

## Movies about King Arthur

King Arthur is such a popular character that many movies about his life and adventures have been made. However, some filmmakers concentrate on the romantic, magical side of his story, while others want to tell us more about the real-life, flesh-and blood-Arthur, using historical information.

This sheet includes two lists of movies. The first set expresses the mythical version of Arthur's legend. The movies in the second list show a more realistic, historical version of his time. For homework, you should see one of the films from each list, take some notes, and come back to class prepared for an interesting discussion about the different ways Arthur has been portrayed.

### Films based on the romantic myths about Arthur:

*Camelot* (1967) rated G

<http://imdb.com/title/tt0061439/>

- Film based on the popular Broadway musical
- A romantic attachment between French knight Lancelot and Queen Guinevere, in addition to a plot by the evil Mordred, the king's illegitimate son, threaten to destroy the perfect kingdom of Camelot.

*Excalibur* (1981) rated PG

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0082348/>

- Acclaimed movie that deals with parts of the Arthur legend not often touched on, including his father, Uther, and Merlin's input in his upbringing.

*The Sword in the Stone* (1963) Rated G

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0057546/>

- Walt Disney musical animated version. Shows Arthur growing up under the guidance of Merlin.

### Films that adhere to an historic portrayal of Arthur:

*King Arthur* (2004) rated PG-13

<http://www.us.imdb.com/title/tt0349683/>

- Focuses on the history and politics of the time of the real King Arthur, after the fall of the Roman Empire, and leading into the Dark Ages.

*First Knight* (1995) rated PG-13

<http://www.us.imdb.com/title/tt0113071/>

- Sean Connery as King Arthur and Richard Gere as Lancelot.

*Braveheart* (1995) rated R

<http://www.us.imdb.com/title/tt0112573/>

- Starring Mel Gibson. Based on the historical legend of William Wallace, a Scottish rebel who leads his people in an uprising against the English invaders around the end of the 13th Century.

*King Arthur: His Life and Legends* (1995)

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0397277/>

- A Satel Documentary for A&E Network.