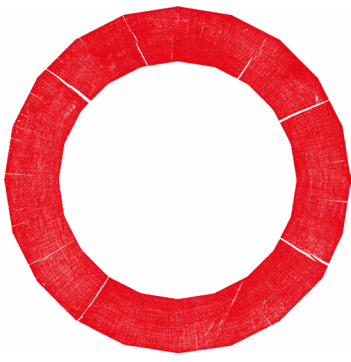


## Activities: Key Stage 3

### The Production - Page 1 of 2

### The performances: Beatrice and Benedick

- 1) The rivalry between Beatrice and Benedick is the most well-known feature of the play. Think about the performances of the actors playing Beatrice and Benedick when you saw the production of *Much Ado About Nothing* at The Globe.
- 2) Find the Week 4 Blog by Tom Davey the assistant director of the play on the Playing Shakespeare web-site. In the blog Tom says he is looking forward to seeing how the audiences react to the way Beatrice and Benedick battle with each other through their words and actions. Discuss the way the actors playing Beatrice and Benedick moved and spoke to each other. For instance, you might think of the way they become involved in a dance-off with each other during the ball or the way Benedick dropped to his knees pleading not to be spared from seeing Beatrice.
- 3) The way Beatrice and Benedick react to finding out that the other loves them is very different (Act 2, Scene 3 and Act 3, Scene 1). Discuss how the actors showed their feelings. For instance you might think of the way Benedick pointed to himself proudly and the way Beatrice paused to show she was upset by the criticism she had overheard the women saying.
- 4) Look at the final part of Act 4 sc1 where Beatrice and Benedick finally say they love each other. Think about how they each showed their amazement at being in love through the way they spoke and how they moved. Examples include the way Benedick fell on his knees and the way that Beatrice rushed about to show her anger at Hero's shaming. Beatrice paused before she told him to kill Claudio and also before she said 'Yea' when Benedick asks her if she believes Claudio has wronged Hero. How did these pauses help to show how seriously she felt at these moments?



## **Activities: Key Stage 3**

### **The Production - Page 1 of 2**

### **The performances: Beatrice and Benedick**

- 5) Both Beatrice and Benedick feel very upset at the way that Claudio and Don Pedro behave. How do they show their feelings to the two men after the shaming of Hero? Think about how Benedick behaved towards Claudio when he challenged him to a duel and how Beatrice behaved towards Claudio in the final scene.
- 6) Create a poster with Beatrice and Benedick's images in the centre surrounded by some of the points about their performances that you have discussed.