

Research and analysis of the text for performance:

Identifying the intention of the playwright <i>Much Ado About William Or Whatever</i> by Nicholas Richards
Identifying the ideas, themes and messages within the chosen text
Establishing the social background of the text
William's costume has to reflect his position as head of the family, as well as showing that he is an adult male, on top of showing the families class and socio-economic status. To do this I believe he is best suited to wear what a middle-class man would have worn in the late 16 th century.
Considering the development of the characters and action throughout the text
Although this is a One Act play there are certainly different phases during the Act. These can be categorised into: Initial phase with Will and Anne/ When the twins first enter / When Susanna enters / When the Twins leave / When they re-enter / Will's rant
Formulating an explanation of the director's production concept.
In this tongue-in-cheek view of William Shakespeare's life, we see Will trying to write a play. Around him are his energetic twin children, his protective wife and his typical modern-day teenage daughter. A light-hearted play with plenty of humour both obvious and subtle.
①

Translating the scripted text to facilitate the enactment of the script from 'page to stage':

Communicating a concept to convey the intention of the play
William's costume is best suited to wear what a middle-class man would have worn in the late 16 th century.
②
A perfect example of this is a drawing of Shakespeare himself. Wearing what one may describe as a "Dutch Coat" memorable for it's tight fitting nature and its fabric sticking out t the neck. No hat on, and with socks that are high to the knee, with footwear that would be traditional of the time.
Anne is most definitely the housewife that is stereotyped of the time and her costume should reflect just that. A plain, simple, monochromatic dress – preferably black. This would be accompanied by an apron she wore on the front, to show that she is engaging in your stereotypical Elizabethan housewifery.
The next character, Suzanna, is a complete anachronism for the time. She is, in stark contrast to the other characters, a modern-day teenager. This adds humour to the performance simply because she doesn't fit in with all that surrounds her. This has to be shown firstly by her clothes. These will be unnaturally bright for the time, a plain bright

green top should suffice. She then has denim cut-off shorts, exposing most of her legs. These show that she is meant to be an anachronism, something way ahead of her time.

3

I believe that the setting in this play should be in the late 16th Century, about the time that William Shakespeare was writing. I plan to have, as the script suggests, a table for will to work on. I will also have a glass coffee table placed in front of the couch. It also serves as a place where the tea that is brought in by Anne can lay, and it also gives her a job to clean it, performing one of her domestic duties. I will also have a bookcase behind the couch, lending one to consider the time period as around the 16th Century.

2

Casting of actors

Developing and implementing a rehearsal schedule

Supporting the development of roles and dramatic action

Guiding the production team

Fostering a positive and co-operative working environment to enable the production to be realised.

I think that it is most important, given my small cast size, that I become at least professional acquaintances with them, that I come across as approachable and understanding. I found from my experiences as an actor that I felt most comfortable and confident around a director that I knew I could talk to if I was struggling with an aspect of my characterisation or if I had to miss a rehearsal for whatever reason.

2