

SHAKESPEARE'S
GLOBE

The Merry Wives of Windsor

Writer

William Shakespeare

VISUAL STORY



THE CHARACTERS OF THE PLAY



This is **George Page**.



This is **Mistress Page**.



This is **Anne Page**.



This is **Falstaff**.

The
Merry
Wives
of
Windsor



This is **Frank Ford**.



This is **Mistress Ford**.



This is **Hugh Evans**.



This is **Mistress Quickly**.

The
Merry
Wives
of
Windsor



This is **Robert Shallow**.



This is **Abraham Slender**.



This is **Doctor Caius**.



This is **Host**.

The
Merry
Wives
of
Windsor



This is **Pistol**.



This is **Nym**.



This is **Falstaff** as Herne the Hunter.



This is **Peter Simple**.

SHOW NOTES

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

- The play is approximately 2 hours and 40 minutes long, with an interval of 15 minutes after 1 hour and 20 minutes. The second part is about an hour long.
- A bell will ring in the foyer and on the piazza five minutes before the play starts. 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. After the interval, the same happens before the second half of the show.
- During the play, there is loud music. When the band plays, the music can seem quite loud because the Globe is shaped like a giant drum.
- There is a show in the piazza with loud music and actors talking to the audience before the performance.
- Some of the actors will walk through the yard to get to and from the stage.
- There is some stage fighting, none of it is real fighting but it is only pretend, so nobody gets hurt.
- There are two gunshots during the second half.

- During the scene in the park, some characters will be in fancy dress and some fairies are wearing masks to hide their faces.
- At the end of the show, there is a lot of dancing, it's the jig.
- Shakespeare's Globe is an open air theatre, so it is best to wear suitable clothes.
- Because it is an open air theatre sometimes (but not always) you will be able to hear things from the outside (which may be cars, helicopters, or aeroplanes, or maybe nothing at all).
- Pigeons may, but not necessarily, enter the theatre.
- You are welcome to come and go from the auditorium as you please.
- If you need quiet, you may relax in the piazza or in the foyer.

SYNOPSIS

Three gentlemen meet in Windsor. These are Justice Shallow, his nephew Slender, and Sir Evans. They are all unhappy about a knight called Sir John Falstaff. Falstaff has been behaving badly. Evans plans to arrange a marriage between Slender and Anne. Anne is George Page's daughter.

Mistress Quickly is the housekeeper of Doctor Caius. Evans sends a letter to Mistress Quickly. The letter asks Mistress Quickly to convince Anne to marry Slender. Mistress Quickly agrees to help Slender. She had also promised Doctor Caius and Fenton help to convince Anne to marry them.

Falstaff has met Mistress Page and Mistress Ford. He has less money than he used to have. He wants them to like him enough to give him their husbands' money. He writes them love letters. His servants are Pistol and Nym. They decide to take revenge by telling Masters Ford and Page about the letters.

Ford does not believe he can trust his wife. Ford asks the Host of the Garter Inn to introduce him to Falstaff as a man called Master Brook. In disguise as Master Brook he hires Falstaff to help prove Mistress Ford cannot be trusted.

Mistress Page and Mistress Ford discover that Falstaff has written the same letter for both of them. They want to take revenge on him. They involve Mistress Quickly in the plan. She brings Falstaff a message from Mistress Ford, asking him to visit her secretly while her husband is away.

Whilst Mistress Ford is meeting Falstaff, Master Ford arrives by surprise. The ladies make Falstaff hide in a laundry basket. The servants take the basket away and throw it in a ditch. Master Ford cannot find Falstaff. He apologises to his wife.

Anne and Fenton meet. He confesses his love to her. She tells him to tell her father to change his mind about him. When Master and Mistress Page arrive, they are angry to see Fenton with their daughter.

Mistress Quickly brings Falstaff another invitation from Mistress Ford. Falstaff complains about being thrown in a ditch. Master Ford is disguised as Master Brook again. He hears them talking and finds out about the second meeting.

Falstaff meets Mistress Ford. She promises that her husband will not show up this time. Mistress Page enters and warns her friend that Master Ford is on his way home. Master Ford arrives again during the meeting Falstaff dresses as an old woman. He escapes.

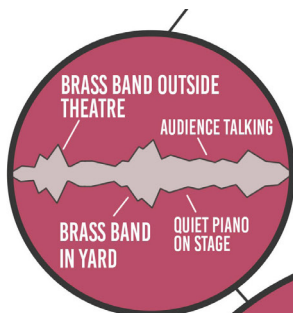
Mistress Ford and Mistress Page tell their husbands what has happened. The four of them decide to punish Falstaff. Mistress Quickly delivers a message to Falstaff. The women persuade Falstaff to dress as Herne the Hunter. Herne the Hunter is a man from old English legends. He has horns on his head. The message tells Falstaff to meet the wives at night in Windsor Park. The wives plan to frighten him with people dressed up as fairies.

Page decides to help Slender run away with Anne. Page tells Slender that his daughter will be wearing a white dress. Slender is meant to run away with Anne to the church to get married. Mistress Page tells the same thing to Caius. She tells him that Anne is going to be dressed in green. Fenton arranges with the Host to run away with Anne. He asks for a vicar to meet him and Anne at the church so they can get married when everybody is in the woods.

Falstaff is scared by the fairies. They pinch him and burn him with their candles. Slender and Caius choose fairy boys by mistake. Fenton finds and marries Anne. All the people take off their masks. Falstaff admits he was wrong. Fenton and Anne return as man and wife.

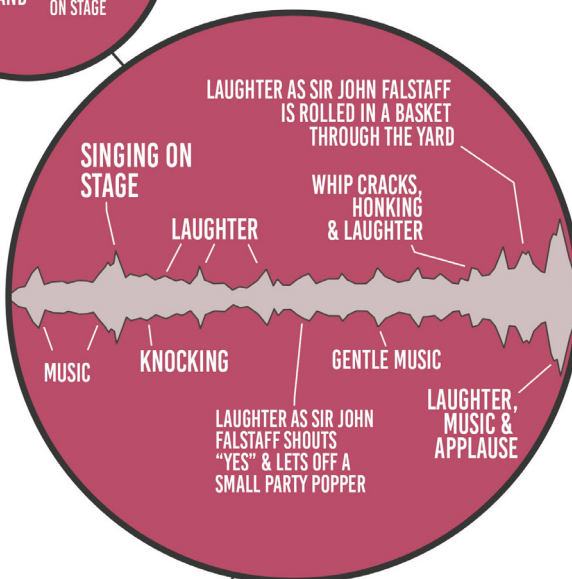
SONIC STORY

PRE-SHOW



ACT 1

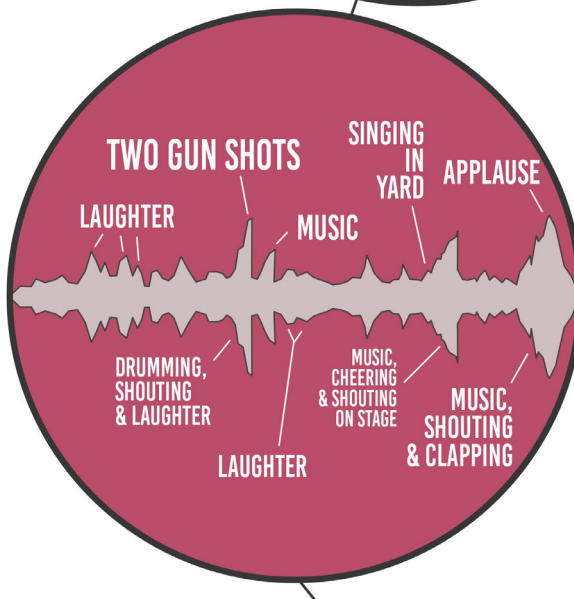
MATINEE 14:00
EVENING 19:30



15:20
20:50

ACT 2

15:30
21:00



16:30
22:00
APPROX.