

**There were times  
when men had to  
hide or run  
in order  
to stay alive.**

# Great Hall Escape

This skit is perfect when grade 9-12 students or adults are immersed in the Middle Ages. It's about William the Conqueror but he is not the main character and just briefly enters and exits.

I have performed this many times with my students.

Where is this used?

- Choral/Drama Middle Ages events
- Drama or history classes grades

## Skit Notes: Great Hall Escape

Rebecca Locklear

**Summary:** The court jester is no fool. Nor are two knights who serve Duke William of Normandy in 1045. How do they manage to escape a death plot?

### Cast of Characters

	<b># of Lines</b>
Narrator	4
Fool, a strange person	28
Knight Roldan, new supporter just arrived at castle	27
Squire, serves Knight Aland	9
Knight Aland, in service of Duke William	9
Duke William, age 19, later becomes King of England	0
Other Knights	0

**Setting:** 1045, the Great Hall of a castle in Normandy, France.

**Type:** Historical fiction.

**Props:** Bones, swords, possibly chainmail, pallets (e.g., sleeping bags, pillows), items for Great Hall.

**Performance Time:** 6-8 minutes

### Background Information

**Vikings** from Scandinavia came to rule a vast tract of land in northern France known as Normandy. The word *Normandy* comes from the Latin *terra Normannorum*, which means "the land of the men from the north."

**William the Conqueror**, born about 1026 in Normandy, was a descendent of the Vikings. William's father, Duke Robert, died on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem early in 1035 and thus William became Duke of the Normans at a young age. At that time there was civil war and chaos.

This skit, comprised of two fictional scenes, demonstrates how young Duke William was

*Continued*



knights  
jesters  
castles

## Great Hall Escape

Rebecca Locklear

**NARRATOR:** Vikings from Scandinavia ruled a vast tract of land in northern France known as Normandy. William the Conqueror, born about 1026, became Duke of the Normans at a time when there was civil war and chaos. As a young duke, he was often in personal danger. This is the year 1045 and we enter the Castle of Falaise in Normandy.

### Scene 1 Daytime

**FOOL:** *(in a corner, juggling sheep bones; notices all that goes on)* A visitor hath graced the castle of Falaise. *(looks closely, recognizes him)* Ah...I have seen this knight. A man respected.

**ROLDAN:** *(in cloak, enters abruptly, to SQUIRE)* Squire. Art thou of this household?

**SQUIRE:** *(comes running)* Aye, sir. *(bows)* Sir Aland is my Lord.

**ROLDAN:** Was that the Duke riding in yonder courtyard? *(points)* He is but a child.

**SQUIRE:** *(defends DUKE)* Sir, he hath courage and strength. And endurance. It is said only he can bend his bow. *(in awe)* I saw him knock an arrow at full gallop!

**ROLDAN:** *(places hand on squire's shoulder)* Thou art a loyal squire. But the Duke is still a child. Tell me, what is his year?

**SQUIRE:** He is ten and nine, sir. He fears no man.

**ROLDAN:** And yet I hear he...hides away from others?

**SQUIRE:** There are those who seek his life, sir. Perhaps he is a wise man.

**ROLDAN:** Aye, perhaps.

**FOOL:** *(walks by and whispers to KNIGHT)* Drink not tonight, brother. You may sleep

*Continued*

PERFORMING BRITISH HISTORY

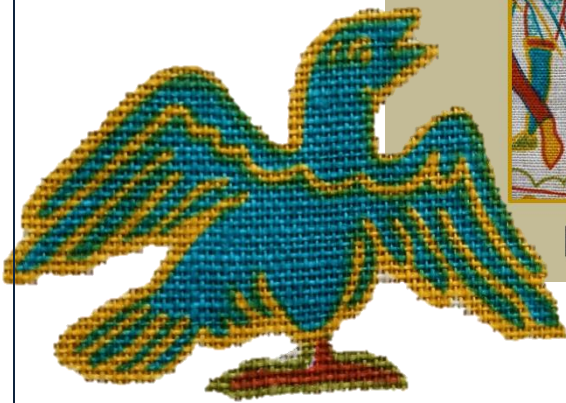
Drama - 1045

# Great Hall Escape

Two knights, a duke, and a fool



REBECCA LOCKLEAR



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