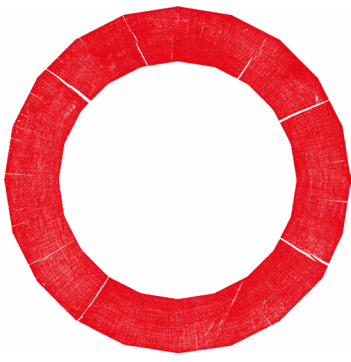


Activities: Key Stage 3

The Production - Page 1 of 2

Week 5 Blog

- 1) Find the Week 5 Tech blog by the assistant director of the play Tom Davey. In his blog for the final week of rehearsals and the early performances Tom describes the reaction of the first audiences to see this production.
- 2) One of the moments Tom noticed was that when Donna Joan said 'let me be what I am, do not seek to alter me' the audience cheered. Tom wonders whether it is as a result of the decision to make the character a woman in a man's world as he feels that this makes the audience clearly understand her sense of injustice.
- 3) Discuss Tom's thoughts with a fellow student and decide whether you agree that turning Don John into Donna Joan gives the audience a clearer idea of why the character behaves so badly. Think back to the performance you saw and how the audience you were part of reacted to Donna Joan. Were there reactions other than the cheering that Tom noticed?
- 4) Another reaction that Tom noticed was that when Beatrice and Benedick were arguing in their 'merry war' the audience cheered them on. Discuss how the audience reacted when you saw the play and decide if seeing the play with an audience helped you to appreciate these scenes between Beatrice and Benedick. Tom says that the audience cheered when the lovers kissed at the end as if they were longing for the happy ending. What was the reaction when you saw the play?
- 5) Tom describes the 'yard' the area where the audience stand in front of the stage and how in Shakespeare's time it might have been like a 'town square' with people moving about. Share your experience of the yard and how the audience responded when characters such as the soldiers came through the crowd pushing Don Pedro on his cart in the first scene. Discuss whether you felt being this close to the actors made the experience of seeing the play more powerful.



Activities: Key Stage 3

The Production - Page 2 of 2

Week 5 Blog

- 6) Share other aspects of the performance which you found to be effective or surprising. For instance, you might think about the way Claudio spoke so viciously to Hero in the wedding scene, Benedick and Beatrice's reactions to hearing that they are loved or the scenes with Dogberry and Verges.

- 7) Use your discussion to write a review or a blog of your reactions to the performance you saw. You might decide to send it to The Globe using the links on the Playing Shakespeare web-site.

- 8) Share your work with others students in the class.