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**Project Abstract**

Throughout the duration of this course, a central theme has been the ability to ascertain what the past looked like from limited primary documents. From attempting to figure out which songs were read in which castles to determining if the Master of Cabestanny ever did exist, the visits and guides placed a lot of emphasis of the importance of deriving meaning and inferring history based on what evidence we did have available.

This led to me being incredibly interested in the VIdas of the troubadours and how they were able to contain distinct personalities for each individual person although they all song about similar subjects, were from about the same time period, and used similar structures in their poetries. It inspired a desire to capture the troubadours’ dramatic poetic flare and make it tangible in the modern day. To do so I turned to one of my favorite forms of media: reality television.

By creating a fictional trailer for a reality TV show based of the troubadours, I hope to show the ability to infer history from limited documents and the grandiose personality both the troubadours and their poetry have. I chose to represent Marcabru, William IX, La Comtessa de Dia, and Piere d’Alvernhe, because their blend of personalities worked well with the reality TV show set-up and closely matched the personalities of several of my classmates who assisted me by playing these characters on screen.

To find the background necessary for these characters, I used Goldin’s Anthology, the overview of troubadours by Davis and Akehurst, and the Vidas document to provide as accurate representations and dialogue based on the available information on the four troubadours that were a part of my project. The anthology served as a good overview for the information and facilitated which troubadours I chose. While the article by Davis and Akehurst served to help me place my dialogues within historical contexts and the varied relationships between troubadours. The Vidas were additional information meant to create more realistic interactions for the troubadours.

Bibliography

Goldin, Frederick. *Lyrics of the Troubadours and Trouvères: an Anthology and a History*. Peter Smith, 1983.

Zumthor, Paul. “An Overview: Why the Troubadours.” *A Handbook of the Troubadours*, edited by Judith M. Davis and F.R.P. Akehurst, University of California Press, pp. 11–18.

Vidas