge!

STEW
It's true Malcom. Jake doesn't
stand a chance against that Juice
Crew.

MALCOM
Juice Crew?

STEW
You know-liquid Brotine,
Crackersaurs... Badger Milk...

MALCOM
Listen- I think we're all over
reacting a bit... Jake- you've
fought Corey before.

JAKE
COREY? Marine Corey? Firefighter
Corey?

KING MALCOM
Yeah, that's the one... wasn't he
your best friend?

JAKE
When we were nine! I can't do this
Malcom.

KING MALCOM
 You've got to, Jake- for Pop...
 It's the only way this fair will
 survive.

Everyone reacts-worried. Annie the elf covers her ears again.

STAGE MANAGER
 Alright...Worse thing we can do is
 panic. Brave faces everybody.

Tim the Squire's hand shoots up. Manager internally inhales

STAGE MANAGER (CONT'D)
 Tim? (Recognizing the look then
 resigning) Get it out Tim.

With twinkling eyes, Tim begins to sing- delicately, staccato

TIM THE SQUIRE
 "Whenever I feel afraid, I hold my
 head erect, And whistle a happy
 tune so no one will suspect I'm
 afraid."

Tim begins to whistle the tune.

MYSTIC MEG
 Oh for fuck sake...

CUT TO:

13 EXT. STAFF MEETING AREA- STAGE MANAGER INTERVIEW- DAY 13
 Stage Manager stares at camera, speechless.

CUT TO:

14 INT. OF STAFF MEETING AREA 14
 Fiddler has joined as Tim finishes the song...

TIM THE SQUIRE
 "And no one will suspect I'm
 afraid."

Some clap. Annie is thrilled. Dragon slayer is unimpressed.
 Stew's face says "not bad".

STAGE MANAGER

Thank you Tim. Feel better?

TIM THE SQUIRE

(nodding)Works every time.

MANAGER

Tim's right-Lets keep our heads up
AND our eyes OPEN- so I'm creating
a watch team. I'll need you in
character and ON THE LOOKOUT.

KING MALCOM

An excellent plan! As your King, I
shall ensure no scoundrels
infiltrate our fair!

STAGE MANAGER

Great- So you'll take the 1-3PM
watch?

KING MALCOM

Uh, I must consult my royal
schedule.

STAGE MANAGER

Your schedule? Malcom- those are
Goblet Game Hours. You're up on the
balcony.

KING MALCOM

Actually...it's tradition for the
king to take a siesta at that time,
and it has been for a thousands
years.

STAGE MANAGER

(blinks) A siesta. You mean a nap?

KING MALCOM

Tradition, it's tradition, that's
what we do here, by the way.

STAGE MANAGER

Right. So every afternoon, in the
middle of the fair, you're asleep?

KING MALCOM

Ah! Fear not. I have a flawless
system-I have appointed a Steward,
a most worthy substitute. All Hail
King Caleb. (camera scans to
awkward teenager)

Caleb sits nearby, clueless and wearing a hair-net.

STAGE MANAGER

Caleb?

KING MALCOM

Yeah-ya know- (smiling
casually) Soup-in-a-Bread-Bowl guy!

MYSTIC MEG

Let me get this straight Malcom.
While your'e passed out in a pile
of costumes somewhere, you've got
Soup-in-a-Bread-bowl guy up there
waving at the crowd?

Malcom stutters. Caleb remains emotionless.

MYSTIC MEG (CONT'D)

All hail SOUP-IN-A-BREAD-BOWL GUY?

CUT TO:

15

INT. OF MYSTIC MEG TENT- MALCOM INTERVIEW- DAY

15

King sits in pile of costumes with blanket facing camera

KING MALCOM

Look, from 1:00 to 3:00, I take a
short break. Tactical. Precise. And
no one notices because it is the
single safest window in the entire
day. First, you've got the Post-
Turkey-Leg Coma. People have just
eaten a medieval sized portion of
meat, and now they're slumped over
a hay bale , questioning their life
choices. Then, there's the Senior
Citizen Surge. One lap with the
grandkids and that tool-bag their
daughter married and they're
looking to hit the cider hard.
They're full, they're slow. They're
vulnerable to deception. So, I swap
in the Bread-bowl kid. He sits on
the throne, waves a little, simple
stuff.

(MORE)

KING MALCOM (CONT'D)

Meanwhile, I go lie down in the back of some tent, take off one boot, eat a handful of cold roast beef straight from my pocket, and fall asleep on whatever pile of furs is closest.

CUT TO:

16 INT. OF STAFF MEETING AREA

16

The manager continues.

STAGE MANAGER

Alright. So the King is... temporarily indisposed. We still need someone on watch. Um... Annie? Our resident Face Painting Elf?

ANNIE

(So excited) Yes! Yes.
(Standing to salute) I'll do it.

17 EXT. FACE-PAINTING TENT, ANNIE THE ELF INTERVIEW- DAY

17

Annie the elf face paints a woman, young man, and man.

ANNIE

I've basically been training for this my whole life. Most people think I'm just painting faces but really, I'm revealing their true forms. This child? A noble tiger. This woman? A celestial butterfly. This man? He said "just a mustache" but I sense a hobbits soul. Things are never what they seem. Was I born with these Pointed Ears? No- because I was disguised at birth for my protection...

CUT TO:

18 INT. OF STAFF MEETING AREA

18

Meeting continues as Annie sits.

STEW THE WIZARD

I must warn all of you, there is a dark wizard afoot.

(MORE)

STEW THE WIZARD (CONT'D)

A sorcerer who spews their venomous incantations, conjuring illusions of derision about me.

JAKE

Do you mean Ken?? Dude- he's been all over your social media- saying he wants to battle...

STEW THE WIZARD

It's true. Ken's had me on blast but I've notified Facebook.

DAISY

I saw Ken this morning in the parking lot.

MYSTIC MEG

Wasn't he in that boy band- Clap?

MALCOM

YEAH! THE CLAP! Loved those guys.

DAISY

Hello?! Did anyone hear what I said; I saw him sneaking around here earlier.

STEW THE WIZARD

Pathetic. He's not even a real Wizard- he's an imposter of the Arcane.

MYSTIC MEG

I don't care if he's a tele-tubby. He's still hot.

CUT TO:

19

EXT. WAND AND SPELL SHOP- INTERVIEW- STEW THE WIZARD - DAY 19

STEW THE WIZARD

(As he mixes potion)No. I've never been a fan of Ken. Ken...is an asshole who drives a tesla and doesn't pay his HOA fees. He is a giant fake and his magic is lame. Listen- I'm just going to go ahead and give you the cold hard truth. Ken... is a Warlock, a BIG SLUTTY WARLOCK who can't even fight trolls.

(MORE)

STEW THE WIZARD (CONT'D)

We are not the same- a man whose
 who sold his soul for a few shitty
 spells will never be in the same
 league as someone with actual
 dragon blood shooting through his
 veins...someone with RAW TALENT.
 You see A Warlock could NEVER be a
 real Wizard and certainly not a
 sorcerer(leaning forward,
 conspiratorial) Let me put it to
 you this way- If Ken and I were in
 the same music class, I would be
 the one with perfect pitch. I would
 have the voice of an angel but in
 the end, Ken may still get the big
 Mariah Carey solo because he's
 banging the professor. It's like...
 I'm the blue fairy and Ken is
 Monica Lewinsky. I am Glinda the
 Good Witch and Ken is..Count
 Chocula... not even real...and this
 boy band nonsense...The Clap?!
 Let is go Ken- You opened for
 Avril Lavigne like three times
 before management dropped you.
 And Thank God- I couldn't stand
 that music- I'm more of a smooth
 jazz kind of guy...

:

20

INT. OF STAFF MEETING AREA

20

TERRY THE DRAGONSLAYER

What about weapons?

MANAGER

Excuse me?

TERRY THE DRAGONSLAYER

Weapons! Weirwood bows,
 Halberds... poisoned arrows...

MYSTIC MEG

We're talking about the crew at
 Hooperville, Terry... we're not
 expecting any dragons.

TERRY THE DRAGONSLAYER

(to the Manager)

You said we needed to be ready for
 anything...

(MORE)

TERRY THE DRAGONSLAYER (CONT'D)

Dragons are the most powerful
Creatures on Planet Earth- they can
manipulate the weather. If we are
prepared for a Dragon, we have
nothing to fear.

STAGE MANAGER

Okay....

(humoring Terry)

What is it that you feel we need?

TERRY THE DRAGONSLAYER

Well- depends. Are we talking about
a fantasy dragon or a real dragon?

STAGE MANAGER

(confused)

I... what now?

TERRY THE DRAGONSLAYER

What are the dragons motives? Are
they protecting a hoard or
territory? Is it being controlled?
Can it speak?

STAGE MANAGER

Um... lets just assume we have the
stereotypical giant winged fire
breathing dragon. What would we
need besides uh... the axes and
swords we currently have?

21

EXT. FENCING AREA INTERVIEW TERRY - DAY

21

TERRY THE DRAGONSLAYER

Please! Only amateurs rush in with
axes and swords, juggling a shield
to miraculously fend off tidal
waves of flames. If we're serious
about this, we're going to need a
goat stuffed with gunpowder to lure
the giant in with 5-10 man groups
set up in ambush. From there, our
best bet is heat seeking missiles,
multiple ballistas, or even better,
groups of scorpions with poisoned
bolts.

22 INT. OF STAFF MEETING AREA

22

KING MALCOM

Okay, we are not gonna use
gunpowder goats, PETA will be all
over us!

TERRY THE DRAGONSLAYER

But Malcolm--

KING MALCOLM

I'm the king, damn it. And I'm
issuing a royal decree! No
exploding farm animals!

TERRY THE DRAGONSLAYER

I don't have to listen to your
royal decrees Malcolm, you're not
actually a king, you manage a
Dennys.

KING MALCOLM

That's it, you're banished from the
realm.

STAGE MANAGER

Oh grow up everyone please!

KING MALCOLM

(still talking to Terry)
No more turkey legs for you, Terry!

STAGE MANAGER

That's mature. Oh- and Malcom? Lose
the tights. There is a nasty rash
going around- so the costumers want
to re-wash all delicates. Got it
everybody? For now- we're just
going to let those suckers breath!

Daisy and Annie the Elf exchange worried looks.

ANNIE THE ELF

We need to go see Mystic Meg about
this rash.

CUT TO:

23 INT. MYSTIC MEG'S TENT- AFTERNOON

23

Annie The Elf, Magic Meg, and Daisy sit inside a tent-
squished around crystal ball.

ANNIE THE ELF

Uh... Before we start, we were just wondering- What is the protocol on fortune teller client privacy? Is it similar to a therapist? Like- you can't tell anyone what you discuss with your client type thing?

MYSTIC MEG

I'm not sure what you mean...

DAISY

Um... she means, like, if you were to see signs of an illness of sorts... you know like... bird flu... chicken pocks...
(casually)STD?

MYSTIC MEG

Is this about Stew's rash?

ANNIE THE ELF

Stew? Stew has a rash too?

MYSTIC MEG

Yes- that's why he hasn't been wearing his tights this week.

ANNIE THE ELF

This is worse then I thought.

MYSTIC MEG

Listen ladies- it's a mans world out there and we need to stick together- your secrets are safe with me. Shall we get started?

They nod

Now before we begin, I'd like us all to meditate with the crystal ball...so if we can all place our hands gently on the crystal ball... and quiet our minds for a moment... I find that a hypnotic state helps the energy.

The women place their hands on the ball and the fortune teller begins to hum awkwardly...maybe even going into a familiar tune. Annie and Daisy join in.

ANNIE THE ELF

I can feel it in my ears.

DAISY

And I feel a warm sensation deep
down in my butt...

MYSTIC MEG

Um... Good... good... now, lets
start off with just some simple
questions... maybe just a yes or
no... so, Daisy if you want to?

DAISY

(to crystal ball, aggressively)
WHO IS SPREADING THE SYPHILIS?

MYSTIC MEG

Well that wasn't exactly a--

DAISY

Is it Mindy- the beer wench with
the lower back tattoo?

ANNIE THE ELF

Wait... maybe we shouldn't start
jumping to-

DAISY

It's Peter from maintenance isn't
it? That lazy eye didn't always
look so lazy!

MYSTIC MEG

Well ,uh, it's hard to say. Looks a
little hazy...

ANNIE THE ELF

Um... Daisy. I have to tell you...

DAISY

Is it Stew? And his dirty tights?

ANNIE THE ELF

Uh..you guys...

MYSTIC MEG

Still foggy....

DAISY

I feel like we're close,

ANNIE THE ELF

YOU GUYS!!!

Both stop and look at Annie

ANNIE THE ELF (CONT'D)
It wasn't Mindy or her tramp stamp
and it wasn't Peter, or Stew....

DAISY
But....

ANNIE THE ELF
It's me! I'm the carrier... I must
be because... I slept with Ken.

MYSTIC MEG
The warlock?

ANNIE THE ELF
(sniffing)
It was a terrible mistake.

MYSTIC MEG
Annie- I thought you were saving
yourself?

ANNIE THE ELF
(tearing up)
I was... but you know... he said
all the right things... he was
blowing in my ear.

DAISY
He's such a douche bag! When did
this happen?

ANNIE THE ELF
Last Saturday... when we were all
at Dave and Busters...

The girls stare at her shocked

ANNIE THE ELF (CONT'D)
In the party bus....(breaking down)

MYSTIC MEG
Girl- don't cry. We got you. You're
with family now.

CUT TO:

SQUIRE

My name is Tim, I'm the Squire. I'm essentially the medieval version of a secretary. Without the typing skills. Or any skills really, come to think of it. I fetch things and clean things mostly. For Sir Galahad.

INTERVIEWER (O.S.)

Can you give us an example of your duties?

SQUIRE

Right. Well, let's say some other knight has just told Sir Galahad that he looks like a metal-plated chimpanzee, then it's my job to go fetch his sword.

INTERVIEWER

Does that happen much?

SQUIRE

During the tournaments- quite a bit. And after. Actually, all the time, come to think of it. Gotta stay on my toes- especially w/ this Hooperville thing.

INTERVIEWER

The rivalry between the Hooperville and Springfield fairs seems to go back years? Like the crips and bloods...with foam swords.

SQUIRE

It's getting serious, especially with the new mandate, you know, only one permit per county, but there are two towns, and two fairs.

(dramatic voice)

There can be only one!

(awkward beat)

Can I do that again?

(to the camera)

There can be only one!

INTERVIEWER

I think we got it, thank you.

CUT TO:

25

EXT. REN FAIR - MAIN ARENA - DAY

25

The cast walks towards us "Tarantino"-style slow-motion shot,
as a medieval version of "Slim Shady" plays over.