

Theatre Arts 236
ACTING SHAKESPEARE
Professor Mazer
Fall 2018

519 Annenberg Center, 3-2659; cmazer@english.upenn.edu
Office Hours: by appointment

- I. Language, objectives, action: Sonnets; Chorus and scenes from *Romeo and Juliet*.
John Barton, *Playing Shakespeare* (links to Youtube clips on Canvas).
- II. Shakespeare's Stage and Stagecraft: *Romeo and Juliet* and *Cymbeline*.
Essays and chapters by Alan C. Dessen:
"Linking Analogue" (from *Elizabethan Drama and the Viewer's Eye*); "Elizabethan
Darkness and Modern Lighting," and "Theatrical Metaphor: Seeing and Not-
Seeing" (from *Elizabethan Stage Conventions and Modern Interpreters*); "Much
virtue in *As*," "The Vocabulary of 'Place,'" and "'*Romeo opens the tomb*'" (from
Recovering Shakespeare's Theatrical Vocabulary). (Canvas)
- III. Text and Performance.
Examples from *Romeo and Juliet* and *Hamlet*.
- IV. Playing the Scene/Building a Play:
Cymbeline.
- V. The Director: Conceiving a Production:
Cymbeline.

Requirements/Grading:

There will be two take-home assignments, at dates to be announced, and a final term paper/project on *Cymbeline*. ATTENDANCE IS REQUIRED AT ALL CLASSES, as is scene-work as assigned. ABSENCE FROM ANY CLASS AT WHICH YOU ARE SCHEDULED TO PRESENT A SCENE, *ESPECIALLY IF IT IS WITH A PARTNER WILL AUTOMATICALLY BE REFLECTED IN YOUR GRADE*. You are responsible for scheduling your own rehearsal time for assignments that require it. Lateness to class impedes our collective work, and is a discourtesy to your fellow students, and will be reflected in your grade.

Potential Theatregoing: *Troilus and Cressida* (Revolution Shakespeare, in Hawthorne Park), September 12-22; *Measure for Measure* (Pushkin Theatre/Cheek by Jowl, at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, *in Russian*) October 16-21; script-in-hand reading of *A Puppeteer with the Palsy Performs Scenes from Shakespeare, or, The Ghost in the Machine* by Cary Mazer (Annenberg Center), dates TBA.

Potential film viewings: HD screenings of *King Lear* (Chichester Festival Theatre, with Ian McKellen) October 14 (Ambler Theatre, and November 8 and 17 (Bryn Maw Film Institute); *The Merry Wives of Windsor* (RSC), October 20 (BMFI); *Macbeth* (RSC) and *Troilus and Cressida* (RSC) TBA.

Books: find your own modern SINGLE-VOLUME editions of the sonnets and *Cymbeline*. All other readings are available for download on Canvas. An electronic version of this syllabus can be read or downloaded as a .pdf from my website, <http://web.sas.upenn.edu/cmazer>.