

Spotlight Guide 2017 - 2018



Adapted for the stage by Lee Hall
Based on the screenplay by Marc Norman and Tom Stoppard
Music by Paddy Cunneen

Young playwright Will Shakespeare is stuck. He is overdue in finishing his latest play—a half-baked mess of a comedy called *Romeo and Ethel, the Pirate's Daughter*. He finds his muse in Viola de Lesseps, who is driven to do anything—even disguise herself as a man—to fulfill her dream of performing onstage, where no women are permitted. Surrounded by familiar players, including Queen Elizabeth herself, backstage antics collide with on stage dramas. Will and Viola's passionate, forbidden love affair goes on to inspire Shakespeare's masterpiece—the most romantic tragedy ever written.

Lesson Plan and Activities

Page to Stage Lesson Plan

In this lesson, students will read and analyze an excerpt from The Balcony Scene.

Shakespeare Taboo

Students will gain a new appreciation for Shakespeare's contribution to the English language.

Write a Review

After seeing the production, have each student write a review of Orlando Shakes' production.

Discussion & Themes

What is writer's block? What is a muse? In what ways are the presence of one and the absence of the other keeping Will from realizing his goals and desires at the beginning of the play? How is Christopher Marlowe a help to Will? How is he a hindrance?

See the full study guide for expanded lesson plan and activities.

Florida Standards

LAFS.910.RL.1: Key Ideas and Details
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LAFS.1112.SL.1: Comprehension and Collaboration
LAFS.910.W.1: Text Types and Purposes
LAFS.1112.RL.1: Key Ideas and Details
LAFS.910.RL.3: Integration of Knowledge and Ideas
TH.912.F.2: Careers in and related to the arts
TH.68.S.1: The arts are inherently experiential.



**ORLANDO
SHAKESPEARE
THEATER**
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH UCF

PG-13

Language, Crude Humor, Use of Tobacco, Use of Alcohol,
Sexual Content. Violence. Men as Female Characters

Most appropriate for Grade 8 and up. Children under 5 will not be admitted to the theater.