

Newsletter #4

May 28 – June 10, 2020

www.syp.nlsr.org

 www.youtube.com/c/SYPkolkata

Dear Readers,

This newsletter is set on the theme of 'Environment', as World Environment Day falls on 5 June! And what can be more ironic than to work on this newsletter when we were affected by a devastating super cyclone, which came as an add-on to the existing global pandemic? Take a look at how Shakespeare's plays help to look at Nature more closely.



SHAKESPEARE, WIND AND WEATHER!

Compiled by Archik Guha (Team Supervisor, SYP)

Take a look at some of these expressions to describe the weather, or people in terms of weather...Shakespeare style!

- Shall I compare thee to a summer's day? – *Sonnet 18*
- Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May – *Sonnet 18*
- Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines – *Sonnet 18*
- Morning's silver-melting dew – *The Rape of Lucrece*
- Golden splendour of the Sun – *The Rape of Lucrece*
- My age is as a lusty winter, Frosty, but kindly – *As You Like It*
- Fair is foul and foul is fair, hover through the fog and filthy air - *Macbeth*
- Blow, blow, thou winter wind, Thou art not so unkind as man's ingratitude – *As You Like It*
- Youth like summer morn, age like winter weather – *Sonnet 12*
- Since the more fair and crystal is the sky, the uglier it seems the clouds in it that fly – *Richard II*

CONTENTS

Click on the links to go to the page

- [Shakespeare, Wind and Weather](#) – Archik Guha...Pg. 1
- [About SYP](#).....Pg. 1
- [Gallery](#) – Blow, Wind!.....Pg. 2
- [What to Watch??](#) Movie Review by Srishti Bhowmick.....Pg. 3
- [Featured Testimonial](#)...Pg. 3
- [\(En\)chanting the Environment in Shakespeare's Plays](#) – Dr. Nilanko Mallik....pg. 4
- [World Wide Web Review](#) – Sounak Datta...Pg. 5
- [Puzzle Time!!!](#).....Pg. 6
- [Creating Sound Effects of Weather](#) - Yash Burman.....Pg. 7
- [SYP Comics Time](#) – Ayush Roy...Pg. 8

ABOUT SYP

SYP was formed in 2016, commemorating the 400th death anniversary of Shakespeare. Although the group started out to perform drama, 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.



Subscribe to our YouTube channel:

www.youtube.com/c/SYPKolkata

Subscribe to our Newsletter!!

Send an email to newsletter@syp.nlsr.org

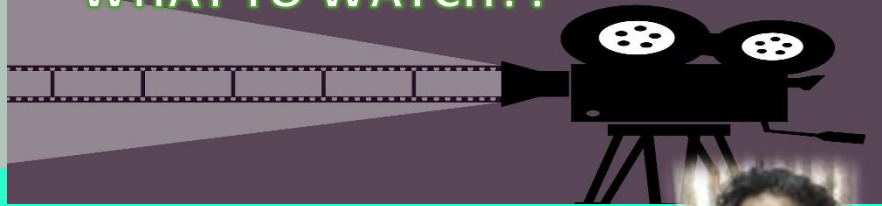
Mention 'Subscribe' in subject.

Blow, Wind!

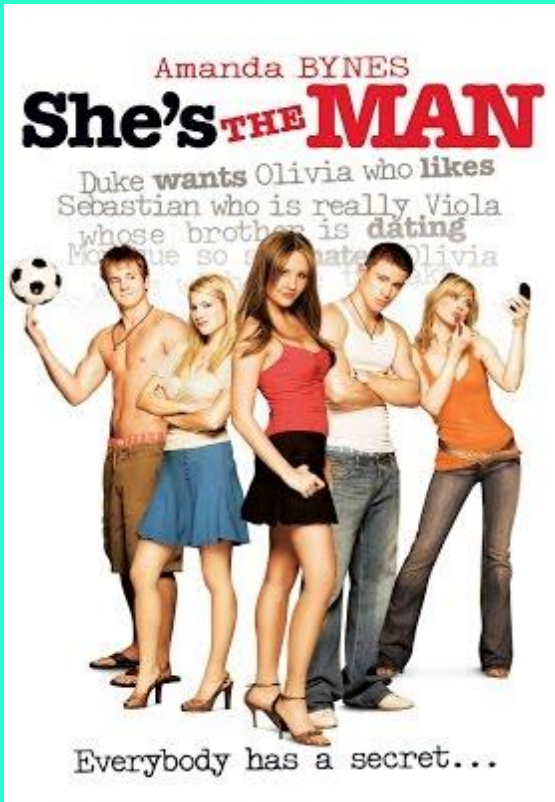


She's The Man

WHAT TO WATCH??



Movie Review by Srishti Bhowmick,
Event Manager, SYP



You must have come by these famous words

“Seeing is believing” but this is only one side of the coin as the whole sentence by Thomas Fuller was “Seeing is believing but feeling is the truth”. It’s all about perspective, isn’t it? And as the world impatiently waits to see the words “Green Zone” stamped on their lands, why not indulge in feeling a bit of greenery on screen? Confused? Read on...

A popular teen drama “She’s the Man” is an exemplary work to substantiate my point. I reviewed this in Newsletter, #2, but I want to focus on the on environment shown in the film in this newsletter. Shot in Vancouver, Canada, nestled between oceans and mountains, this movie is a green treat for the eyes. And guess where it draws inspiration from – Illyria, the enchanting exoticland whose actual location is quite controversial. But the Bard’s words never fail to convey it through the play “Twelfth Night” to be a magical place on Earth. And similarly in the movie, the Illyria High School is a breathtaking site. The school’s front entrance looks upon

a marvellous lawn and the splendid Deer Lake. Series of scenes have been shot here : Viola running late for the final match, Eunis and Viola sitting on a bench in the mesmerizing garden... and many more. The principal of Illyria High School seems to be keen in gardening and ensuring a clean campus, and we must take notes from him on this and his out-of-nowhere appearances that surprise everyone out through the movie! Be it the football fields or the green meadows by the Lake where Orsino and Viola reciprocate their feelings, our eyes meet pacifying shades of green.

Surely the creators have tried their level best to match the enchanting depiction of Illyria in Shakespeare’s “Twelfth Night” . Watch it again. I did.

FEATURED TESTIMONIAL



RITTIK PATRA, Ad hoc Member since 2016

“ It has been an incredible journey with SYP. Although I was a member of SYP for a brief period, I have learned a lot in that span of time. I have come to realise that it’s always more fun to study Shakespeare by breaking the stereotype of mugging up academic textbooks. And you get to do that in SYP through the stage productions, short films and other activities. And obviously, working with the team, under the guidance of our dearest Nilanko Sir has been a really amazing experience! ”



(En)chanting the Environment in Shakespeare's Plays

by Dr. Nilanko Mallik, Founder-Director, SYP

People quote lines of famous characters in Shakespeare, and perhaps the most famous is Hamlet's "To be or not to be", the first line of one of his soliloquies. Most miss out on some of the excellent depictions of nature found in Shakespeare. Often, Shakespeare devotes lines to describe a scenic beauty (not necessarily a beautiful scene).

Readers who have to study Shakespeare for academics often do not know that the playhouses in his times were mostly open to the sky, and plays used to take place in the morning. The plays were, as such, held on



fine weather days. Bad weather would of course, result in cancellation of shows. As would a plague. Or a pandemic, as has happened now.

As such, elaborations were used to charm the audience. How else will the audience feel the beauty of the moonlit night in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* or the dark storm in *The Tempest* when all the actors and audience see is fair weather and the sun shining on their faces?

SYP Macbeth (2019), Lady Macbeth (Srishti Bhowmick) evoking the evil spirits. Pic by Anik Saha.

"Fair is foul and foul is fair" (*Macbeth*) takes on a new meaning if one realizes the condition in which the Jacobean audiences would hear the witches say it. The sound effects to create thunder and rain would

hardly suffice, and so, the Bard relies on the weapon which is mightier than swords – pen.

Carefully crafted words seek to baffle and charm to bring out the ambience of the weather in Shakespeare's plays. "It is the east, and Juliet is the sun" (*Romeo and Juliet*) charms the audience with the beauty of the rising sun when the scene is supposedly night...at a time when it is performed in the sun! And we choose to forget the reality – as we must – being under the spell of the powerful words.

Think about the agonizing speech of King Lear – to let the winds blow. Once more, the audience chooses to believe that the harsh winds are actually blowing on the actor – of course due to his acting skills – and due to the emotions roused by the words. The closely matched song in *As You Like It* – "Blow, blow, thou winter wind" creates a similar effect. From bitter winds to frozen bodies – the audience imagines it all, thanks to the words. Lady Macbeth's evocation of the "spirits that tend on mortal thoughts" is frighteningly beautiful, and even if one watches a daytime performance in Shakespeare's Globe (after it opens – as it is closed now due to the pandemic) in the 21st century might suddenly feel the light actually darken...a psychological effect, of course, but one which is achieved by the audience trying to imagine the words. Sadly, modern day performances of these scenes, performed under closed roofs, with lights dimmed (and audience lights turned off) achieves a cinematic effect, but the effect of the words is quite lost.

Shakespeare achieves what he achieves by making the audience take part in the plays all the time, by making them think actively on the meaning of the words, and by creating vivid, unreal or even impossible imagination through his words and lines, delivered with artistry by the actors.



World Wide Web Review



Sounak Datta, Member, SYP

In this newsletter, I'm going to review one article on the internet about Shakespeare and Environment.

Title: Eco-Shakespeare in Performance

URL: muse.jhu.edu/article/707365

What the article is about: The article by Randall Martin, University of New Brunswick, and Evelyn O'Malley, University of Exeter, clearly explains how Shakespeare's work portrays about the worsening climate-change impacts, rising sea level concerns, and species extinctions. As Shakespeare was born and brought up during the Renaissance in England, he saw all these changes from the beginning. The article discusses about questions like: Can reading, writing about, and teaching Shakespeare contribute to the health of Planet? All these issues are discussed with ample examples from Shakespeare in-performance works.

The article is full of valuable information. In some places, too lengthy (for the general readers) but presented in an interesting manner. Overall, this article might be very useful to understand Shakespeare's concerns about the Nature and mother earth. Extremely useful for students who want to write term papers on the topic.

The screenshot shows the Project MUSE website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Project MUSE logo, a search bar, and a menu icon. Below this, the main content area features the title "Shakespeare Bulletin" and a search bar labeled "Search Within Journal". The article details include "Shakespeare Bulletin", "Volume 36, Number 3, Fall 2018", and "Johns Hopkins University Press". There are options to "View", "Download", and "Save" the article. A "Share" section includes social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, Google+, and a plus sign for more options. A "Recommend" section has a text input field for an email address and a "Send" button. The Johns Hopkins University logo is also visible.



PUZZLE TIME!!

Find names of prominent Shakespeare's characters, 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!

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

Suggests disguising soldiers with branches and leaves.

He was not delivered from his mother's womb.

Banished to a forest by his younger brother.

Goes to the woods on her own... on a fine midsummer night.

Gets the head of an animal while in the woods.

He can cause tempests.

A cave-man, per se, but also, the rightful owner of an island.

Old servant who accompanies young master to a forest, and almost dies.

He has a change of heart after a close encounter with death in the forest, in which his younger brother saves his life.

Magical being, trapped inside a tree.

Take a screenshot of this puzzle, solve it by marking the names and save the image. Send your image by email to newsletter@syp.nlsr.org and we shall mention the names of the first 10 correct entries in the next newsletter! Mention 'Newsletter 4 Puzzle' in the subject line and state your name, school/college, class (and year, for college).

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

Newsletter #3 Solution:

Undisputed wrestling champ, who loses to an untrained young man. (Charles)

He feels that if he dies fighting, the world will have better space for someone else. (Orlando)

Think he's drunk? He can still fight! (Cassio)

Deceived by his friend to duel with someone else, just as the friend wants some fun. (Andrew)

Deceived by his friend to fight with someone else, and dies as friend stabs him. (Roderigo)

He fights with the tip of his sword poisoned. (Laertes)

He wrestles with his friend over a girl – and wins. (Arcite)

He is Valour's favourite. (Macbeth)

He will fight, kill and behead... only if he has a personal grievance. (Macduff)



Creating Sound Effects of Weather

Yash Burman, Member, SYP

What happens on the stage while enacting a scene relies heavily by what happens backstage, which plays a major role in building up the true aesthetics of theatre. Did you think it's only films and TV shows which use sound and visual effects? Ambience and surround sound effects play a major role in theatre. As this newsletter deals with the environment, I am going to focus some sound effects related to nature only. The way some sound effects are created might seem weird but their effectiveness has fooled the audience for decades. Let us take a look at how they are made.

- Thunder rumbling: Traditionally done using a wooden box, mounted on heavy duty irregularly shaped wooden wheels. The box is filled with heavy material, and is pushed around in the wings, to create a loud sustained rumbling.
- Thunder strikes: to produce thunder strike a large metal sheet with handles on the sides is used. When shaken, it produces a thunder strike like sound effect. Another interesting way used to imitate the sound of thunder was with a 'thunder run'. It had a long ramp in which heavy stone ball were rolled which would create a sustained thunder rumble.
- Winds and Breezes: to imitate the sound of gushing winds_a device named AEOLIPHONE as used. It consists of a piece of canvas draped over a slatted wooden drum, which is rotated producing a convincing sound of gusty wind.
- Rain: a device named rain box is used to create the sound of rain. It is a sealed wooden drum containing lentils or rice, and has a slatted interior surface. When rotated vertically, it agitates the contents, producing the sound of rain.

These techniques, when used together by professionals, can create any weather scenario whether it be a rainy day, a storm or a sunny day with gentle blowing winds. Yes, you can say that it we can do all this using a laptop with recorded sound effects or by using a synthesizer. And they are used as such, too. But where's the theatrics in that?

References: <http://www.theatrecrafts.com/pages/home/topics/sound/sound-effects-for-the-stage/>
<https://www.britannica.com/art/sound-effect>



SYP Comics Time!

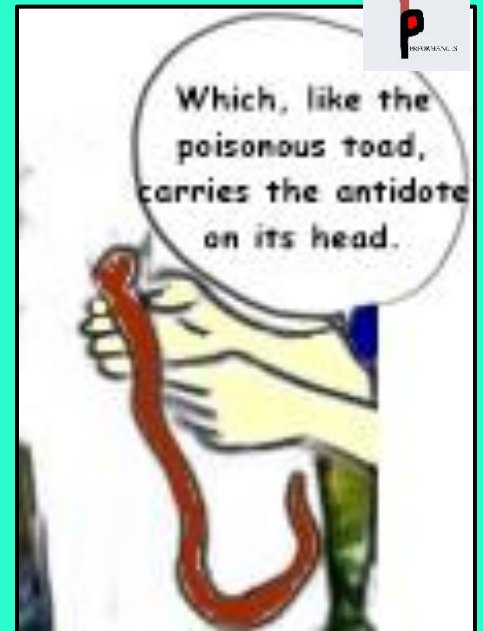
As You Like It – Duke Senior Consoles His Followers

Drawing and Colours: Ayush Roy, Ad-Hoc Member, SYP

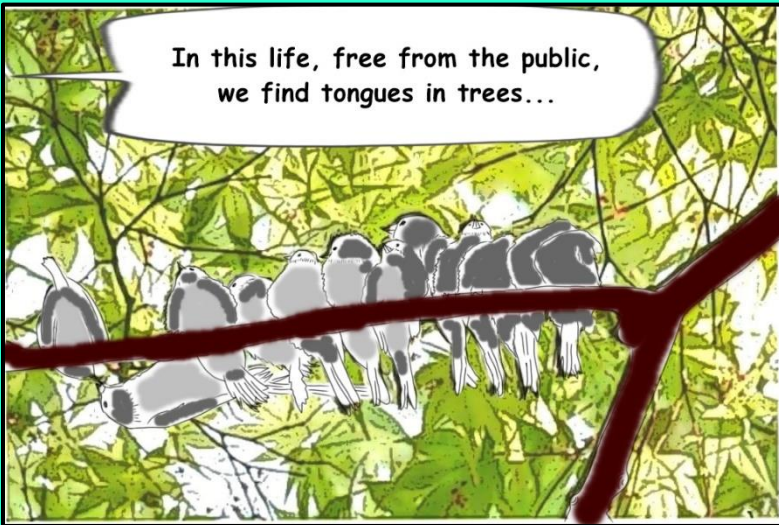
Words: Nilanko Mallik (based on Shakespeare’s text)

Plot: Duke Senior has been banished to the Forest of Arden. His faithful followers have ventured with him. The Duke tells them not to think about the hardships of Nature, as they are actually better off in the forest.

1/2



SYP COMICS – As You Like It – Duke Senior consoles his followers 2/2



If you are an educator and would like to contribute an article (on Shakespeare), we would like to hear from you.

Please email newsletter@syp.nlsr.org with the subject 'Prospective Article for Newsletter'. Mention the topic and the outline in the body of the email, and state your present designation and affiliation.

We will get back to you if your interest matches with our needs.

Thank You!