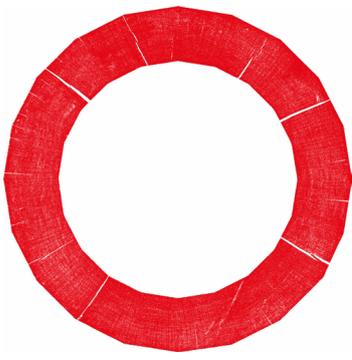


Activities: Key Stage 3

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The performances

- 1) Think about the actors' performances other than Beatrice and Benedick when you saw the production of Much Ado About Nothing at The Globe. With a fellow student discuss some of the performances which made a strong impression on you.
- 2) Consider the arrival of the soldiers back from war in the first scene. How did the way that they moved and spoke show their confidence and sense of male bravado? Think about the way Don Pedro arrived on a cart and the way he showed he was the leader.
- 3) Find the assistant director Tom Davey's Week 3 blog on the Playing Shakespeare web-site. Tom describes the two scenes where Benedick and then Beatrice are tricked as being very different. He says the women are very well organised when tricking Beatrice but the men are 'terrible at acting' and lose their way. Think about the two scenes and the way in which the actors brought out the differences between the two scenes. For instance you might remember the way the men had to show each other what to do while the women moved through the scene smoothly.
- 4) Focus on the central wedding scene. Discuss the way in which the men behaved and spoke to Hero. How did the performances of the actors add to the impact of the scene on the audience? Think about the harsh way they spoke and the way that Hero was pushed about by the men. How did the way the men arrived at the wedding increase the contrast between them and Hero? Discuss the performances by Hero and Beatrice and how they showed their mounting horror at what was happening.



Activities: Key Stage 3

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The performances: Beatrice and Benedick

5) In the production you saw, the part of Don John became Donna Joan. Discuss the way that the actor playing Donna Joan showed her unpleasant character. Think about the way she said her lines for instance the way she shows her dislike of Claudio through the way she says his name 'exquisite Claudio' in Act 1 sc3.

6) Another character played by a woman was the friar called the pastor in this production. How did this performance bring a different feeling to the scenes where Hero is rescued from her despair?

7) Leonato is a character who goes through a powerful series of emotions in the play. Discuss how the actor playing Leonato showed his reactions to the events of the play. In Act 5 sc1 how did the actor show his feelings when he confronts Claudio and Don Pedro with their role in the crime against Hero?

8) Discuss the way Borachio showed his remorse for the cruel shaming of Hero in Act 5 sc1.

9) The comic scenes involving Dogberry and Verges were very funny in the production you saw partly because of the way the actors performed them. How did the actors ensure that the audience found these scenes funny? Think about the way that the actors moved and used items such as the lengths of police crime tape and the loud hailer and how Dogberry spoke the words.

10) Write a blog describing the performance of one or two of the characters in the production you saw.