

Theatre Arts 236
ACTING SHAKESPEARE
Professor Mazer
Fall 2019

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 *As You Like It*.
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:
As You Like It.
- V. The Director: Conceiving a Production:
As You Like It.

Requirements/Grading:

There will be two take-home assignments, at dates to be announced, and a final term paper/project on *As You Like It*. 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: TBA (for starters, possibly a one-man version of *Henry V* and/or a six-woman version of *Richard III*, at the Philadelphia Fringe Festival. The Theatre Arts Program production of *Everyman*, Bruce Montgomery Theatre, Annenberg Center, runs from November 13-16, (Opening night is free to all Penn students.)

Potential viewings of captured-live performance on HD video: *Measure for Measure* (RSC), Ritz 5, September 3, 7:30PM. *Hamlet* (rescreening West End from several years ago, with

Benedict Cumberbatch), Ambler Theatre, October 22, afternoon, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Bridge Theatre, screened under the auspices of NTLive), Ambler Theatre, 27 November, afternoon. *Timon of Athens* (RSC) TBA.

Books: find your own modern SINGLE-VOLUME editions of the sonnets and *As You Like It*. If you use an electronic text, make sure A) that it is modern (many free apps use texts from the nineteenth century); and B) you are reading it on a hand-held device large enough that EACH LINE OF VERSE APPEARS ON A SINGLE LINE (i.e. a tablet, mini-tablet, or iPhone plus, and NOT a normal-size smart phone).

All other readings are available for download on Canvas.