



Activities: Key Stage 4&5

First interview with Aruhan Galieva playing Hero

- 1) Find the Week 1 interview with Aruhan Galieva playing Hero on the Playing Shakespeare web-site. Towards the end of this interview (8m 30s to 10m 31s) Aruhan compares Hero to a modern-day teenager being ignored by older people. Aruhan uses the example of her own real-life younger brother who she says is often ignored by visitors when they come to her parents' home.
- 2) With a group of fellow students, discuss why you think Shakespeare decided to portray Hero in this way. Think about the contrast with Beatrice and the dreadful events of the wedding scene.
- 3) In the interview, Aruhan describes Hero as someone who is very respectful. Discuss how this aspect of Hero's behaviour helps to increase the powerful emotions felt by the audience when Claudio condemns her in the wedding scene.
- 4) One of the important themes in the play is the place of women. Discuss how the character of Hero contributes to this theme. Consider her place in the family and the way she is treated by the men in the play.
- 5) Use an image of Hero from the Playing Shakespeare site to create a display. Use quotes and events from the play to illustrate how her character develops the theme of the place of women in society both at the time and how it links with today's world.