

Bitesize KS3 English Literature – Shakespeare

Much Ado About Nothing – Performance analysis – Rehearsing the orchard scene transcript

NARRATOR

IT'S DAY FOUR IN THE MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING REHEARSAL HOUSE, [CAPTION- DAY 4 8:32 AM] AND THE DIRECTOR HAS JUST WOKEN UP TO DISCOVER A NEW TASK, TO FIND A FUNNY WAY TO STAGE THE SCENE WHERE BENEDICK HIDES IN THE ORCHARD FROM DON PEDRO, CLAUDIO AND LEONARDO.

NARRATOR

[CAPTION- DAY 4 10:25 AM] THE DIRECTOR IS NOT HAPPY. IT'S 10:25AM AND BENEDICK IS NOWHERE TO BE SEEN.

DIRECTOR

Okay, remember, at this point you know he's hiding, you're making him believe Beatrice fancies him, even though at this part of the play Beatrice actually thinks Benedick is a massive....

BENEDICK

I heard that.

DIRECTOR

Where are you?

BENEDICK

I'm hiding.

BENEDICK

Here I am.

DIRECTOR

Okay, you're hiding too well. Right? It's not funny unless we can see you. And what have you done to your face?

BENEDICK

So I can hide. Took me ages. Can't I keep it?

DIRECTOR

Um...

NARRATOR

20 MINUTES LATER, [CAPTION- DAY 4 10:47 AM] AND THE DIRECTOR HAS MADE BENEDICK'S HIDING PLACE A BIT EASIER TO SPOT.

LADY IN GREY JUMPER

Bitesize

I did never think that lady would have loved any man.

MAN WITH BEARD

No, nor I neither. But most wonderful that she does so dote on Senor Benedick, whom she hath in all outward behaviour seemed ever to abhor.

BENEDICK

Argh, I'm sorry, sorry, sorry, can I do that again? (laughter)

DIRECTOR

No, no, no, that's good, that's good, it's funny, keep it in.

MAN WITH BEARD

By my troth my lord, I cannot tell what to think of it. She loves him with an enraged affection, it is past the infinite of thought.

BENEDICK

Argh! Argh! Aah! I'm sorry, sorry. Can we do this again?

BENEDICK

Aah! Aah!

DIRECTOR

That's so funny!

BENEDICK

Ah.

MAN WITH BEARD

[INAUDIBLE]

BENEDICK

Argh! Argh!

LAUGHTER

BENEDICK

Ow. Guys, come on.

DIRECTOR

All right, all right, that's a break, that's a break, come on, time for lunch.

NARRATOR

THE DIRECTOR, [CAPTION-DAY 4 12:03 PM] PLEASED WITH PROGRESS, DECIDES TO TAKE A BREAK.

DIRECTOR

No, no. Not you Gareth. Just a couple more times, keep practicing. It's going really well though. Cool, keep it up.

MAN WITH BEARD

Bitesize

It's going well I think. Are you happy?

BENEDICK

Argh!

BENEDICK

Ah!