

Wk 2 – 27th April – Sonnets and Characters

Tuesday 28th April will be your Sonnet Presentation in your tutor groups via ZOOM – Please see the Timetable below for more details

Plays we will be looking at-

Much Ado About Nothing script – this is the version we will be working on

http://www.shakespeare-online.com/plays/much_1_1.html

Macbeth – this is the version we will be working on

<http://www.shakespeare-online.com/plays/macbethscenes.html>

Task 1: Language

<https://www.rsc.org.uk/shakespeare/language>

There are many resources that can help you with ‘understanding’ Shakespeare from Spark Notes to the footnotes at the bottom of each page of the text in the scripts above. Don’t be scared....it is English....just not the English you are used to using.

Remember, you are not TRANSLATING the language! If you don’t know what a word means then check the page notes in the script or google it. As a performer you should NEVER SAY SOMETHING THAT YOU DON’T UNDERSTAND!

Explore some of the links on this page below from the RSC , watch some of the videos and read some of the information about Shakespeare’s ‘language.’ (There are also many other resources you can find to explore language)

Write up some of your thoughts and reflections in your Process Workbook – always consider this work **as an actor** and how this can help your work on **characterisation**.

- What practical and performance skills are needed to be able to perform Shakespeare?
- How can you develop those skills as a performer?

<https://www.rsc.org.uk/shakespeare/language>

ACTOR’S ANALYSIS TASK:

Choose a character that appears in three or more scenes from either Much Ado about Nothing or Macbeth.

Take **one of the scenes** they appear in and write a ‘modern English language’ version of the scene (try and do it for yourself before you use Spark Notes!) Which words/phrases give you an insight into their character? Where are the clues?

Task 2: Character work/research.

Take that same character from your 'actor's analysis' in task 1 and explore their journey through the **whole play**.

Think of things such as:

- What is their plot journey?
- Who are their enemies/allies?
- What is their whole arc Super Objective for the play?
- What is their backstory? 'Who' are they? (Use Stanislavski or Uta Hagen)
- **In each of these three scenes** what is their 'objective'? What do they want? What is their intention?
- What obstacles are in their way?
- How do they overcome those obstacles to achieve their goal/objective?

Task 3: Scene analysis

As an actor you would work on a Shakespeare script in exactly the same way as you would a contemporary script. The techniques and processes you have looked at in all your other modules at Level 5 will feed into your rehearsal room prep/work.

Take **at least one scene** that your character appears in and work on the following:

- Divide the scene into units
- Title each unit with an intention for your character.
- Begin to consider their 'actions' on each line. (Remember, you must use a transitive verb – "I _____ you") I have put a list of Transitive Verbs up on the MOODLE page.

Practical ZOOM Tasks:

Tuesday 28th April - Sonnet Presentation in your Tutor Groups. See timetable below for further details.

Friday 1st May – Seminar Group discussions. See Timetable below for further details.

You will discuss your character choices and talk about

- Character super objectives, objectives and obstacles.
- Character backstory
- Evidence of your findings/thoughts in the text.

Wk 2 Timetable – Your groups are on the MOODLE page.

Wk 2 – Sonnets and Characters

April 27th – May 1st

Tuesday 28th April

Practical Sonnet Performance Task in Tutorial Groups

10:30am – Cordelia

12:00pm – Cleopatra

2:00pm -Lady Macbeth

3:15pm – Titania

6:00 pm – Ophelia

Friday 1st May – Seminar Group sessions via ZOOM

Character research feedback/discussion

3:00pm – Hamlet Group

4:00pm - Macbeth Group

5:00pm - Richard III Group

Wk 3 Timetable – The content of this week is in a separate document

Wk 3 – Scenes and Text

May 4th – 8th

Thursday 7th May – Seminar Group Discussion - Text and character feedback/discussion

3:00pm – Hamlet Group

4:00pm - Macbeth Group

5:00pm - Richard III Group

Friday 8th May

Practical Performance of Macbeth duologue task in Tutorial Groups

10:30am – Cordelia

12:00pm – Cleopatra

2:00pm -Lady Macbeth

3:15pm – Titania

5:00 pm – Ophelia