

Visual Story

To support your visit to Shakespeare's Globe

THE TAMING OF THE SHREW

**SHAKESPEARE'S
GLOBE**

Introduction



This Visual Story gives you information about what to expect from The Taming of The Shrew at Shakespeare's Globe.

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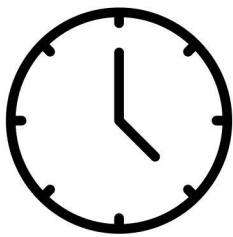


About the theatre

The Taming of The Shrew takes place in the Globe Theatre.

The Globe Theatre has no roof and a capacity of 1,570 (700 standing and the rest seated).

The address is 21 New Globe Walk, Bankside, London, SE1 9DT.



Times

The Taming of The Shrew is 2 hours and 30 minutes including an interval.



About the play

William Shakespeare's plays often fall into one of three types: a comedy, a history, or a tragedy, The Taming of The Shrew is a comedy which means the play includes regular laughter and playfulness.

Cast and Characters

Some of the cast play more than one character during the performance. You may see them in different costumes to the ones shown below.

The actors perform using puppets throughout the performance and sometimes wear costumes that dramatically change how they look.

Actor



Matthew Ashforde

Character



Merchant



Nigel Barrett



Christopher Sly/Gremio

Actor



John Cummins

Character



Biondello



Lizzie Hopley



Hortensio



Tyreke Leslie



Tranio

Actor



Andrew Leung



Sophie Merzell



Syakira Moeladi

Character



Petruccio



Bianca



Widow

Actor



Jamie-Rose Monk



Eloise Secker



Simon Startin

Character



Vinnie/Vincentio



Grumio



Baptista

Actor



Yasmin Taheri

Character



Lucentio



Thalissa Teixeira



Marian/Katharina

Set and Costumes



There is a very large teddy bear on the stage. It has a door in its middle through which actors enter and exit.



The actors perform using puppets.



Sometimes the actors wear big or fantastical costumes.

Content and Trigger Warnings

This production includes themes of:



Coercion



Forced Marriage



Domestic and Emotional Abuse



Threatening Behavior



Misogyny



Violence (including murder)



Prop Guns and Loud Gunshots



Stage Blood

The Taming of The Shrew – Synopsis

The next 12 pages describe what happens in the show. If you do not want to spoil the surprise, jump to page 24.

ACT 1

The players enter and go and sit on the big bear. They start talking but then a drunken Sly enters through the audience – he’s got a pint of beer in hand. He starts singing Delilah by Tom Jones very badly. He bumps into Marian – who looks like a member of the audience but isn’t. Sly’s pint spills all over Marian. Sly takes Marian’s jacket up onto the stage and makes a racist comment to her. She gets frustrated with him, runs off briefly, then returns to throw a pint over Sly.



Sly shouts at Marian and then pretends to be sick over the edge of the stage. He lies on the floor and falls asleep. The players approach him, wondering if he’s alive or dead. They decide to play a trick on him, and when he wakes up they tell him that he’s been asleep for 15 years and that they’re going to perform a play for him. All the players line up and announce the characters they’re playing. They realise they’re missing a player, so they ask Marian to join them. She agrees, then Vinnie headbutts her. She falls, but the players catch her, and drag her off stage.

The Taming of The Shrew – Synopsis

Sly is put into a costume to play Gremio – a chest plate that has a very big, 3D face on it. He's shut in a cage and sprayed with water. Then, Tranio and Lucentio enter, and talk briefly before Baptista, Bianca, Hortensio and Katharina enter. Katharina has a black eye. Bianca has a puppet version of herself, pushed on a trolley. Baptista has decided he won't let his younger daughter, Bianca, get married until he can find someone to marry Katharina. Katharina gets angry and picks up a stool threateningly. Bianca cries sadly, then leaves.

Baptista tells Gremio and Hortensio to try and find some tutors for Bianca, then he leaves. Katharina then leaves angrily. Gremio and Hortensio agree to work together and try to find a husband for Katharina, so they can both have a chance of marrying Bianca. They make the agreement by spitting and shaking hands. Hortensio leaves, but Gremio isn't allowed to leave – they put him in a cage.



Tranio and Lucentio enter, and Lucentio jumps on the trampoline. Lucentio tells Tranio that he loves Bianca and wants to win her over. As he says this, Bianca walks around the stage. Tranio says Lucentio can't marry Bianca until Katharina gets married, and Lucentio jumps in frustration.

The Taming of The Shrew – Synopsis

Tranio and Lucentio decide that Lucentio should pretend to be a tutor for Bianca, and Tranio will pretend to be Lucentio. They excitedly dress up as each other. Tranio will be Lucentio – a Nigerian prince. He starts using a Nigerian accent. Lucentio will be Cambio with an Iranian accent. Biondello enters and is confused that Lucentio and Tranio are wearing each other's clothes. They tell Biondello the plan, Lucentio jumps on the trampoline and leaves. The others leave afterwards.

Petruchio (Lord) and Grumio (Huntsman) enter together. Grumio hits Gremio over the head with a swimming noodle, then hits Petruchio on his bottom. Petruchio and Grumio fight, and Hortensio enters. Grumio hits Petruchio again, then Petruchio hits Grumio for a very long time. Grumio lies on the floor.



Hortensio asks Petruchio if he wants to get married to Katharina – and Petruchio says he'll get married to anyone if there's enough money involved. Hortensio says there's a lot of money, so Petruchio agrees. He kneels down and kisses Hortensio's hand, which has been slipped through the mouth of the puppet head he's wearing. Everyone leaves apart from Grumio, who says he's worried about this marriage.

The Taming of The Shrew – Synopsis

Lucentio (pretending to be Cambio) enters holding a sign that says TUTOR FOR HIRE. Hortensio enters, and Gremio says that he's found a tutor for Bianca – Cambio. Hortensio enters with Petruchio, and they explain that Petruchio is going to marry Katharina. Gremio warns him that Katharina isn't very nice, but Petruchio isn't worried, and grabs the stool angrily.



Tranio (pretending to be Lucentio) enters dramatically along with Biondello. He says he's here for Bianca, which worries Gremio and Hortensio. Then, distant screaming from backstage becomes louder as Bianca and Katharina enter, fighting. Everyone runs off stage apart from Gremio, who has been put back in the cage. They argue about who they both should marry. Baptista enters and Bianca cries. Baptista shouts at Katharina, then Bianca leaves. Katharina becomes upset that Baptista prefers Bianca to her, then Katharina leaves.

Baptista starts singing a slow, funny cabaret-style song. When he finishes, Gremio comes out of the cage. Hortensio, Cambio and Petruchio enter as well. Petruchio tells Baptista that he wants to marry Katharina. He then introduces Hortensio – who is pretending to be a music tutor called Licio (wearing a monocle as a disguise). Gremio introduces Cambio. Tranio/Lucentio enters dramatically and tells Baptista he wants to marry Bianca. Hortensio, Cambio and Biondello leave.

The Taming of The Shrew – Synopsis

Petruchio and Baptista talk about how much money Petruchio will get if he marries Katharina. Grumio enters and gives Petruchio a puppet version of himself, which he straps to his chest. Katharina enters, and Gremio puts himself in the cage. Petruchio flirts with Katharina and sings her a funny song.



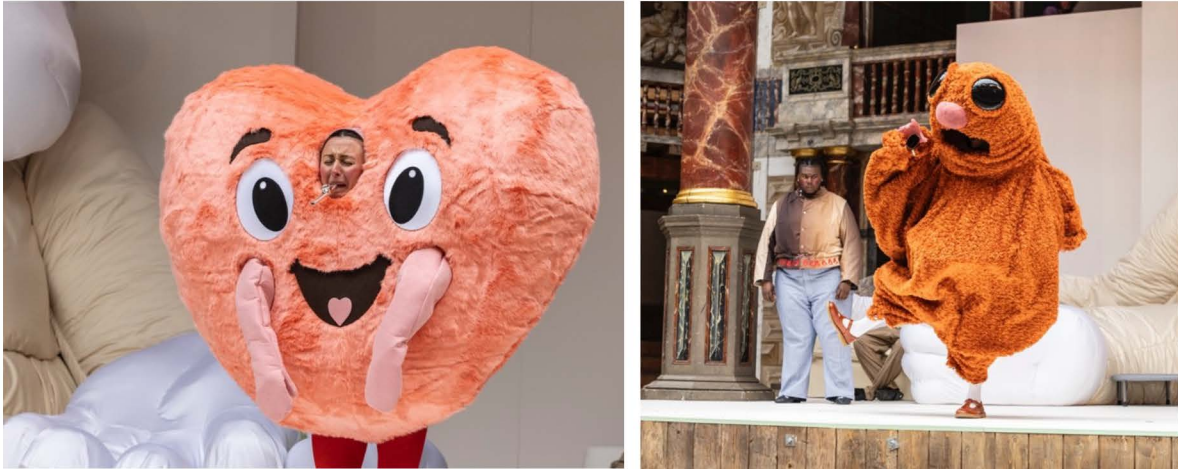
The other characters enter and join in with the song. When the song finishes, Petruchio kneels down and gives Katharina a bouquet of flowers. Katharina is unimpressed and throws the flowers down. She kicks him in the groin, and he falls in pain. He grabs her, and she pushes him off.

Baptista enters with Lucentio. Katharina becomes upset with Baptista because she doesn't want to marry Petruchio. Baptista doesn't listen and says they're going to get married. Petruchio forces Katharina to kiss the puppet of himself, then the family leave.

Hortensio enters, and Gremio gets out of the cage. Baptista and Katharina enter together and dance around, and Gremio throws popcorn over the audience. Katharina enters in a wedding dress. Baptista is angry because Petruchio hasn't showed up to the wedding. Katharina says she doesn't want to get married. Biondello enters and gives a confusing message about Petruchio arriving, which Baptista doesn't understand. Biondello goes into a lot of detail about what Petruchio will be wearing, then sings a brief song before leaving.

The Taming of The Shrew – Synopsis

Grumio enters, dressed as a giant fluffy heart with a smiley face. He plays the wedding march badly on a kazoo. Petruchio dramatically enters through the yard. He's dressed as a big fluffy brown creature, and three people covered in a silk sheet walk on – they are his horse.



Baptista and Lucentio are upset that Petruchio is dressed badly, and shout at him. Petruchio looks for Katharina, who is standing next to him. He runs around shouting for her, bumping into the set as he goes. Grumio follows him off stage.

The band enter the stage with their instruments. Baptista leaves, and Lucentio talks to Gremio, who is confused. They both pretend that Katharina isn't there. Gremio gets in his cage. Vinnie comes onto the stage and talks badly about Petruchio. The band start playing a slow, ominous song. Lots of other characters enter and surround Katharina, and all begin crying and bending over. Petruchio re-enters, and holds Katharina's hands before pushing her away. Katharina and Petruchio are now married but Katharina is confused.

Everyone leaves apart from the wedding party. Petruchio says he has to leave, and everyone tries to make him stay, but he insists on going. His horse re-enters the stage along with Grumio, who isn't dressed as a heart anymore. Katharina gets angry that Petruchio is going to leave. The three people forming the horse split apart. They run off stage together. Petruchio says that Katharina is his property, then he leaves. Lucentio lets Gremio out of his cage. They talk about the strange thing that has just happened, then everyone leaves stage.

END ACT 1

ACT 2

The characters enter all together in a line, dancing in sync with each other. They leave, and Grumio enters, shivering in the cold. He's been asked to make a fire. He shouts to Curtis, who answers over a loudspeaker. Grumio shouts "fire", and a big inflatable tube with a smiley face bursts through the trap door. It is orange and yellow, like fire. The sound of the inflatable fire becomes noisy, so Grumio speaks over a megaphone. Grumio wrestles with the fire, then sits on top of it. The fire deflates, and goes back into the trap door, which is later slammed shut.



Petruchio's servants enter, line up and say hello to each other. They become frightened when they hear Petruchio coming, who enters and shouts angrily with Katharina. Katharina falls on the ground. Petruchio looks for Grumio, then shouts at him angrily when he appears. Petruchio sends everyone to get his dinner.

The Taming of The Shrew – Synopsis

The characters pull a piece of fabric to make a table. Katharina sits next to the table. People run on and off stage, bringing different things, dropping bottles of water, and cleaning the floor. Petruchio becomes upset because his dinner is burnt, and everyone runs around screaming and crying. Everyone leaves apart from Petruchio, Katharina and one of the servants. Katharina and Petruchio leave to go to bed.



Lots of people re-enter to clean the floor, then run quickly off again as Petruchio re-enters. It is just him and one of the servants now, who freezes while still holding a dustpan and brush. Petruchio opens the cage. Petruchio makes a plan about how to tame Katharina, then leaves. Vinnie shouts for the next scene to start, and Hortensio enters with Cambio.

Hortensio (pretending to be Licio) and Cambio start fighting over who will teach Bianca. Bianca enters and tells them she'll choose who teaches her. Cambio pretends to teach Bianca Latin, but between sentences, reveals to Bianca that he's actually Lucentio. Bianca then talks to Licio, and they sing and talk together. Licio tries to convince Bianca to choose Hortensio over Cambio. They all sing together and dance around stage. Bianca leaves, then Cambio/Lucentio jumps on the trampoline before leaving.

The Taming of The Shrew – Synopsis

Hortensio gives a brief speech, then Grumio collapses onto the stage through the teddy bear – he’s been pushed by Petruchio. They both leave while someone shouts loudly, and Baptista, Gremio and Tranio (pretending to be Lucentio) enter. Biondello enters and brings on a chair. Baptista sits down and tells the two men that whoever has the most money can marry Bianca.



They talk about how rich they are. Baptista decides that Tranio (who is currently pretending to be Lucentio) can have Bianca, as long as his father can reassure Baptista that she’ll really get everything he’s promised. Baptista leaves.

Tranio tells Gremio to get into the cage, which he does. Hortensio (pretending to be Licio) enters, and whispers to Tranio. Tranio is upset – Licio has told him that Bianca likes someone else.

Bianca and the real Lucentio (dressed as Cambio) enter, flirting together. Tranio pretends to be very upset. Then, Hortensio takes off his monocle and reveals that he’s not really Licio. Together, they promise to stop trying to win Bianca over. They spit and shake hands on it.

The Taming of The Shrew – Synopsis

Hortensio says that soon he'll be married to a wealthy widow, who enters the stage – she is a blue puppet dressed in black. Hortensio leaves with the widow, and Tranio, Lucentio and Bianca enter. Lucentio and Bianca jump around together and run off stage. Tranio pushes the puppet of Bianca off stage.



Katharina enters, stumbling around and confused. She says Petruchio is starving her and that she can't sleep. Grumio enters and hugs her, and Katharina asks him for food – but Grumio isn't allowed to give her any. Petruchio enters with a big crate of crisps, followed by Hortensio. He forces Katharina to thank him for bringing food, which she does sarcastically. Katharina goes to get some crisps, but the crate is full of empty packets. Grumio cleans up the crisps and leaves, then Biondello enters.

Biondello brings a cap to Petruchio. It's very small, and Petruchio hysterically laughs at the size of it. He puts the hat on a member of the audience. Katharina puts on the hat anyway, then a tailor comes on with a pink dress for Katharina. She gets changed behind a piece of cloth. Petruchio is unhappy with the dress and makes fun of it.

The Taming of The Shrew – Synopsis

Katharina takes the dress off, and Petruchio insults the tailor, who blames Grumio. Meanwhile, Katharina groans and sits on the floor. Grumio and the tailor argue, then they both leave. Petruchio says it doesn't matter that the clothes are bad, and that they should go to Katharina's dad's house anyway. They leave, and Hortensio talks to the widow, who blows him lots of kisses. They leave together.

Petruchio, Katharina and Grumio reenter. They are travelling to Baptista's house. Petruchio says the moon is shining brightly but Katharina points out it is the sun not the moon. Petruchio insists that it is the moon and threatens that they will go back to his house unless she agrees with him. Katharina reluctantly agrees it is the moon. Petruchio now tells her she is wrong, and it is in fact the sun. Katharina agrees it is the sun. She says her name and appears confused. She is starting to realise something is wrong and asks if they can stop, but Petruchio drives the play on. Vinnie enters, unrolls a slip and reads a character description for Vincentio, Lucentio's father. Katharina starts to recognise Vinnie. She enters the space acting as Vincentio, an old man. Petruchio tells Katharina Vincentio is a young woman and encourages her to embrace Vincentio. Katharina does as she is told, but Petruchio laughs at her and says Vincentio is in fact an old man. Katharina apologises to Vincentio and corrects herself. Petruchio asks Vincentio where he is travelling and Vincentio reveals he is going to visit Lucentio. Petruchio invites him to join them on their journey. Vinnie leads Katharina/Marian to the sofa and offers her some crisps to eat.

Biondello enters with Merchant and Tranio (pretending to be Lucentio). Merchant is holding a puppet's head on a stick, and he says he's going to pretend the puppet is Lucentio's dad – so he can convince Baptista to allow the marriage. Baptista enters, confused, and talks to the puppet. Baptista agrees to the marriage, then they leave. Biondello tells the real Lucentio that he needs to get married to Bianca quickly, and that the priest is ready. Bianca enters, picks up a trampoline and leaves with Lucentio and Biondello.

Petruchio, Tranio and the Merchant enter, along with Grumio and a few others. Grumio exits the cage and walks on the main stage. The Merchant is still holding the puppet, pretending to be Vincentio -but the real Vincentio (played by Vinnie) is here.

The Taming of The Shrew – Synopsis



Katharina runs on stage in her underwear and tries to escape. She seems to realise that she's not really Katharina – but actually Marian – and says she doesn't know what's going on, and wants everyone to stop.

Vinnie pulls a gun, threatens Marian with it, but instead shoots Biondello. Biondello staggers backwards, bleeding from the gunshot wound, he stumbles onto the crash mat and dies. Marian runs to him and gets his blood on her hands. Marian and Sly are shocked and realise this isn't part of the play - someone has

actually been murdered. Marian sits on the mattress confused and upset. The scene carries on, and Lucentio and Bianca reveal to Baptista that they secretly got married. Petruchio enters, pretends to hit Gremio, and everyone else leaves apart from Katharina (Marian). Katharina is confused, and tries to leave, but Petruchio makes her kiss him. Katharina leaves, and lots of other people enter.

Gremio takes off his costume, and becomes Sly again. He tries to leave, but everyone stops him and ask if he likes the play. He says it's great, and they make him stay. Bianca puts him back in the cage. Petruchio and Lucentio argue together, and they discuss who has the most obedient wife. Petruchio says they should make it a bet – whoever successfully gets their wife to come to them is the winner.

Lucentio asks Bianca to come, but she refuses. Hortensio asks the Widow to come, but she also refuses. Petruchio asks Katharina to come, and everyone thinks she'll refuse – but she comes in, dressed as a shrew.

The Taming of The Shrew – Synopsis

Everyone is shocked. Katharina leaves to go and get the other wives. They enter, annoyed, and the Widow falls to the floor.

Katharina tells Bianca and the Widow to obey their husbands, and that it's ugly to go against their word. She tells them that they owe everything to their husbands. Everyone looks on, confused. Katharina gets out of the shrew costume and is wearing Marian's clothes again. She takes Petruchio's hand, then Hortensio announces that Katharina is a shrew that's been tamed. Everyone leaves together, apart from Sly, who gets out of the cage and exits through the yard.

The cast re-enter and dance together, then they all leave.



THE END

Sonic Story



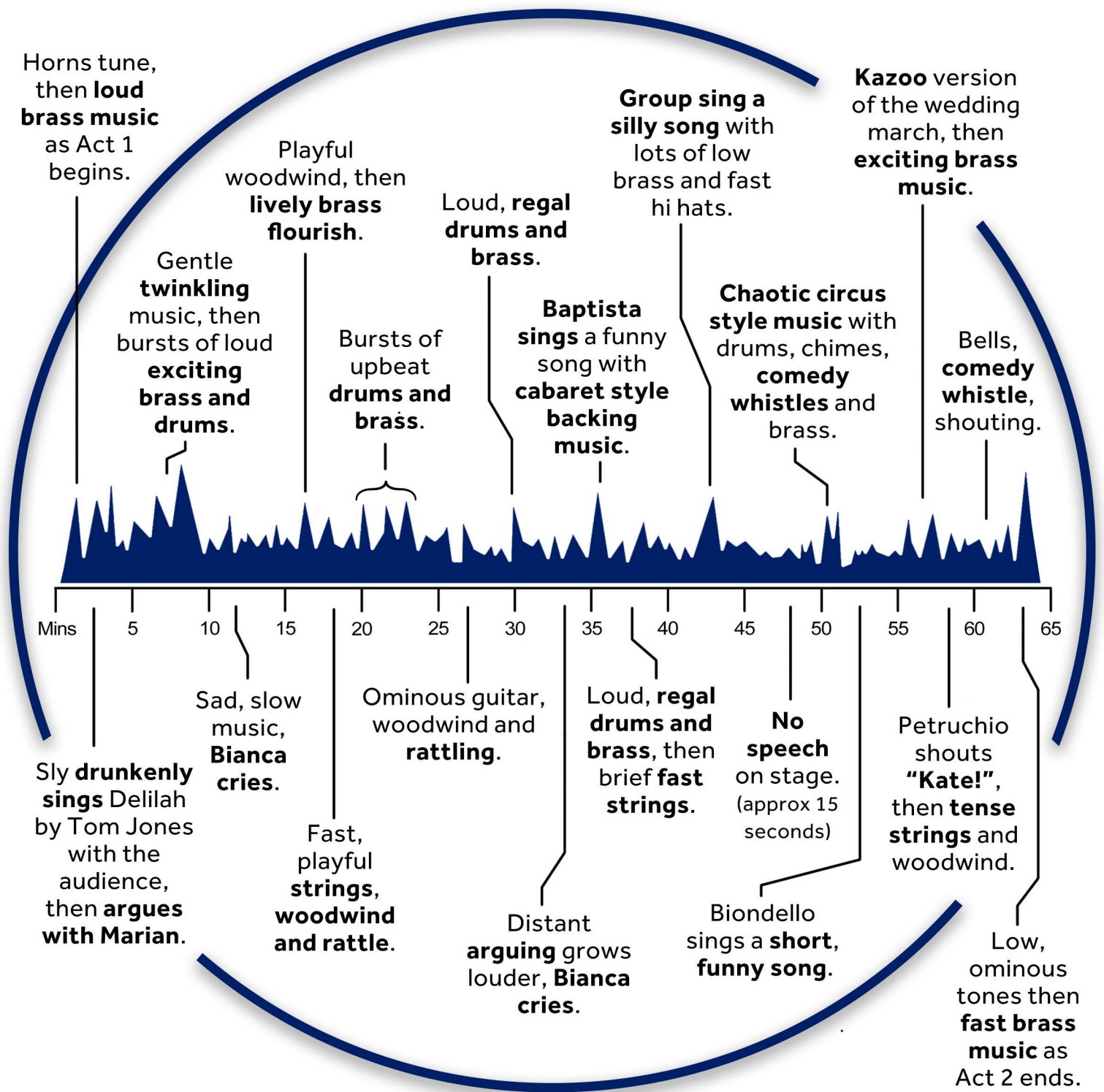
There is live music throughout the performance, including Banjo, Mandolin, Clarinet, Trombone, Percussion and Tuba.



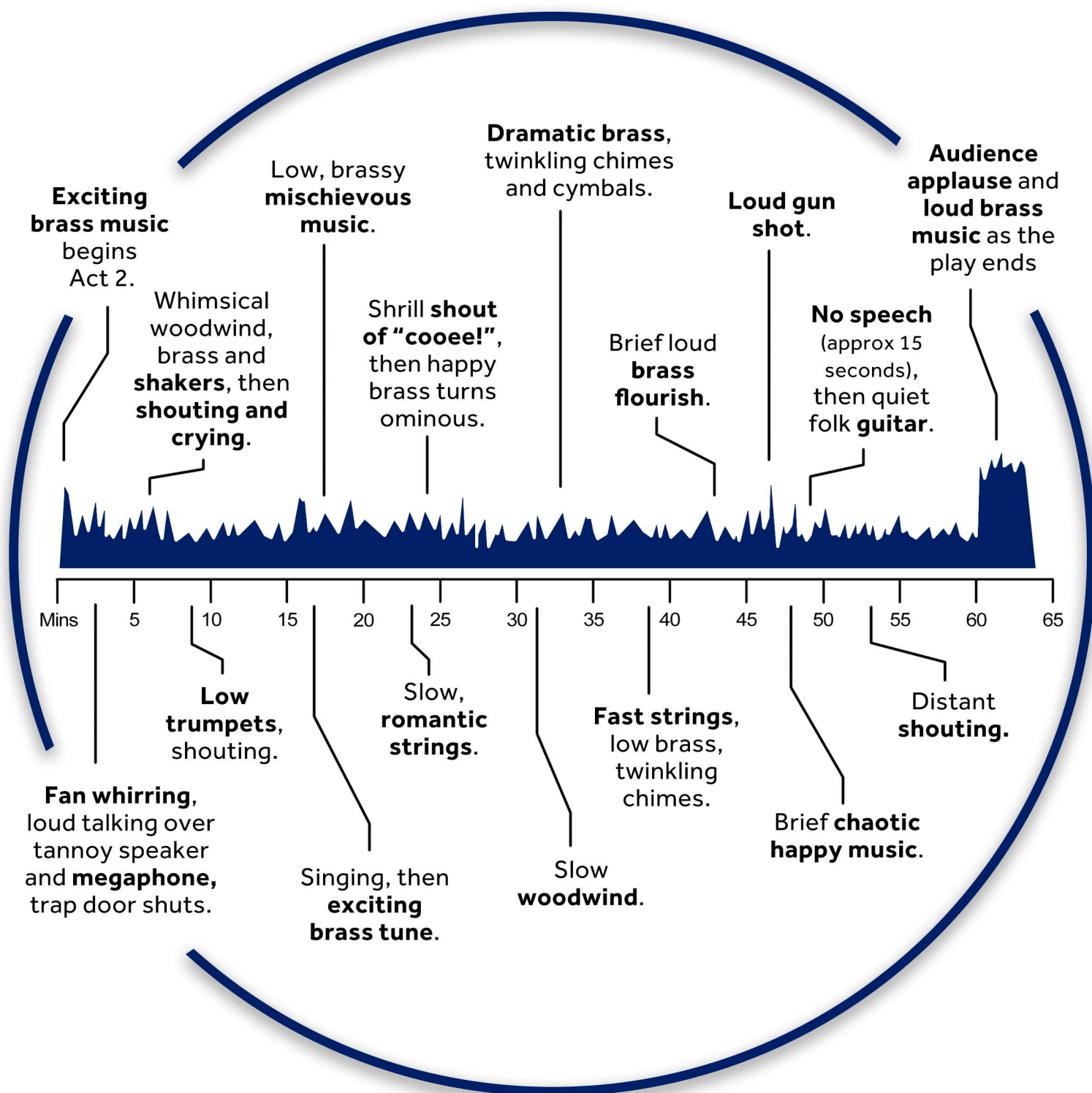
The next two pages show a 'Sonic Story' of The Taming of The Shrew.

A Sonic Story is an infographic that gives detailed information about how the sounds of the show change over time.

Sonic Story – Act 1



Sonic Story – Act 2



Relaxed Performances



Relaxed performances will take place on:

Thursday 11th July 7.30pm

Thursday 26th September 2.00pm



During a relaxed performance there will be:

- An open-door policy: so you can come in and out of the theatre whenever you like.



- An announcement at the start of the show that it is a relaxed performance and an explanation of what this means.



- A welcome invitation to move, make noise and experience the show however you like.



- A Visual Story (this document) available online and at the welcome desk.



- A chill-out space: on the level below the box office and the main entrance to the building.

Contact Details



If you need any more information or would like to discuss your access requirements please contact the Access Team:



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0207 401 1548

Visual Story designed by: Touretteshero CIC, 2024
Production photography: Ellie Kurttz and Helen Murray



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