



Activities: Key Stage 3

First interview with Fiona Hampton playing Beatrice

1) Find the Week 1 audio interview with Fiona Hampton playing Beatrice on the Playing Shakespeare web-site. In the interview (timecode 4m 30s to 5m 35s) Fiona talks about aspects of Beatrice's character and the way she feels that Beatrice learns a lot about herself during the play.

2) Work with a group of fellow students. Discuss what you feel Beatrice learns about herself as the events of the play unfold. You should think about some of the following:

- a) her relationship with Benedick;
- b) her response to the trick played on her;
- c) how she responds to what happens to Hero;
- d) how she behaves with Benedick once they have agreed to marry.

3) Fiona also says that Beatrice, as well as being sharp and able to stand up for herself, feels vulnerable too. Decide why you think Fiona describes Beatrice as someone who is vulnerable. For instance you could consider:

- a) her situation living in Leonato's house;
- b) her past experience with Benedick;
- c) her position as a woman in a male-dominated society.

4) Choose one member of the group to play Beatrice. Other students should then ask Beatrice questions in a hot-seating situation. The questions will need to focus on the reasons for her behaviour towards men such as Benedick, Claudio and Don Pedro. Other questions should focus on what it is that makes her feel worried or vulnerable.

5) Share your interviews with other groups (you could perform these to the class, film them to share at a later date, or perform your most revealing/interesting questions).