

Newsletter #1

April 15-29, 2020

www.syp.nlsr.org

www.youtube.com/c/SYPkolkata

DEAR READERS,

WE ARE THRILLED TO BRING OUT THIS NEWSLETTER, WHICH WE HOPE WILL BE ON A FORTNIGHTLY BASIS. THE NEWSLETTER WILL FEATURE ACTIVITIES OF OUR PERFORMANCE GROUP – SHAKESPEARE YOUTH PERFORMANCES – PAST AND UPCOMING, ALONG WITH INTERESTING AND ENTERTAINING INFORMATION ON OTHER TOPICS, RELATED TO THE BARD. PLEASE SUPPORT US BY CIRCULATING THIS NEWSLETTER AMONG OTHERS.

TEAM SYP



WORDS COINED BY SHAKESPEARE

Compiled by Archik Guha
(Team Supervisor, SYP)

Did you know that a lot of words which we use have been coined by Shakespeare?

Well, here are few of them:

uncomfortable – not feeling comfort (*Romeo and Juliet*).

bandit – robber (*Henry VI, 2*)

dauntless – fearless (*Henry VI, 3*).

unearthly – unnatural, mysterious (*A Winter's Tale*).

undress – to remove the dress (*The Taming of the Shrew*).

unreal – unnatural (*Macbeth*).

(Source:
www.grammarly.com/blog/15-words-invented-by-shakespeare/)

STAY SAFE DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC. Here are some do's and don'ts, based on some Shakespearean characters.

SOME SAFETY MEASURES

- Wash hands meticulously like Lady Macbeth;
- Cover your face and refuse to see strangers like Olivia;
- Stay home and listen to music most of the time, like Duke Orsino;
- Refuse to let people in like Dromio;
- Don't spend hours outside in damp night or morning like Romeo;
- Do not go out in balconies at night like Juliet;
- Do not go on unnecessary errands like Juliet's nurse;
- Keep procrastinating like Hamlet;
- Don't misplace your hanky on the floor like Desdemona;
- Don't touch others' hankies, unlike Emilia, Iago and Cassio
- Do not bare your chest, particularly if you are old like King Lear;
- Avoid public gatherings, unlike the mob in *Julius Caesar*;
- MOST IMPORTANTLY, do not travel like Pericles



ABOUT SYP

SYP was formed in 2016, commemorating the 400th death anniversary of Shakespeare. Although the group started out to perform drama, that is no longer the situation. SYP has, in the span of a few years, expanded to other forms of performance activities, including performing for the screen on YouTube.

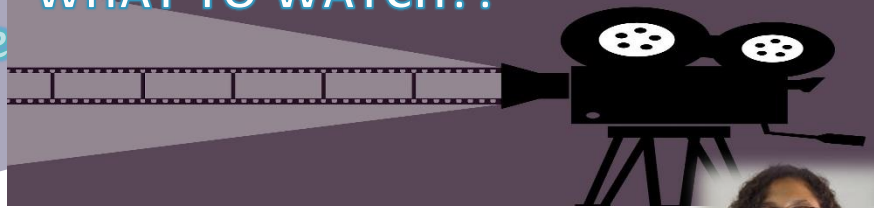
SYP doesn't just perform Shakespeare's plays. Our performance is Shakespearean. We also take up works by others. We have made short films on YouTube on 'Thank You Ma'am' and 'The Proposal', and have also adapted T.S. Eliot's 'The Waste Land'.

Our Previous Stage Productions

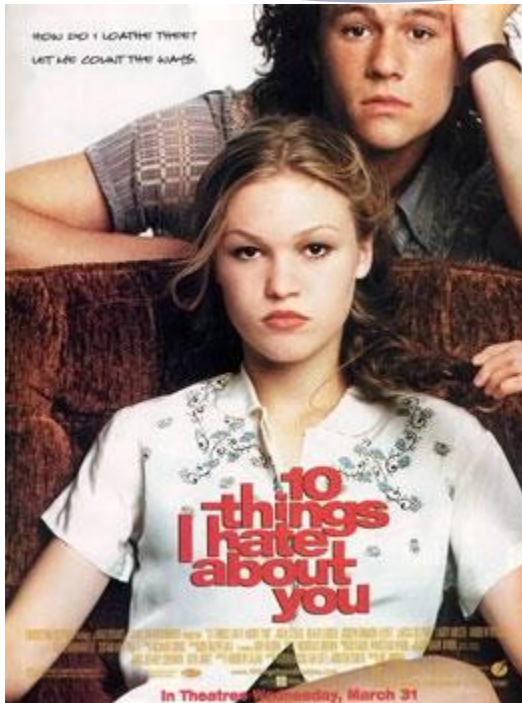


10 Things I Hate About You

WHAT TO WATCH??



Movie Review by Srishti Bhowmick, Event Manager, SYP



Wondering what to watch? Looking for teen-age drama? Give this movie a shot. Some might be surprised to know that *10 Things I Hate About You* is an adaptation of Shakespeare's famous play *The Taming of the Shrew*. Now if you think about it, "You" rhymes with "Shrew", doesn't it? Well, the movie also rhymes with the drama. If you feel Shakespearean comedies are dull and boring, you will never feel the same again. This is set in the 20th century, at a typical US high school.

The movie aims to bring out the shrewdness in our rebellious Kate and highlight her feminist mystique, while in her younger sister, Bianca's softness earns her a lot of admirers. Problem? The father's rule: first Kate, and then Bianca can date, just like in the play. Patrick, like Shakespeare's Petruchio, is far more concerned about money and that winds him up with Kate. But this is where the film shows the modern mindset, where rather than tormenting Kate, Patrick

tries to understand her and that wins her heart after, well, lots of relentless attempts on his part. And for all you Shakespeare buffs out there, you'll be pleased to see the Bard's quotes and pictures and other allusions often in the movie. The first is the full-length shot of the school building to show its resemblance to the Elizabethan stage. So be it 16th century or the 20th (the film was released in 1999), you are all set to watch Shakespeare!



FEATURED TESTIMONIAL

Srijet Sarkar, Senior Member (2016-2019) now working at
amazon

SYP has had manifold contributions in my life. It helped me to learn, realise and showcase my inner enthusiasm for drama, which had been dormant most of my life before joining SYP. I have learned the efficiency of teamwork and the sheer satisfaction and pleasure of delivering a project—a performance—to our fullest potential, while continuously learning from our mistakes.

As this falls under extra-curricular activities involving public speaking, it has helped in improving my CV for better job opportunities.

It has been a privilege to be a part of SYP all these years, under the guidance of my respected teacher/director/guide in life. And I look forward to all the upcoming projects of this wonderful performance group!



Re-imagining Shakespeare in 21st Century – Macbeth, Act II, Scene IV

by Dr. Nilanko Mallik, Founder-Director, SYP



SYP Macbeth (2019), Macduff (Armaan Chowdhury) meditating before doing 'kata'. Act II, Sc. IV. Pic by Anik Saha.

'Global Shakespeares', an international collaboration that has been around for quite some years, seeks to (finally) take Shakespeare out of England and place him, or rather, his works, in contemporary society—just about everywhere. MIT's archival page is highly helpful to scholars in this regard.

The 21st century provides scope for adaptations in varied ways.

The lines of Shakespeare's characters exhibit human traits which are not always limited to confines of time and culture. The transcendental element of these traits are now being studied by Shakespeare in Performance scholars, who wish to show that the different cultural adaptations just make it an interesting experience, far from what might be achieved if one were to present the Elizabethan and Jacobean times again, and again, and again, through the course of the centuries. In a lot of these productions, the lines are often kept as the lines of Shakespeare's drama, but the contexts, times, cultures are all changed, so see and show how the words fit in these changed scenarios.

In 2019, Shakespeare Youth Performances (SYP) performed Macbeth, where Duncan was made the CEO of a multinational corporation. In Act II, Scene IV, after the murder of Duncan, Ross and Macduff are seen to talk. Macduff declares his intention of not going back to Fife while Ross states he will watch the crowning of Macbeth. All productions invariably show the two conversing. And conversing only.



SYP Macbeth (2019), Ross (Ishan Roy) mimicking Macduff's (Armaan Chowdhury) moves. Act II, Sc. IV. Pic by Anik Saha.

SYP turned this to quite an interesting scene, where the audience learned that Macduff is a black belt in karate (after all, he should have some training in martial arts, if he is to defeat Macbeth in the 21st century in a physical fight!) and Ross comes to talk to him when he is training. Ross feels the drills ('kata') to be quite comical, and mimics them (to the laughter of the audience and to the irritation of Macduff). A playful fight ensues between the two as they converse. Ross is skilled, but loses, and Macduff is presented as a skilled martial artist, so that, when, at the end, he is able to defeat Macbeth in a fair (but difficult) fight, there is no surprise on part of the audience.

The presentation of this scene in such a manner takes away the monotony of the conversation. It also shows several other angles, and reveals a lot about the characters and their motives. Ross is somehow not affected so much by the murder of Duncan as Macduff is; he has moved on and has understood that he needs to side with Macbeth for his benefit. Being defeated (even in a friendly match), he harbours a secret jealousy towards Macduff, which makes him act partly against Macduff, even to the extent of reporting to Macbeth that Macduff has fled to England. It is when he realizes that Macbeth does not value him that he is forced to take the help of Malcolm and Macduff in England.

The discipline of the karateka, who happens to be a shodan (black-belt, 1st degree) logically explains Ross' zeal for fairness and proper conduct all the time, so he is always serious, and cannot tolerate the drunken porter in the previous Act. These angles, which are added by the display of the playful fight between Ross and Macduff, would not have been possible had they only met, conversed and departed.

The presentation takes away the monotony of the conversation, and adds an element for engrossed watching, while also sending messages of character traits and motives without making the characters speak them directly.

▶ Watch the scene on YouTube by clicking the link here: <https://youtu.be/sE35LMPVOHM>

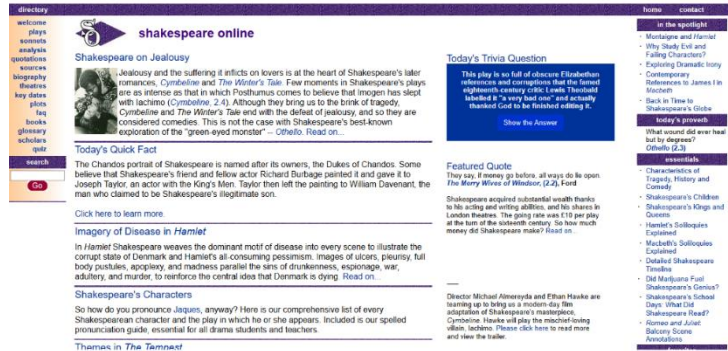


World Wide Web Review



Debopam Das, Senior Member, SYP

Website Name:
www.shakespeare-online.com



What the website is about: It's full of facts on Shakespeare, along with resourceful articles. There are interesting sections like trivia quiz and quotes. The sections are arranged in a wonderful manner. Teachers and students can find lots of information about the times of Shakespeare, not just Shakespeare. There are pages on the personal life of Shakespeare, his literary works, scholarly articles on several topics, list of books on several topics, and much more. It's fun and informative.

However, the design of the page, and the lack of colours, make it difficult to read, particularly if read from a mobile phone.



PUZZLE TIME!!

It's time for some fun! Find names of prominent characters from Shakespeare's plays hidden in this maze of alphabets.

Answers will be revealed in the next issue! Words can be left-right, right-left, up-down, down-up, diagonal

(in any manner). Need help? Here are clues to help with the characters!

Q	W	E	R	A	I	T	R	O	P
M	O	R	S	I	N	O	A	A	O
T	A	R	T	A	P	O	E	L	C
N	A	C	N	U	D	Y	L	O	U
O	P	A	B	S	D	E	F	I	G
H	J	K	L	E	H	Z	X	V	C
V	B	N	M	T	T	Q	W	E	R
I	A	G	O	L	K	H	S	D	F

Makes a General jealous of his wife.

Lets a snake bite her.

Fools husband into giving his wedding ring away.

Kills to come to power.

Not worthy of his fair wife; commits suicide.

Keeps getting betrayed by occupant of same post.

This king will give anything just to hear you flatter him!

He feels music is the food of love.

Falls in love soon after a shipwreck in which her brother is believed to have died.