



# VISUAL STORY

To help prepare you for your  
visit to Shakespeare's Globe

**Relaxed Performance**

Saturday 8 February 2020, 2.00pm

# SWIVE

[ELIZABETH]

by  
William Shakespeare

SHAKESPEARE'S  
GLOBE

## GETTING TO THE THEATRE

This is the Foyer. If you need somewhere quiet at any time you can come back out of the Playhouse into the Foyer.



Your ticket will tell you which gallery, bay and row you are in. Once you have found your row you will need to find the part of the bench reserved for you which will match the number on your ticket.





This is the stage. For different plays, designers add pieces of set to make it look different.

These are stewards. You can recognise the stewards by their aprons. The stewards are there to help you. If you feel tired, or need to exit please ask a steward. They can also show you where the toilets are. Stewards are good people to go to if you feel worried about anything in the show.





## THE CHARACTERS OF THE PLAY



This is **Princess Elizabeth**.



This is **Queen Elizabeth I**.



This is **William Cecil**.



This is **Robert Dudley**.



This is **Thomas Seymour**.



This is **Catherine Parr**.



This is **Katherine Grey**.



This is the **Mary Tudor**.





This is the **Washerwoman**.



This is **Queen Elizabeth I**.



This is a modern interpretation of  
**Princess Elizabeth** and **Queen Elizabeth I**.

## SHOW NOTES

These are notes of things that may happen during the show, or that you may want to think about for your visit.

- The play is approximately 1 hour and 20 minutes long. There is no interval during this performance.
- If the show is delayed for 5 minutes, this is normal for this production.
- There is a member of staff showing a sign to let you know that the play starts in five minutes. This person will also ring a bell in the foyer five minutes before the play starts. Another sign and a second bell will ring two minutes before the play starts to let you know it is time to take your place in the theatre.
- The theatre has an average temperature of 19°.
- The theatre goes dark at the beginning of the show. This is on purpose and some lights will remain on under the seats.
- There is music throughout the production.
- Actors will carry candles and torches. There is a trapdoor that opens at the front of the stage with candles, it closes after.
- The Pit is the lowest part of the auditorium. Some of the actors will walk through the Pit to get to the stage.
- There are two actors playing the role of Elizabeth. A younger actor plays Princess Elizabeth. Another actor plays the adult Elizabeth when becomes Queen Elizabeth I.
- There is some violence throughout the show.
- At the end of the show, the actors extinguish the candles and the theatre gets very dark.

## THE PLAY

**This is a detailed description of the events in the play**

Swive follows the life of Elizabeth I, who was Queen of England in the sixteenth century. There are two actors playing the role of Elizabeth, a young girl plays the Princess and an adult actor plays the Queen.

The actor playing Queen Elizabeth describes to the audience the playing space. She explains that the playhouse is not as historic as we might think.

Elizabeth's father died. She is just a fourteen-year-old girl. She goes to live with her step-mother, Catherine Parr, and Catherine's husband, Thomas Seymour.

Elizabeth's brother, King Edward, doesn't want Elizabeth to become Queen. The King decides to ban her. Elizabeth is very worried as she doesn't feel safe. She has lots of nightmares.

Thomas Seymour visits her in the night with romantic intentions. Catherine finds out and she is angry with the Princess.

Elizabeth is accused of plotting with Thomas to take the throne. She is arrested and locked up in the Tower of London. She blames Thomas and says he is a traitor, so she can save herself. Thomas is executed.

King Edward dies. Elizabeth's sister, Mary takes the throne.

Mary arrests Elizabeth on suspicion of treason. Elizabeth defends herself from the accusation.



Mary dies and Elizabeth becomes Queen Elizabeth I, an adult actor plays this part. She asks Cecil to be her main advisor.

Elizabeth is in love with Robert Dudley, who is now her advisor. He is married to another woman.

Elizabeth asks one of her ladies-in-waiting, Katherine Grey, to use her beauty to get information that might be against Elizabeth and report back.

The Court is pressuring Elizabeth to get married and have a child, an heir. She resists the idea. She wants to be appointed "Head" of the Church of England, but Cecil suggests she is named "Governor" instead as this sounds less officious.

Elizabeth and Dudley meet whilst out hunting. She is in love with him but can't let her feelings control her.

Cecil reveals that Dudley's wife is dead. Dudley is accused of murder.

Cecil presents a petition to Elizabeth from the English people demanding her to get married and have children, to offer security to the country.

Dudley tells Elizabeth that he loves her and wants to marry her. The Queen rejects him.

Cecil tells Elizabeth that her cousin, Mary Queen of Scots, has had a son. Queen Elizabeth is worried and she feels everyone is against her.

The Queen's washerwoman has sold secrets about the Queen to the Spanish King. Elizabeth confesses that she has ceased to menstruate.

Queen Elizabeth calls the theatre technicians onto the stage. They remove her dress as she feels very uncomfortable. She now wears trousers and a top.

Cecil and Dudley send the order to execute Mary Queen of Scots. Elizabeth didn't give her permission.

Both actors, Princess Elizabeth and Queen Elizabeth meet on stage. They tell the audience that they can tell history however they want to.

The play ends with both actors saying positive definitions of words, like 'unmarried'.

## SONIC STORY

