

## PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

# “Mordred”

**Dartmouth actor James Scott stars alongside international named actors in locally created feature film and stage show, by ex-Dartmouth resident.**

*“I am what you made me become!” snarls Mordred, as he confronts his father, King Arthur.*

“Mordred” is a drama, newly written and researched by members of the South Devon Players Theatre & Film Company, a team specialising in historical and mythological drama, based in Brixham, South Devon.

Set in the 6<sup>th</sup> Century, across Devon and Cornwall, this two & a half hour drama stars all-local unknown Southwest talent, bringing to life Arthurian legend, in a production researched and adapted from some of the earliest Arthurian legends, exploring some of the earliest tales of Mordred, who appears varyingly in Arthurian legends, as Arthur’s nephew or illegitimate son, and how two equally honourable men came to hate one another, and that hate to lead to a disastrous war.

Set against the backdrop of the post-Roman Celtic kingdom of Dumnonia, present day Devon and Cornwall, struggling to survive against the Saxon invaders, this is a dark, gritty drama, supported with an impressive team of performers, historical reenactors, historians, and a film crew ranging from students at Exeter College, through writing, research and direction, by Arthurian-afficiando, actress/director and Masters graduate from the University of Exeter; Laura Jay, who herself grew up in Dartmouth, and the ambitious Simon Knight, of MediaHound Films, who is her Director of Photography.

The team is supported by the sound track composer, Michael Klubertanz, from Germany, the only team member from outside the Southwest of England, who is composing the film sound-track using only instruments which would have been in use in 6<sup>th</sup> Century Britain.

The film stars two local up-and-coming actors from the southwest, in the two lead roles, Rich Sandford, from Torquay, in his first ever starring role, as Mordred, and Gui Rivaud from North Cornwall, as King Arthur, the production directed by a local female theatre/ film director, for whom “Mordred” is the first feature film that she has directed.

James Scott, an actor who also works a day job in Dartmouth's Marks & Spencers, while he builds his career, co-stars as King Arthurs battle-general Gawaine. James juggles his day-job with a busy schedule of rehearsals, combat and stunt training, and is also Laura's assistant director.

Alongside the team of local actors and creatives, appears Mike Mitchell, an international actor who has appeared in films such as Gladiator, Skyfall and Braveheart, who began his acting career from bodybuilding, in which he has been 5X Mr World, and 2x Mr Universe. Mike Mitchell, now living in Plymouth, is also assisting the production team behind the scenes, with publicity and networking.

Filming will take place in May and June 2016 around Devon and Cornwall, with the theatre performances taking place in September 2016 , including a performance currently being scheduled for Friday September 16<sup>th</sup>, at the Flavel Arts centre in Dartmouth.

It was considered very important to make sure that we were not making “just another King Arthur film”, and to find a unique adaptation. While novels have been written from Mordred's point of view, to our knowledge, this has never been transferred to film. That, coupled with spanning Devon and Cornwall, and delving into earlier and less known legends, has created an all new version of the legend.

Not that creating a production of this scale is easy. While grants are being applied for, and traditional crowdfunding sources are being applied to, you cannot put all your eggs in one basket. Cast and crew members are involved in a wide range of fundraising activities, ranging from small amounts from tombolas and face painting at fetes, and selling on ebay, through to a film/ scifi/ fantasy convention, grant applications, cabaret shows, ebook publications and more. For costumes and props, It is also a case of keeping one eye on the history book and the other on what reclaimed fabrics and items can be remade, and adapted. We have to thank so many people who keep an eye out for second hand things that we can do this with.

This is an ambitious project, taking not just every ounce of creativity on screen, but also in the planning and logistics behind-the-scenes.

We would also like to announce that we have three speaking roles yet to be cast, two male and one female, so if you would like to become involved, please contact us on [southdevonplayers@gmail.com](mailto:southdevonplayers@gmail.com).

##Ends##

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## Notes to editors

**Photos** can be downloaded from <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/nwsszr9b4tb9ed/AABd-rTWBw30Jfryt4NERBcKa?dl=0>

(Actor and character names are all given as image titles other than the group photo)

### Contact:

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### About the South Devon Players

The South Devon Players is a team of dedicated, career-orientated performers, of all ages, who are working on creating careers in theatre and film. We always welcome new members, who share our ethos, and who, regardless of previous experience, want to join a lively, friendly, hardworking team of performers, hone old skills & develop new ones, and create high quality new stage and film productions.

We perform theatre shows in Brixham, around Torbay, and South Devon, based on historical events, classical stories and mythology. We also make period drama films and web-series productions, around Devon and Cornwall, which has become a large percentage of our annual projects.

The South Devon Players was founded in late 2005 by two Brixham-based performers who were seeking performance opportunities in the Southwest, and performed our first production in the summer of 2006. Since then we have gone from strength to strength, and are now growing rapidly, with awards won and a rapidly increasing member and audience base.

Website: [www.southdevonplayers.com](http://www.southdevonplayers.com)

Facebook/ Twitter: @sdevonplayers Instagram: @sdevonplayers1

Mordred film/show facebook page: @mordredthemovie

International Movie Database page for Mordred : <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt5159008/>