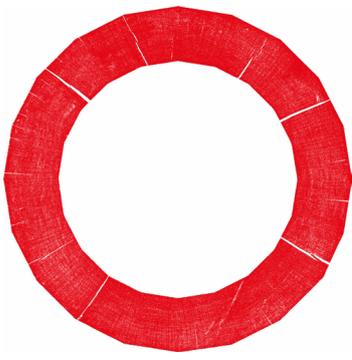


Activities: Key Stage 4

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) With fellow students discuss your response to Donna Joan and whether you feel the decision to make Don John female aided the audience's understanding of the 'outsider' position of the character. Think about the way public reaction to 'illegitimacy' is very different in the modern world when compared with the time Shakespeare was writing.
- 4) Tom describes how the audience cheered Beatrice and Benedick during their 'merry war' of words. Discuss the way the audience reacted when you saw the play and whether there were any reactions which surprised you. Tom describes the actors 'using' the audience in the dress rehearsal. Discuss any moments you noticed when the actors seemed to respond to the audience in particular ways.
- 5) Tom mentions the yard where the audience stand in front of the stage and the way it resembles what it might have been like in Shakespeare's time. Discuss the way the yard was used in the production you saw, such as when Don Pedro was brought through the crowd on the cart in the first scene. What do you feel having the audience so close to the actors brought to the production?



Playing Shakespeare
with Deutsche Bank

Activities: Key Stage 4

The Production - Page 2 of 2

Week 5 Blog

6) Discuss your reaction to other moments in the play which provoked particular responses from the audience during your visit. The way Claudio spoke to Hero in the wedding scene, the 'gulling' scenes or the Dogberry and Verges scenes are moments you may wish to consider.

7) Summarise your thinking by writing a review or blog about the performance you saw. You might decide to send your work to The Globe using the Playing Shakespeare web-site.

**SHAKESPEARE'S
GLOBE**