

Born of Hope

By José Enrique Vacas de la Rosa

I think the reason why I love Professor Tolkien's works is ~~because that~~ they offer an incredibly detailed fantasy world where individuals can change ~~the whole~~ history and accomplish great deeds. Everything is possible; a lost king can rise again, little Hobbits can destroy the Dark Lord, and a young shield maiden can defeat the Witch king, ~~if as long as~~ they have ~~the~~ courage, faith, and perseverance, ~~and keep the faith to go on to the end.~~

~~In Peter Jackson's trilogy~~ I, for one, did miss ~~in Peter Jackson's trilogy~~ the feeling of Professor Tolkien's writings. Then, I learnt by chance about a fan film and it drew my attention immediately. A promising new fresh take on a Middle-earth story, made not for profit but out of love for our beloved fantasy world. I see in the whole project not only a professional quality film, but a reflection of Tolkien's values of such generosity, hope, and courage against adversity and that is why I'm writing this short article.

The fan film is about people like you and me, people who love and enjoy Tolkien's books. And, as most Middle-earth role players, they wanted to tell their own unwritten tales. Role players do it in their games, but some people write their tales or even film them.

I do admire people who feel the need ~~to tell of telling us~~ new tales set in Tolkien's world of wonder. ~~Not only do these people and manage to create them such tales, but they also and manage~~ make them available to us, despite the many difficulties they meet. First they will need to find a good story, epic and respectful, with the rich (and vast!) tapestry Professor Tolkien left us. Second, following and they must follow the spirit of his works, which is a challenging task indeed. ~~Then~~ Once they have the story in mind, and know how to keep true to the spirit of Tolkien's work, they must actually do the writing. Writing a book ~~will require to~~ requires that the person creating the tale be a better than average writer, because the book, inevitably, will be ~~vitably in~~ compared with the Professor's. But filming your tale is even a harder venture because you will need a lot of people, from actors and cameramen to FX technicians.

As things are now on the legal side, such a film cannot be used to earn profit with it and so all the money needed to make it must come from donations. Not a big deal if you plan to film a modest tale, but then someone has dared to imagine an epic story and it is called "Born of Hope".

This tale is about the Dúnedain, the Rangers of the North, the ~~descendants~~ descendents of storied sea kings of the ancient West, struggling to survive in a lonely wilderness as a dark force relentlessly bends its will toward their destruction. Yet amidst these valiant, desperate people, hope remains. The royal house endures unbroken from Isildur himself to Arathorn and his little child Aragorn. This hour-long original drama is set in the time before the War of the Ring and tells the story of the Dúnedain, before the return of the King. Inspired by only a couple of paragraphs written by Professor Tolkien in the appendices of the Lord of the Rings we follow Arathorn and Gilraen, the parents of Aragorn, from their first meeting through a turbulent time in their people's history. We will meet many well-known characters, such the son of Elrond that Peter Jackson omitted in his films, Arathorn, Gilraen, Arador and young Halbarad and some new and interesting characters in a tale truly faithful to the spirit of the Professor's works.

"Great!", you may think, but it may never come to us. This promising film made by fans for fans may never be finished. They are in dire need of sponsors so they can give us this amazing tale. Paraphrasing Eowyn, we can say "where a will wants, *a way* opens" and they are doing the best to make their dream true. Visit their website in <http://www.bornofhope.com/> and judge yourself if they deserve some help. I sincerely believe they do because ~~theirs is they are doing~~ a labor of love. ~~They are~~; sacrificing their own resources and devoting their time to film a story that we, Professor Tolkien fans, will enjoy.

http://www.bornofhope.com/Images/Nov2008/RU2_6586%20medium.jpg

Elladan & Elrohir.

<http://www.bornofhope.com/Images/Characters/ArathornSpeech%20card.jpg>

Arathorn.

<http://www.bornofhope.com/Images/Epping/BoH%20Epping00252%20medium.jpg>

Arathorn and the Rangers face some Orcs.

http://www.bornofhope.com/Images/ConceptArt/Ranger%20Cabin_medium.jpg

Concept art.