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Posted in [Entertain me!](#) on Feb 28, 2010

[Hanging with Franklin](#)

By: Diane

Today, Franklin the turtle kicked off a Canada-wide tour. His show, produced by Winnipeg-based Koba Entertainment (they also do The Backyardigans, Calliou and The Doodlebops) will be heading east, then west to finish off a tour in Vancouver on April 17.

Franklin and the Adventures of the Noble Knights features big plush versions of our favourite turtle along with Bear, Beaver, Snail, Harriett and others.

The story sees Franklin and pals looking for something to do, and settling on a game of playing knight. A scary bird shows up and steals Harriett's necklace and the friends go on a quest to get it back.

With the help of a troubadour narrator and two mice named Gouda and Gruyere, the animals sing and dance their way through their quest, make a few new friends and of course learn some lessons about the virtues of knighthood.

These types of shows are designed to please kids and convey moral messages, but this performance fulfils this mandate well. The set is lovely, particularly the lush scenery for their romp into the forest. The songs and dancing are very strong, particularly the lovely song Franklin and Snail share called "Am I Too Small to be a Hero?"

The show's only real flaw is its pacing: the first act utterly drags. It's only in the last few minutes of the act that the quest for the necklace arises. Until then, it's just Franklin and pals hanging around. With a story arc firmly established, the second half is much more interesting, it flies by. As well, the writers pack the second act with most of the show's interactive elements. (There are some pretty cool gargoyles who tell riddles, and the kids loved that.)

Over the next two months, Franklin may be coming to your town: the tour hits the likes of Brockville, Fredericton, Saskatoon and Red Deer. Check [Franklin on Tour](#) for cross-Canada dates.

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