

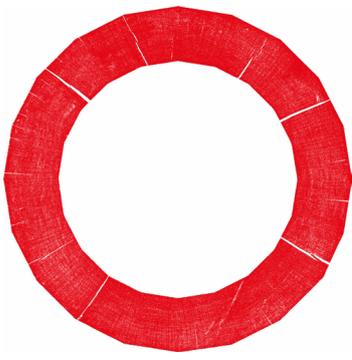
Activities: Key Stage 4&5

The Production - Page 1 of 2

The performances: Beatrice and Benedick

- 1) The rivalry between Beatrice and Benedick is one of the most well-known and popular in Shakespeare's plays. Working with a fellow student, discuss the production you saw at The Globe and how Beatrice and Benedick were played by the two actors.

- 2) Discuss some of the following aspects of the production:
 - a. The battle of words between the two is the most famous feature. In the Week 4 blog on the Playing Shakespeare web-site, Tom Davey the assistant director says he is looking forward to seeing the reaction of audiences to their battle of words. Discuss the way the actors made these scenes effective.
 - b. In his blog in week three, Tom describes the different way the two react to finding out that they are loved (Act 2, Scene 3 and Act 3, Scene 1). Pick out the aspects of their performances which showed the differences in their response.
 - c. Discuss the moment in Act 4 sc1 where they finally admit their love for each other. How did the two show their reactions through the way they spoke and how they moved?
 - d. Beatrice asking Benedick to kill Claudio is an important point in the play. Discuss the way the two actors played this scene to reveal the feelings of each character.
 - e. The way Benedick acts towards Claudio and Don Pedro after he has agreed to the challenge is very different from his earlier bantering with the soldiers. How did the actor playing Benedick show the change in his feeling?
 - f. In the final scene, Beatrice remains upset at the way the men treated Hero. How did the actor playing Beatrice convey this to the audience?
 - g. Discuss any other aspects of the two performances that you noticed.



Activities: Key Stage 4&5

The Production - Page 2 of 2

The performances: Beatrice and Benedick

- 3) How might the context in which the production is received alter the way that the actors playing Benedick and Beatrice perform these scenes mentioned above? Can you think of some example contexts where the actors would have to adapt their performance?

- 4) Imagine that you are creating a film of the highlights of the two performances for the Playing Shakespeare web-site (i.e. for a modern audience of young people). Decide which moments from the performances of the two actors you would include in the film.

- 5) Share your ideas with other students.