

Theatre Arts 236
ACTING SHAKESPEARE
Professor Mazer
Fall 2020

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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*.
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:
PLAY TO BE DETERMINED
- V. The Director: Conceiving a Production:
PLAY TO BE DETERMINED.

Requirements/Grading:

There will be two take-home assignments, at dates to be announced, and a final term paper/project on the play, to be determined which we will be focusing on this semester.

(See the course prospectus for information about synchronous and asynchronous sessions, class participation, grading, etc.)

Potential viewings of captured-live performance on HD video: *TO BE DETERMINED.*

Books: find your own modern editions of the sonnets, *Romeo and Juliet*, and the play (to be determined) that we will be focusing on this semester. If you use an electronic text, **MAKE SURE THAT IT IS MODERN** (many free apps use texts from the nineteenth century); though I disagree with many of their editorial choices, the Folger edition (general eds. Werstine and Mowat) is online and free, one scene at a time.