

Her Hamlet

Teacher Guide

Shakespeare-in-the-Schools

Description

Judith, Shakespeare's youngest daughter, is haunted by the ghosts of her father's characters. Accompanied by her faithful sidekick, Yorick, Jude seeks to uncover the hidden threads connecting her to the women of her father's work. On the way, she discovers lovers, warriors, dreamers, and artists, and perhaps a startling truth about herself.

Objectives

Students will receive an introduction to the dramatic world inspired by the work of Shakespeare. They will learn about adaptation of classic works into new works.

Meet the Artists

Shakespeare-in-the-Schools (SITS) is the touring outreach program of the Department of Theatre Arts at the University of Pittsburgh.

SITS educates, engages and entertains students and teachers throughout the tri-state region with touring shows of Shakespeare and other classic works, artist residencies, teacher workshops, and school matinees.



Written by: Lisa Jackson-Schebetta & Theo Allyn
Music and Lyrics by: Robert Frankenberry
Directed by: Lisa Jackson-Schebetta
Cast: Theo Allyn and Robert Frankenberry

Academic Standards

This program may be used to address PDE Academic Standards in the following curriculum areas:

Reading, Writing, Speaking, & Listening

- 1.3 Reading, Analyzing and Interpreting Literature
- 1.4 Types of Writing
- 1.5 Quality of Writing
- 1.7 Characteristics and Function of the English Language

History

- 8.1 Historical Analysis and Skills Development
- 8.4 World History

Arts and Humanities

- 9.1 Music, Theatre and Visual Arts
- 9.2 Historical and Cultural Contexts
- 9.3 Critical Response
- 9.4 Aesthetic Response

Grades 6-12

Gateway to the Arts

6101 Penn Avenue | Suite 301 | Pittsburgh, PA 15206



Creative teaching. Lifelong learning.

Before the Program

Discussion Prompts & Activities

Here is some information to get your students thinking about adaptation:

- Camels developed a third, see-through eyelid to help them protect their eyes, but still be able to see during sandstorms. The camels adapted to their environment.
- The film, *Snow White and the Huntsman*, is an adaptation of the Grimm Brothers' story, *Little Snow White*.
- The definition of adaptation, according to the Oxford English Dictionary, is "the action or process of adapting one thing to fit with another, or suit specified conditions, [especially] a new or changed environment."

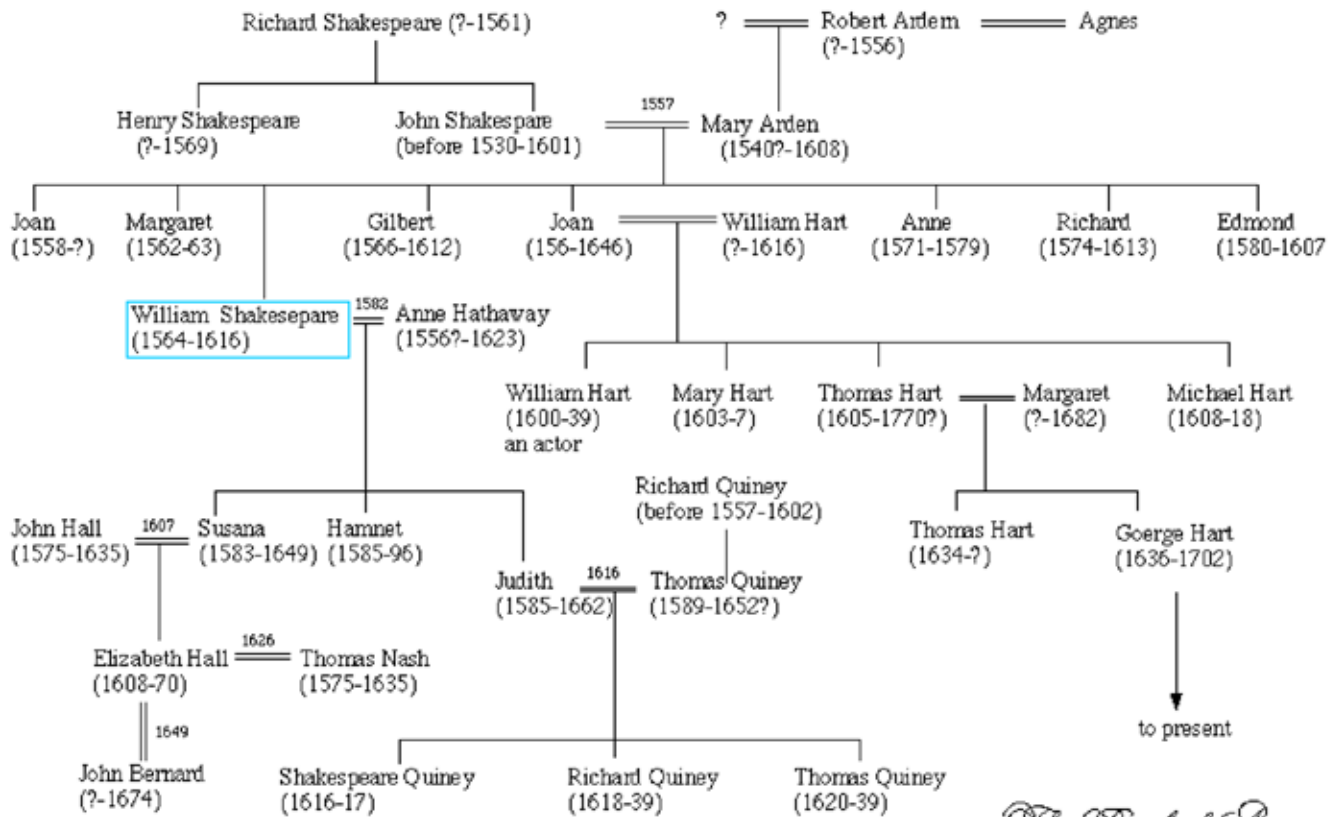
Her Hamlet is an adaptation of *Hamlet*.

Discussion Questions:

1. How would you define adaptation?
2. Can you give an example of an adaptation you've come across?
3. If *Her Hamlet* is an adaptation of *Hamlet*, what do you think it will do? What will it be like?

During the Program

Shakespeare's Family Tree



Two Adaptations of Judith Shakespeare

If we don't know much about Shakespeare, we know even less about his daughter. Here's what we know about Judith.

Judith Shakespeare, Shakespeare's youngest daughter, was born in 1585. She had a twin brother named Hamnet. He died at age eleven. Judith married Thomas Quiney in Stratford in 1616, the year of her father's death. Her father disapproved of Quiney and removed Judith from his will. She had three children, the first of which she named Shakespeare.

Two fictitious Judith Shakespeares come to life through art. Writer Virginia Woolf imagines Shakespeare's sister and names her Judith (The playwright had a few sisters in real life, but only one lived a full life; her name was Joan. The others died young). The creators of *Her Hamlet* dreamed up their Judith Shakespeare, "Shakespeare's upstart crow of a younger untwined daughter."

Think honestly: Did you know Shakespeare had a daughter? Does this knowledge change anything for you- about how you feel about Shakespeare as an icon, or how you read one of his plays?

FUTHER EXPLORATIONS

Note to Teachers: The Music and Art Department at the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh has an extensive collection of CDs, LPs, images, songbooks, videos and DVDs, many of which may be sent out to your local library branch for your convenience. Call the Music and Art Department at 412-622-3105 or search for materials on-line at <http://catalog.einetwork.net/search>.

BOOKS

- Greenblatt, Stephen. *Will in the World: how Shakespeare became Shakespeare*. New York: Norton, 2004.
- Randall, Dale. *Winter Fruit*. Lexington, Ky.: University Press of Kentucky, 1995
- Schoenbaum, Samuel. *Shakespeare's Lives*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1970.
- Shakespeare, William. *Hamlet*. The Arden Shakespeare Third Series. Ann Thompson and Neil Taylor, eds. London: Arden Shakespeare, 2006.
- Shapiro, James. *1599: A Day in the Life of William Shakespeare*. London: Faber, 2005.
- van Lennep, William, ed. *The London stage, 1660-1800. Part 1, 1660-1700*. Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 1965.

ON THE WEB

- <http://www.shakespeare.pitt.edu/> - Shakespeare in the Schools' website
- <http://www.absoluteshakespeare.com/> - Absolute Shakespeare- "The essential resources for William Shakespeare's sonnets, poems, quotes, biography and the legendary Globe Theatre".
- www.shakespeare.org.uk - Shakespeare's family
- <http://pages.unibas.ch/shine/linkstraghamletwf3.html> - Hamlet: Adaptations in Literature, Music, and Art

VIDEO

- *Hamlet [videorecording]* / a Two Cities film. Hollywood, CA: Paramount Home Video, c 1989. 1 videocassette (155 min.) sd, b&w; 1/2in. Videocassette release of the 1948 motion picture starring Laurence Olivier.
- *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern are Dead [videorecording]* / Cinecom Entertainment presents a theatrical production of Michael Brandman & Emanuel Azenberg ; Thirteen WNET ; a Tom Stoppard film ; executive producers, Louise Stephens, Thomas J. Rizzo ; produced by Michael Brandman, Emanuel Azenberg ; written and directed by Tom Stoppard. MPAA rating: PG.
- *Hamlet* (Motion picture : 1996) *Hamlet [videorecording]* / Castle Rock Entertainment presents ; produced by David Barron ; adapted for the screen and directed by Kenneth Branagh. Burbank, CA : Warner Home Video, c2007. Two-disc special ed.; Widescreen. 2 videodiscs (242 min.) : sd., col. ; 4 3/4 in. MPAA rating: PG-13; some violent images and sexuality.
- *Hamlet* (Motion picture : 2000) Miramax Films presents a Double A Films production ; produced by Andrew Fierberg and Amy Hobby ; screen adaptation by Michael Almereyda ; directed by Michael Almereyda. Burbank, CA : Miramax, [2001?] Widescreen. 1 videodisc (113 min.) : sd., col. ; 4 3/4 in. Starring Ethan Hawke, Julia Stiles, Bill Murray, Sam Shepard. MPAA rating: R; for some violence.
- *10 Things I Hate About You [videorecording]* / Touchstone Pictures presents a Mad Chance/Jaret Entertainment production ; produced by Andrew Lazar ; written by Karen McCullah Lutz & Kirsten Smith ; directed by Gil Junger. Burbank, Calif. : Touchstone Home Video, c1999. Rated PG-13. (1990's adaptation of "The Taming of the Shrew")