



Activities: Key Stage 5

The Production Role of women

- 1) One of the most important aspects of Much Ado About Nothing is the position and treatment of women. In the production you saw at The Globe this was given extra emphasis as several roles normally played by men were played by female actors.
- 2) Work with a fellow student to discuss how the position of women was shown in the production, in particular:
 - a. The change of Don John to Donna Joan and the effect this change had when you saw the production.
 - b. The change of The Friar to The Pastor played by a female how this change impacted on the audience's appreciation of the wedding scene and its aftermath.
 - c. The decision to have the characters of Dogberry and Verges played by female actors.
- 3) Now, in your pairs, each of you should argue for one of the following statements, adapted from a discussion in Hemming's article about the Globe in the Financial Times (January 7, 2016):
 - a. Modern productions should reflect the politics of the periods that Shakespeare depicts and the theatre practice of his time.
 - b. Contemporary productions should look for a balance that better fits the 21st century and advances greater equality on the stage.
- 4) Once you have constructed your arguments, debate this within your pairs.
- 5) Share your key conclusions with the class.