



Try the API

| Entities | Sentiment | Syntax |
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Score Range

-1.0 — -0.75

-0.75 — 0.25

0.25 — 1.0

Document Sentiment

| | Score | Magnitude |
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| | 0 | 11.8 |
| lancelot du lac (lancelot du lac) (france , 1974) a film review by james kendrick director : robert bresson screenwriter : robert bresson (based on the epic poem by chretien de troyes) stars : luc simon (lancelot) , laura duke condominas (queen guinevere) , vladimir antolek-oresek (king arthur) , humbert balsan (gawain) , patrick bernhard (modred) , arthur de montalembert (lionel) mpaa rating : not rate review : ench director robert bresson's " lancelot of the lake " achieves the exact opposite effect of sir thomas malory's " morte darthur . | 0 | 0 |
| " instead of enshrining the legend of king arthur and his knights of the round table , it dethrones them by revealing arthur as a weak , ineffectual leader and the knights as a group of jealous , bickering men who failed to live up to the legends prescribed to them . | -0.2 | 0.2 |
| chivalry has no place in " lancelot of the lake , " except as that of a dying ideal . | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| bresson begins his tale as the knights of the round table are returning , decimated , after failing merlin's command to retrieve the holy grail , the mystical cup that was filled with christ's blood . | -0.7 | 0.7 |
| bresson immediately gives us his impression of the essential meaning of the grail quest : bloodshed and failure . | -0.1 | 0.1 |
| the opening sequence is a series of clumsy , disjointed fights amongst anonymous knights -- a head is hacked off , a stomach is impaled , a skull is split open , skeletal remains hang from trees , and burning bodies smolder in the ruins of a flaming house . | -0.9 | 0.9 |
| since the film starts with camelot in near-ruin , and takes only an hour and a half to arrive at its inevitable conclusion , it doesn't carry the grand , tragic resonance of other arthurian films . | -0.4 | 0.4 |
| we never get to see camelot at the peak of its power , therefore there is no real downfall to witness . | 0 | 0 |
| but , then again , it is not the name of camelot that is evoked in the title of the film . | -0.2 | 0.2 |
| rather , it is lancelot , and bresson is more interested in the internal battle within his heart , than the external downfall of a kingdom . | 0.5 | 0.5 |

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| lancelot has always been a tragic figure in the arthurian tales , and bresson uses him as the central figure to explore the battle between the spirit and the flesh . | 0 | 0 |
| the greatest of all knights , he was flawed only in his love for arthur's wife , queen guinevere , and it was that illicit affair that eventually caused the downfall of camelot . even when lancelot attempts to end the affair with guinevere (laura duke condominas) , he only finds himself falling back into her arms against his better judgment . | -0.4 | 0.4 |
| he knows it means the destruction of the idealized kingdom , but he is powerless in his passion . | 0.4 | 0.4 |
| when sir mordred (patrick bernhard) accuses lancelot of the affair , other knights , including sir gawain (humbert balsan) spring to lancelot's defense . | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| it is this battle within the knights that is the eventual undoing of the round table ; the flesh wins out over the spirit , and the consequences are dire . | 0 | 0 |
| bresson is an intensely personal filmmaker most interested in the interiors of men's hearts and minds . | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| " lancelot of the lake " is filled with his particular trademarks : a stripped-down , minimalist style , flat , expressionless dialogue , and a grand use of natural sounds in place of music . | 0 | 0 |
| he uses background music only twice in the film , during an opening narration segment and during the opening credits . | -0.4 | 0.4 |
| the music here is a heavy drumbeat and accompanying bagpipes , but the rest of the film is scored with natural sounds that punctuate the film's thematic elements : the incessant clanking and creaking of heavy armor , the neighing of horses , the rhythm of hooves beating down dirt roads , and the natural chirping and whispering of the forest . | 0.8 | 0.8 |
| like most of his other films , bresson employed nonprofessional actors who recite the dialogue in emotionless , flat voices . | 0 | 0 |
| all the actors he used in " lancelot of the lake " had never acted before , and with the exception of patrick bernhard , they never acted again . | -0.3 | 0.3 |
| never once do they raise their voices or put any emphasis on a given word . | 0 | 0 |
| instead of using vocal inflection , bresson strove to create emotion through images . | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| in some ways , this technique works ; in other ways , it doesn't . | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| the final montage of arthur's men battling each other is quite marvelous , and the final image of the knights in shining armor reduced to a literal scrap-pile sums up the entire film in one moment . | 0.5 | 0.5 |
| however , other times bresson's uncompromising methods are distracting and questionable . | -0.8 | 0.8 |

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| for instance , during an important jousting contest , bresson films the majority of the action so that the only things visible are the horses' legs . | 0.3 | 0.3 |
| he does this repeatedly , opening each shot with the same few notes from a bagpipe and the raising of a different flag . | -0.4 | 0.4 |
| while there might be symbolic value in this , the resulting experience of watching it can be bothersome . | -0.4 | 0.4 |
| nevertheless , "lancelot of the lake" is a fascinating cinematic experience boldly made by a master filmmaker . | 0.7 | 0.7 |
| bresson's style may not be for everyone , but one has to respect his strength as an artist . | 0.6 | 0.6 |
| by re-evaluating the arthurian legends and making them his own , he turns "lancelot of the lake" into something rare in modern cinema : a truly personal film . | 0.5 | 0.5 |