

A Visual Story  
To support your visit to Shakespeare's Globe.

# OTHELLO

**SHAKESPEARE'S  
GLOBE**



# Contents



## **Visual Story**

This document will give you a detailed description of what to expect from Othello at Shakespeare's Globe.

### **Included is:**

- Pictures of the cast in and out of costume
- Show notes and helpful information
- Synopsis
- Sonic Story
- Contact Details

# Cast

Most of the cast play multiple roles in this production.  
You may see them in different costumes to the ones listed below.



Charlotte Bate



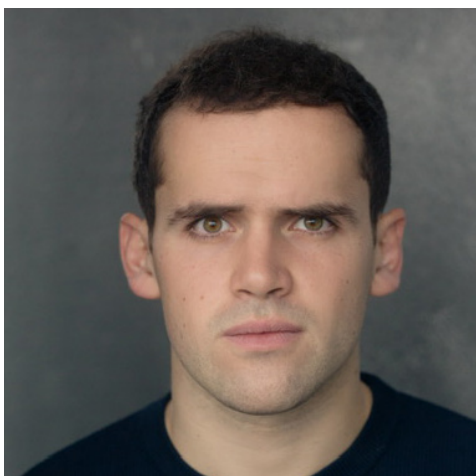
Emilia



Sarah Cullum



Ensemble / Cover



Ralph Davis



Iago



Poppy Gilbert



Desdemona



Oli Higginson

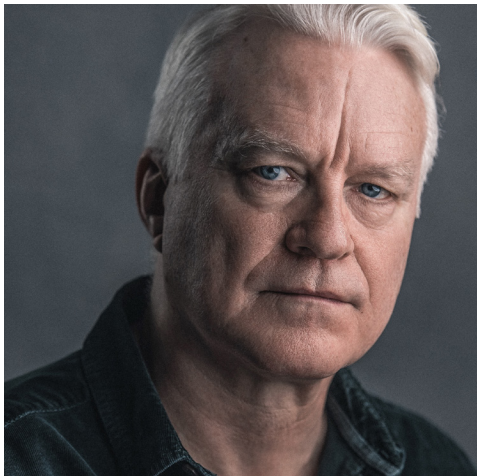


Cassio



Cory Hippolyte

Cory will be covering  
for Othello in case of  
actors' indisposition.



David Hounslow



Commissioner / Montano



Maggie Musgrove



Bianca / Claire



Ken Nwosu



Othello



Ira Mandela Siobhan



Subconscious Othello



Sam Swann



Roderigo



Ché Walker



Barbantio / Lodovico

# Show Notes



## Relaxed Performance

A relaxed performance will take place on:

22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024 at 7:30pm

3<sup>rd</sup> April 2024 at 2:30pm



## This will mean:

- An open-door policy: you can come and go as much as you want or need to.
- Quiet Space in the 'Bull Ring', on the level below the entrance.
- A culture of acceptance and respect for however you want to experience the show.
- Movement and noise are welcome should you need or want to.
- Pre-show information packs are available online and at the welcome desk



## Content and Trigger Warnings

The production includes themes of:

- Domestic abuse
- Misogyny
- Anti-black racism
- Offensive language
- Violence
- Murder
- References to suicide
- Scenes of a sexual nature
- Use of stage blood
- Use of weapons (including prop guns, teasers, knives and batons)
- A clown
- Flashing lights
- Loud gunshots

# Show Notes

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## Times

Act 1: 1 hour and 26 minutes

Interval: 15 minutes

Act 2: 1 hour and 20 minutes

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## Music and sound

Check out our sonic story for full information.

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## Lighting

Different lighting is used throughout the performance. This includes:

- Hand held torch light
- 3 free standing very bright lights
- Candle light
- Small fire pit
- LED handheld lights

All the lights used are white or yellow in colour.

There are flashing lights used to simulate a photograph being taken at the beginning of the play. The light will flash 3 times.

When handheld torches are being used, the light is shone into the audience area.

You may feel some heat from the candles and fire pit but these are very safe and used in a controlled manner that will not effect the audience.



# Othello - Synopsis

## ACT 1

Note: Othello is played by two actors throughout the story. One is Othello himself and the other is his physical subconscious. Only Othello can see his physical subconscious and interact with him. The actors playing Othello look like this.



The play begins with the main house lights going out. There is shouting and music begins. An actor wearing a bright white jacket runs on stage through the centre entrance. There are actors dressed as police officers with torches and head torches. They tease the actor in the white jacket. He falls to the ground and is carried off stage by police officers.

Othello and Desdemona enter with a Police Sergeant. He shakes the hand of Othello. There are people clapping and cheering. There are flashing lights. This is to simulate a picture being taken. The Sergeant exits. The other police officers congratulate the man. They exit leaving Othello and Desdemona on stage. They kiss and exit.



A police officer enters through the audience and talks to another police officer on stage. The only light is torch light held by the actors. They exit. The lights come up. Othello and Desdemona are centre stage getting married. She is holding a bouquet of flowers. They kiss. She throws the flowers. Desdemona exits centre stage as Iago enters from stage right. Brabantio (Desdemona's Father) enters from centre stage and grabs Othello by the collar pushing him down stage right. Othello stands stage right, a police officer stage left and the Brabantio centre stage. Brabantio instructs the police officers to arrest Othello. They enter from stage left and right. Othello lies face down on the floor. His physical subconscious stands in front of him. The police officers arrest Othello. They all exit.

Three very bright, free-standing lights are brought on stage.

Othello is brought before the Commissioner and Brabantio. He is hand cuffed. There is a white board with pictures on it. Iago is standing at the back of the stage. Brabantio tells the Commissioner of his displeasure at the marriage. They send for Desdemona to confirm she willingly married Othello. Othello's physical subconscious enters from upstage. He moves around the stage as Othello speaks. There is music throughout.

## Othello–Synopsis

Desdemona enters through the audience with Iago. She hugs Othello and stands with him. Othello's physical subconscious goes up the stairs at the back of the stage. Desdemona tells them of her marriage and love for Othello. Brabantio disowns Desdemona. Desdemona frees Othello from the handcuffs. Othello gives them to Brabantio who exits upstage right. Othello speaks. Brabantio re-enters. Desdemona asks to go with Othello. The Commissioner exits. Brabantio issues a warning and exits upstage right.

Iago, Othello and Desdemona are left on stage. Othello and Desdemona exit through the audience. Rodrigo enters from upstage right carrying Desdemona's bouquet of flowers. He is distraught at the marriage as he is in love with Desdemona. Iago comforts him. Rodrigo falls to his knees. They discuss a plan.



## Othello–Synopsis

They both stand up. Iago tells Rodrigo of his hate and jealousy towards Othello. Rodrigo exits through the audience. Iago stands centre stage. He speaks to the audience. Othello and a police officer slowly make their way onto the stage. Iago finishes speaking and turns out all three of the lights on stage. There is music. Othello and the police officer move around the stage. In the darkness Iago brings a white bag of drugs on stage and gives it to Othello. He exits. Othello looks in the bag and exits through the audience. Candelabras come down from the ceiling. Candles are brought on stage. The candles are lit. Cassio comes through the grate in the floor. He replaces the grate over the hole. There is knock at the door. Claire answers it. More candles are brought on stage. Claire and two other officers light all the candles on stage. Iago, Desdemona and Emilia enter from upstage right. They speak. Othello enters from the centre stage grate. Othello, Desdemona, Emilia and Cassio exit up the stairs. They sit in the Musician's Gallery.

Rodrigo enters from upstage right wearing a white medical boiler suit. Iago tells him Desdemona is in love with Cassio. They speak. Rodrigo exits upstage right. Iago speaks to the audience of his plans. Music starts. Everyone comes on stage. They start to sing.

## Othello–Synopsis

There is dancing, singing and they are drinking beer. Desdemona sings to Othello. Othello and Desdemona dance. Desdemona leads Othello up the stairs. They exit.

Iago and Cassio also go up the stairs. They talk. Iago encourages Cassio to drink. They come back down the stairs. Everyone chants drinking songs. They continue to drink.



Cassio stops the drinking games. He exits up the stairs. Rodrigo appears through the audience dressed as a delivery person. He exits upstage right. He is confronted by Cassio. A fight breaks out on stage. Rodrigo exits by the stairs. Othello enters, demanding to know what has happened. He stops the fighting. Iago moves to centre stage and reveals Cassio began the fight. Othello dismisses Cassio as his inspector. Desdemona comes down the stairs. Othello leads her back up the stairs and offstage.

Cassio falls to the floor. Iago comforts him. They both get up. Cassio sits down then moves around the stage. He is distressed. Iago advises Cassio to plead his case to Desdemona. They hug and Cassio exits through centre stage.



Rodrigo enters from up stage right, still dressed as a delivery person. Iago opens a beer. He gives Rodrigo a beer and sends him away. Rodrigo exits through the audience. The candelabras rise up to the ceiling as Iago exits upstage right.

Emilia enters from centre stage carrying a box. She moves boxes around the stage then opens a bottle of water. Desdemona enters through centre stage with Cassio. She assures him he will plead his case with Othello. Emilia sits down and opens a laptop. Othello and Iago come down the stairs. Iago is carrying a clip board. Cassio exits through the audience. Desdemona presses Othello to speak with Cassio. She exits upstage right, followed by Emilia.

## Othello–Synopsis

Othello and Iago sit down. They speak to each other. Othello's physical subconscious appears at the top of the stairs. He comes down to the stage, slowly. Iago and Othello continue to talk about Desdemona. Iago gets up and exits through centre stage. Othello is alone with his physical subconscious.



Police officers come down the stairs wearing balaclavas. They are talking into radios. They watch Othello. Iago re-enters from centre stage. The police officers exit. Iago speaks then exits. Othello is once again alone. He speaks. Othello and his physical subconscious are the same person and will speak at the same time. Othello's physical subconscious stands at the front of the stage within the audience.

## Othello–Synopsis

Desdemona enters with Emilia. She tends to Othello. They both exit up the stairs. Iago comes in, sits down and takes a water bottle from the cooler. Emilia speaks to Iago. He tries to take the handkerchief from her. Wrestles her to the ground and kisses her. He takes the handkerchief and exits up the stairs. Music starts and the candleabras come down from the ceiling. The cast enter and put out all the candles. The stage will get very dark. A torch light shines on a board with pictures of faces on it in the Musician's Gallery. The light goes out. Another light is turned on to reveal Othello and Desdemona at the front of the stage.



It goes out. A torch light is switched on. It shows two officers looking through a white plastic bag full of packets of wrapped drugs. There are flashing lights. This is to simulate pictures being taken. The lights go out. Another light turns on. Desdemona and Cassio are revealed sitting centre stage talking.





The light goes out. Another light is switched on at the front of the stage. Iago and Emilia are revealed sitting at the edge of the stage. The light goes out. A light is turned on in the Musician's Gallery revealing a board with photographs of people's faces. The light goes out. Desdemona brings on a large bowl with a small fire in the centre of it. Cassio enters with her. Othello watches them from the top of the staircase. Othello and his physical subconscious come down the stairs. Othello's physical subconscious is wearing clown make up. They both go back up the stairs where Iago is waiting. Desdemona and Cassio exit.

## Othello–Synopsis

Othello warns Iago to be sure about what he is telling him. Othello holds Iago over the balcony then releases him. They both come down the stairs. Othello's physical subconscious is on the balcony, watching. Iago tries to leave, Othello stops him. Cassio appears at the top of the stairs. He moves then exits up the stairs. Othello and Iago continue to talk. Iago has convinced Othello Desdemona is in love with Cassio. They both kneel before the fire.



They stand and go up the stairs. Othello makes Iago his inspector and they exit. Othello's physical subconscious is left on stage. He screams. The light goes out and the music stops.

## END OF ACT 1

## ACT 2

There is now a bed surrounded by candles in the upstage right corner of the stage. There are two candelabras fully lit with candles around the side of the stage.

Desdemona enters looking for her handkerchief. Emilia is in the balcony. She goes up the stairs. Othello enters from the audience. Desdemona comes down the stairs to meet him. Emilia watches from the balcony. Othello asks Desdemona for her handkerchief. He reprimands her for losing her handkerchief. Othello pushes Desdemona and leaves through centre stage.

Emilia comes down the stairs and talks to Desdemona. Cassio and Iago come down the stairs. They speak with Emilia and Desdemona and Iago exits through the audience. Cassio sits down drinking coffee. Emilia warns Desdemona of Othello's jealousy. Desdemona leaves to find Othello. Emilia exits up the stairs.

Bianca enters through the audience. Cassio and Bianca kiss. They discuss the handkerchief. Cassio kisses Bianca again and exits up the stairs. Bianca exits through the audience.

Othello and Iago enter through the centre stage entrance. They discuss the situation. Othello's physical subconscious enters through the audience. Othello is visibly distressed. He falls to the floor. Iago watches him.

Police officers with balaclavas and radios stand on the balcony. They exit.

## Othello–Synopsis

Cassio enters coming down the stairs. Othello is unconscious on the floor. Iago tries to wake him and comfort him. Othello wakes up and stands up. They speak. Iago says he will make Cassio confess. Othello and his physical subconscious hide in the doorway, listening to Cassio.

Iago goes up the stairs to meet Cassio. Cassio speaks to Iago about Bianca. Othello believes it to be about Desdemona. Bianca enters through the audience. Iago watches from the balcony. Bianca tries to leave, Cassio chases after her. She gives him back the handkerchief. Bianca exits through the audience Cassio chases after her.

Othello and his physical subconscious re-enter from his hiding place. He believes Desdemona has been unfaithful with Cassio. Iago encourages this false story and tells Othello to strangle Desdemona in her bed.

Lodovico, Desdemona and Emilia come down the stairs. Desdemona and Lodovico speak of the fight between Othello and Cassio. Othello slaps Desdemona. Emilia comforts her. Lodovico intervenes. Desdemona and Emilia exit up the stairs. Othello calls Desdemona back. She stands on the balcony while he mocks her. Othello shouts at Desdemona to leave. He punches his physical subconscious and they both exit.

Lodovico and Iago speak. They exit up the stairs.

Othello throws his physical subconscious to the floor. Emilia enters. He questions Emilia. She defends Desdemona. Othello sends Emilia away. Othello speaks. Desdemona enters through centre stage with Emilia. Othello sends Emilia away. He claps his hands in her face to make her leave. Desdemona gets down on her knees. Othello kneels beside her. He questions Desdemona. Othello's physical subconscious sits on the bed. They both stand. They argue. Othello summons Emilia. She enters. Othello removes his wedding ring and gives it to Emilia. He exits.

Desdemona takes books from a box.



She asks Emilia to go and get Iago. Emilia exits and returns with Iago. They discuss the situation. Desdemona asks for Iago's help. A phone alarm goes off. Desdemona exits followed by Emilia.

Iago sits on the bed. Rodrigo appears from the centre stage grate. He replaces the grate to cover the whole. Iago and Rodrigo speak. They make an agreement. Rodrigo exits through the grate centre stage. Iago exits.

Othello, Desdemona and Lodovico enter from centre stage. Emilia walks down the stairs. Othello and Lodovico exit through the audience. Emilia and Desdemona put out the candles on the stage. Desdemona undresses and gets ready for bed. Emilia helps her. They discuss men. Emilia sits down. Desdemona joins her. Emilia exits centre stage. Desdemona removes the candelabras from the stage.



It will get very dark.

Iago comes into the audience with Rodrigo. There is a gunshot. Rodrigo shoots Cassio. Othello appears on the balcony with a torch. He believes Iago has killed Cassio. Othello exits.

Cassio injured pulls himself up onto the stage. Rodrigo enters with Iago. Iago shoots Rodrigo. There are police sirens and torch light. Lodovico enters. Bianca comes through the audience to Cassio. She holds Cassio.



## Othello–Synopsis

Iago tries to blame Bianca for Rodrigo's death and Cassio's injury. Emilia enters through the audience. Iago arrests Bianca. Emilia exits through the audience. Everyone else exits through centre stage.

Othello enters through centre stage dragging his physical subconscious. He drags the bed Desdemona sleeps in away from the wall and lights the candles around the bed. Iago tries to blame Bianca for Rodrigo's death and Cassio's injury. Emilia enters through the audience. Iago arrests Bianca. Emilia exits through the audience. Everyone else exits through centre stage.

Othello enters through centre stage dragging his physical subconscious. He drags the bed Desdemona sleeps in away from the wall and lights the candles around the bed.



His physical subconscious moves around the stage. Othello speaks. He kisses Desdemona three times. Desdemona wakes. Othello tells her she will die tonight and she should pray. Desdemona tries to go towards Othello. Othello's physical subconscious tries to restrain him. Othello chases Desdemona. He catches her and strangles her to death. He does not believe her to be dead so breaks her neck.





Othello has killed his wife. He picks up Desdemona's body and lays it on the bed. Othello's physical subconscious screams and tries to touch Desdemona. They fight. Emilia shouts for Othello. Othello speaks.

Othello goes through the audience to open the gate to Emilia. She enters telling him of Rodrigo's death and how Cassio is alive. Emilia see's Desdemona. She cries. Othello confesses to her murder and tells Emilia how Iago told him what happened between Desdemona and Cassio. Emilia screams that Othello has murdered Desdemona. Lodovico and Iago enter. Emilia confronts Iago. Iago tries to stop Emilia speaking. Emilia tells the truth. Iago stabs her. Emilia dies. Iago is arrested. Othello realises Iago has lied. He speaks to Desdemona as he comes to terms with what he has done. Cassio enters from upstage centre and tases Othello. He is arrested and taken to the balcony. Iago follows. Cassio takes their mugshot pictures and exits. Everyone leaves the stage. Desdemona is left onstage in the bed surrounded by candlelight.

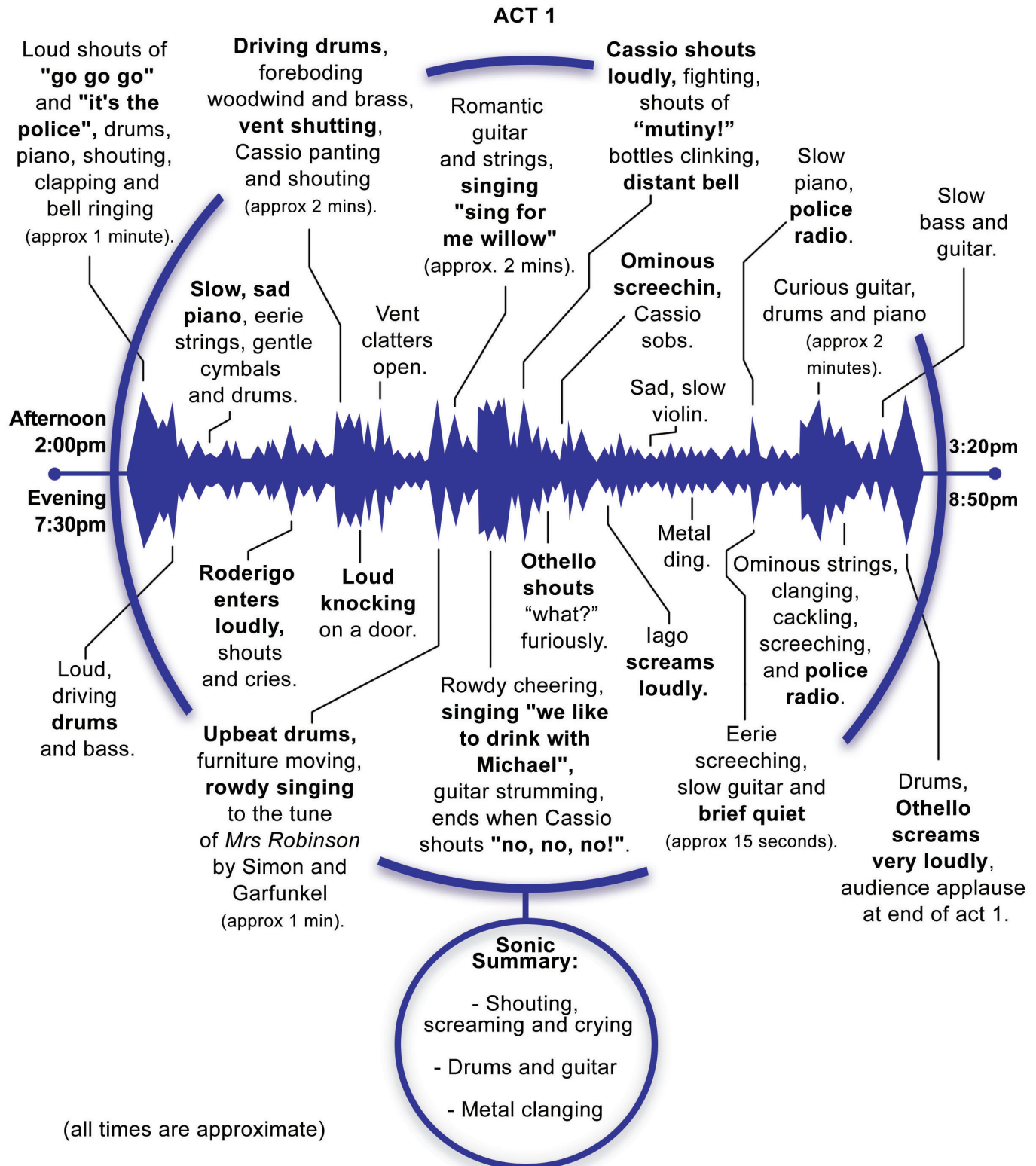
The play is finished.

**THE END**

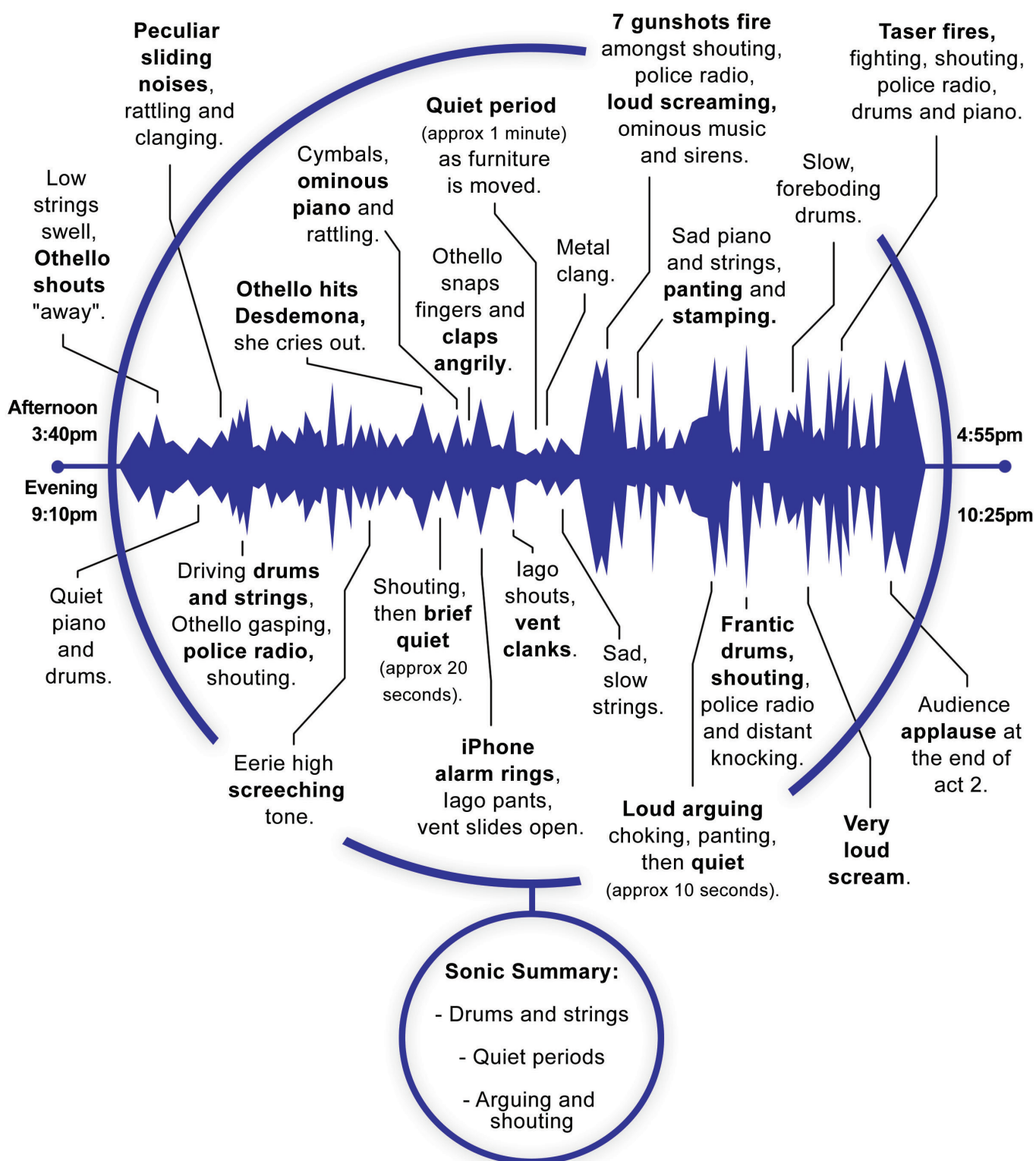
# OTHELLO

## Sonic Story

This 'Sonic Story' provides information about what to expect from the music and sounds of Othello. It shows the volume changes throughout the performance and highlights loud and quiet moments and moments when the sound changes suddenly.



## ACT 2



Sonic story provided by Touretteshero

# Further information



## Contact Details

Should you require more information or wish to discuss your access requirements please contact the Access team on [accessteam@shakeapearesglobe.com](mailto:accessteam@shakeapearesglobe.com) or 0207401 1548



We welcome feedback about your Relaxed Performance experience at Shakespeare's Globe. Please contact us on the above details.