

World's fastest archer disproves Hollywood archery myth

For thousands of years, the bow and arrow was used for war. Those days are long gone, and most people today only know of archery through TV and movies. However, as the Danish archer Lars Andersen has proved, Hollywood archery has very little to do with actual war archery. [VIDEO LINK: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BEG-ly9tQGk>]

Learning to shoot in pretend play battles

Lars Andersen originally started using bow and arrow to fight in pretend battles during larps (live action role play) events, where he played a soldier in a medieval-inspired army. While larps can be about anything – the Danish/Polish Harry Potter inspired larp *College of Wizardry* (cowlarp.com) recently got world wide media attention and there wasn't a rubber sword in sight there – many larps take place in fantasy worlds inspired by J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings*. And it was at one of these larps, that Lars started to learn to shoot fast while moving.

The fastest archer alive

In 2012, Las Andersen released his video "Reinventing the fastest forgotten archery", where he showed how he had learned to shoot from old archery manuscripts. Using these old, forgotten techniques, Lars demonstrated how he was now the fastest archer on the planet, and after its release, the video got 3 million hits on youtube in two days. This video hit its first million views within 13 hours, and has already spent a few hours as the #1 thing on reddit.

A new level of archery

Since the 2012 video was released, Lars has studied and practiced, and he is now able to fire three arrows in 0.6 seconds – a truly stunning feat making him much faster than the legendary fictional archer Legolas (played by Orlando Bloom in the *Lord of the Rings* movies). By testing his skills against moving targets in pretend play larp battles using soft, blunt arrows, Lars has been able to do something many historians are impressed by – testing theory in simulated reality under safe (and fun) conditions.

Putting holes in Hollywood myths

His newest video debunks several Hollywood myths and shows off not only impressive feats like grabbing and arrow in mid-air and firing it back. But to see the ultimate archery trick, you'll have to watch the video to see for yourself! There have been many questions as to why the video is "amateurish". The answer is simple. Keeping the videos very rough and unpolished was a tactic Lars adopted early on to show that this was skill and not SFX, but since there are still doubters out there, he's finally considering doing the next as a higher production value film. ;-)

CONTACT

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PICTURES (FREE FOR USE. PHOTO CREDIT: LARS ANDERSEN)

<http://www.clausraasted.dk/larsandersen/larsandersen1.JPG>

<http://www.clausraasted.dk/larsandersen/larsandersen2.JPG>

<http://www.clausraasted.dk/larsandersen/larsandersen3.JPG>

EXTRA INFO ON HOW LARS' ARCHERY CAREER STARTED

<https://soundcloud.com/claus-raasted/77-special-edition-about-lars-andersen-and-archery>

LARS ANDERSEN QUOTES

"I recently read about a girl who did Katniss Everdeen (from Hunger Games) cosplay. She'd had to glue the arrows to the inside of the quiver to make sure they didn't bounce out when she ran around. If that doesn't tell us that the back quiver is silly, I don't know what does."

"Many people have accused me of being fake or have theories on how there's cheating involved. I've always found it fascinating how human it is, to want to disbelieve anything that goes against our world view – even when it's about something as relatively neutral as archery."

"At one of our combat archery tournaments last year, I ended up in a one-on-one duel against a friend. Every time he shot an arrow at me, I'd shoot it out of the air with one of my own. After five arrows, he just gave up in good-natured disgust. Sure, it was showing off, but it was also a lot of fun!"

VIDEO VERSION WITHOUT SPEAK & MUSIC

If you are interested in a version without sound to use with a non-English speaking audience, write to us. We will send it to you, though we prefer not keeping it available for the public.