

York Shakespeare Project

Newsletter 2010-2011 Issue 2 November

Shakespeare in 100 treasures: Number 2 ***and* a soundtrack to read by:**



Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio
Lute Player 1600

Not exactly Shakespeare but a great tune by his brilliant contemporary, John Dowland. Written for lute in 1596, *Lachrimae Pavane* was subsequently given a vocal and became the hit song of 1600+ 'Flow my tears'. All you Morrissey bunnies (Al Carr, Matthew Wignall) hold down CTRL click on the link, listen up and, well, oscillate wildly. [Do this for all links!]

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xI1mAt9M9w>

Some More *Much*

Regular readers will still be reeling from the announcement - made with considerable brouhaha in last month's Newsletter - that our next production will be *Much Ado About Nothing*. But now there's more. A where. And a when. Our Summer's production will be staged in

ROWNTREE PARK

28 JUNE to 9 JULY 2011

Yes! Following productions of *Romeo and Juliet* in 2005 and of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in 2006 we return to the riverside wonderland that is Rowntree Park for a third venture. Our most recent outdoor frolic was of course *As You Like It* (staged in the Residence Garden, York Minster in 2008) making *Much* our fourth play *en plein air*. So pace Wills and Kate this is *the* date for your new 2011 diary. Put it in now dear (as the actress said to the Bishop).

And when you have done that, people of the project, take a moment to leave winter behind and dare to dream of next summer in t'park... of picnics and deck chairs and *dejeuner sur l'herbe*. It could look something like this:



Granted setting the play in Second Empire France will stretch the costume budget but a generous degree of deshabelle will help and as you can see would take years off Jeremy Muldowney. On the right is Ben Sawyer as the lovelorn monsieur though his stick will need to be in a heavier gauge if it is to last the run. [Loving the headgear Ben!] Cheer up the picnic with a few sausage rolls and 10 cheese straws from Thomas's and you're there.

****Serious Point**** YSP members bathe in the Park pond at their own risk.

Transported? Inspired? Infuriated? Got a better concept? Your Committee have appointed a recruitment-of-director subcommittee who will be advertising as widely as possible for all those seeking to **direct**. The deadline for applications is expected to be mid-January 2011. Remuneration will be offered. A shortlist will be drawn up after the closing date for interview with an appointment hopefully made around the middle of February at the latest. In the meantime the Committee will be seeking to identify those interested in being part of the **Production Team**. So plenty to think about when you are stuffing the bird, Bishop.

YOU CAN CALL AL

The YSP Committee is proud to announce, (and the YSP newsletter is even more proud to report,) the co-option of Mr Alistair ‘the Bon Viveur’ Carr as an additional member of the committee. The BV is a former editor of this newsletter and brings considerable style, humour and experience to the Committee and an as yet undisclosed quantity of facial hair. Al’s top lip is currently lying fallow to see what grows during this month of November. We wish him well but as the follically triumphant among us will point out, he is at best a part-timer. Asked to produce evidence of his effort so far he offered the distressed and distressing image which appears below. Apparently it’s called ‘a Banksy’. Reader(s) of a nervous disposition, look away now.



If nothing else this should produce a volume of mocking correspondence.

Serious Point Al is doing this deed for a noble and important cause, testicular cancer(!) You can make a contribution to [Al's fundraising effort](#) clicking here or rather back there. On the coloured writing, dear.

So the Committee is one co-optee to the good. Room for two more...

TIDINGS OF COMFORT AND TROY

And now we are talking about our second production for next year, Winter 2011. It will be *Troilus and Cressida*. One of the Bard's less well known plays and therefore in terms of the the Project, right on the money.

Digression: hold on is that Troe-ill-us or Troy-less? Ah. Interesting point my dear. There is precious little debate on this I am disappointed to say. Because debate is what we long for here in the pages of the Newsletter. Pretty much everyone goes for Troy-less as in spoil-us. That crucial point dealt with, here is the all important line-up:

Dramatis Personae: (with size of part in brackets)

The Prologue (31 lines)
Priam, King of Troy (20)
Hector, his son (213)
Troilus, another son (537)
Paris, another one (97)
Deiphobus, he was busy man (2) the quiet one
Helenus, hoped for a girl? (4)
Cassandra, daughter to Priam, hooray (37) a prophetess...
Margarelon, his bastard son (2) ooh er
Andromache, wife to Hector, daughter-in-law to Priam (15)
Aeneas, a Trojan Commander (143)
Antenor, another Trojan Commander (0) and a very quiet one
Calchas, a Trojan priest (31)
Cressida, daughter to Calchas (301)
Pandarus, uncle to Cressida (414)
Agamemnon, the Greek General (195)
Menelaus, his brother (13)
Helen, wife to Menelaus (28)
Achilles (191)
Ajax (86)
Ulysses (485)
Nestor (157)
Diomedes (104)
Patroclus (69)
Thersites (283)
Alexander (34)
Servants, soldiers, attendants etc (in all 28 lines)

Pronunciation pedants may be intrigued to know that David Crystal has a site [here](#) devoted to pronouncing Shakespeare 'old style'. And that he was consultant at the Globe in 2005 for a production of *Troilus & Cressida* using Elizabethan pronunciation. A sound file of Act I Scene 1 can be

listened to on his site and if you are hooked, you can buy a whole CD.

And there, friends, countrymen and lovers, is the first YSP stocking filler idea of the season.

More soon.

Policy announcement:

The new editor of this rag will be delighted to plug theatrical endeavours featuring the efforts - in whatever capacity - of YSP Members. But before you tickle the plastic and trouble your outbox, by Members read **fully paid-up 2010-2011 Members**.

So instead of a generous plug for:

The Lords of Misrule present
IMMORALITY

7.30pm
Thursday 9th December

Friday 10th December
Saturday 11th December

St Mary's Church, Bishophill Junior

We await the promised YSP sub from Strasz.

Serious point

The next YSP Committee meeting is on Thursday 16th December: *the Pre- Christmas round-up* Feat. Al 'Hirsute Filtrum' Carr and hopefully a Christmas beverage. What do we need to deal with? Let the Committee know about your stuff. Get it on our agenda. People.

This month's quiz has a

****Prize****

A lifesize reproduction of Toby Gordon with fully working parts **OR** a weekend in Messina with the MCVI (bring E111 and your own filth) **OR** 6 free viola lessons with our very own Sam Valentine.

Just one question: Who won the Trojan War?

Tiebreaker: Your entry to last month's quiz.

Last month's quiz.

We asked:

1. *Which Italian cities host scenes in Shakespeare?*

You were as silent as a Trojan Commander.

We asked:

2. *Who would you rather, Branagh, Lindsay or Lewis? Thompson, Lunghi or Parish?*

Your collective answer: none of the above. So, all to play for in June 2011.

We asked:

3. How many ghosts appear in Shakespeare?

This one was not really very difficult. You were thinking, um, Hamlet's father, Banquo obviously, and didn't Robin Sanger loom disconcertingly behind a screen in Monkgate once as oooh.... whooooo? You were on the right lines.

*4. Write a brief and learned note on the business of constables and headboroughs.
(Bonus marks for sheriffs)*

We imagined a plethora of scholarly articles which might finally raise the tone of this publication. We have since wised up.

Tiebreaker: We asked you to:

Write an amusing limerick about an inhabitant of Messina (or better still, Tom Cooper's director's report)

Incredibly, there were 3 entries for this challenge. And here they are:

There was a jolly fat git of Messina
Who was to told he oughta be leaner
He was heard to mutter,
"I'll lay off the butter."
But he ain't got no thinner - just meaner.

(Harold Mozley – official YSP treasure)

The dodgy old Gov of Messina
Used to cover himself in Ribena
Then he'd jump in the sea
Cry fiddle-de-dee
And declare that he'd never been cleaner

(The MC Vanity Initiative)

Tom Cooper's Director's Report

(Tom Cooper)

A Special Moment

A special moment therefore for Tom. Thank you for taking the trouble to feedback in detail to the Committee about your gruelling but triumphant efforts on *Henry IV*. Your comments will be passed on to whomsoever is bold enough to take on *Much* in the Park. See above.

What's that dear? You haven't read last month's Newsletter yet. You thought it would be full of columns and you never liked Robbie Swale after he was so horrible to that nice Mr Brutus with the beard and the thin ankles?

Don't worry you can still go to the [the YSP website](#) and view it there.
While you are at it, sign up there to our mailing list.

And why not become our Facebook friend [here](#).

The Next edition will be the Christmas issue, the target date for which is Saturday December 18th.

Latest reviews of the MCVInitiative.

- I had rather hear my dog bark at a crow - 'Hutch'

- Thankfully a lot less of a kerfuffle than the last effort.

- Can I just say that I *love* Harold 'the cakes' Mozley. You are so right. He truly is a treasure. Kenneth Branagh? Robert Lindsay? Damien Lewis? Limp paste sandwiches the three of them! Harold is the thinking woman's Victoria sponge and the thinking man's *bara brith*.

- Not nearly enough about my part in it all (which of course is enormous) - Toby G

- The advantage with people not contributing is you can have fantastic competitions - I think I offered planets, cars and travels in time at various editions, heavens, even tickets to shows, *and no-one ever entered!* - the BV

*Gentle breath of yours my sails
Must fill, or else my project fails,
Which was to please.*

This Newsletter is a product of
the Maurice Crichton Vanity
Initiative. Complaints to:
maurice.crichton@ntlworld.com