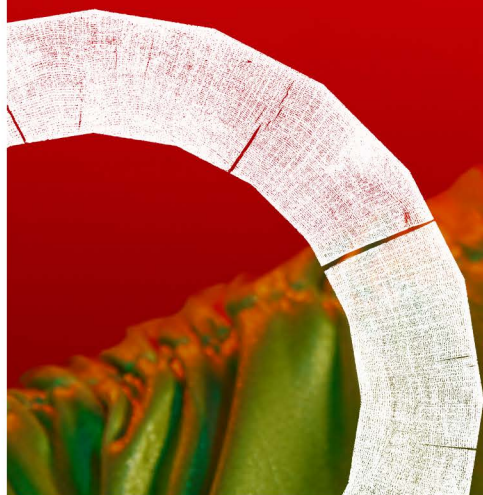


Visual Story

To support your visit to Shakespeare's Globe

ANTONY & CLEOPATRA



SHAKESPEARE'S
GLOBE

Introduction



This Visual Story gives you information about what to expect from Antony & Cleopatra at Shakespeare's Globe.

Contents



Important Information



Cast and Characters



Set and Costumes



Content and Trigger Warnings



Synopsis (a summary of the story)



Sonic Story



Relaxed Performances



Contact Details

Important Information

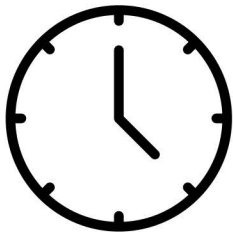


About the theatre

Antony & Cleopatra 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

Antony & Cleopatra is 2 hours and 45 minutes including a 20-minute interval.



About the play

William Shakespeare's plays often fall into one of three types: a comedy, a history, or a tragedy, Antony & Cleopatra is a tragedy which means the play includes death and disaster.



Antony & Cleopatra is a bilingual production which uses British Sign Language (BSL) and Spoken English.

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.

Actor



Mark Donald



William Grint

Character



Dolabella / Maecenas /
Eros / Messenger from Sicyon



Soothsayer / Clown /
Diomedes / Antony's Soldier

Actor



John Hollingworth



Nadeem Islam



Gabin Kongolo

Character



Mark Antony



Alexas / Messenger



Pompey / Decretas / Fourth Watch

Actor



Peter Landi



Gabriella Leon



Rhiannon May

Character



Lepidus / Canidius /
Third Sentinel



Iras / Octavia /
Thyreus / Third Watch



Seleucus

Actor



Esther McAuley



Zoë McWhinney



Daniel Millar

Character



Agrippa / Proculeius /
Menas / Second Watch



Charmian



Domitius Enobarbus

Actor



Nadia Nadarajah

Character



Cleopatra



Bert Seymour



Octavius Caesar



Tom Simper



Second Sentinel / Messenger to Caesar /
First Watch

Set and Captions



There is a platform on stage that actors often stand on.

The back of the stage is blue drapes, some of which are lowered at the end of act 1.

All performances will be captioned. There is a large circular captions screen on stage that changes colour throughout the performance.

There are also three traditional black caption screens in the theatre to ensure that everyone watching will have a view of at least one captioning screen.

Content and Trigger Warnings

This production includes themes of:



Death and grief



Suicide



Threatening behaviour



Intimacy



Violence and stage knife



Stage blood

Antony & Cleopatra – Synopsis

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

Cleopatra is regularly on stage with Iras, Seleucus and Charmian - these characters will be referred to as 'the maids' throughout this synopsis.

ACT 1

Canidius and Decretas enter, talking badly about Antony. A group of people rush on stage laughing, led by Antony and Cleopatra. Messengers bring news from Caesar, but Antony doesn't want to listen. He tells the messengers not to speak to him, then runs off with Cleopatra. Canidius and Decretas talk frustratedly, then leave.

Charmian asks Alexas to bring her a soothsayer, who will tell her what her fortune is. Alexas gets the soothsayer, who tells Charmian she'll be pretty, but not very loved, and she'll live a long life. Charmian asks for Iras' fortune, but the soothsayer just says that Iras has the same fortune as Charmian. Cleopatra enters, looking for Antony, but no one has seen him, so everyone leaves the stage.



Antony and Decretas enter. Decretas tells Antony bad news about the war. Decretas leaves and calls out to say a messenger has arrived. The messenger brings Antony a letter saying his wife has died in battle. Enobarbus enters with two glasses of wine. Antony tells Enobarbus that he wants to leave, but Enobarbus says that will badly upset the women, including Cleopatra. Antony explains that his wife has died, but Enobarbus says this is good, because it means Antony can find a new partner. Antony decides he needs to leave because of the war, and the men exit together.

Antony & Cleopatra – Synopsis

Cleopatra enters with Alexas and the maids, looking for Antony. Antony enters, saying he needs to leave to defend Rome, and that his wife is dead. Cleopatra collapses dramatically, pretending to be sick. She's upset and hurt by how Antony treated her during their affair, and doesn't believe his wife is dead. Antony shows her the letter from the messenger, and they argue. Antony angrily goes to leave, but Cleopatra apologises and wishes him luck before he goes. Everyone exits.



Caesar enters with Lepidus. They discuss how they feel about Antony's tactics during the war. A messenger enters and says that Caesar's enemy, Pompey, is becoming more popular and powerful. Caesar is annoyed at this, and wants Antony to come back to Rome. Lepidus and Caesar agree to make a plan tomorrow, and everyone leaves.

Cleopatra enters with her maids. Cleopatra worries about Antony, dramatically moving around the stage as she does so. Alexas enters, and brings Cleopatra a pearl that Antony left her as a gift. Antony told Alexas that he'll make sure everyone will call Cleopatra their mistress - and the audience bows down to her. Alexas asks Cleopatra why she's sending Antony so many messengers. She says she'll send him a message every day while he's away. They all leave.

Enobarbus and Lepidus enter. Enobarbus asks Lepidus to be calm as Antony enters with Decretas. Caesar also joins them, with two soldiers. Antony and Caesar argue about the war, and the soldiers try to persuade them to be allies while the war's going on, to defeat Pompey. Antony and Caesar both think the other person is wrong, so don't want to be allies.

Antony & Cleopatra – Synopsis

One of the soldiers, Agrippa, says that now Antony is a widow, Caesar should introduce him to his sister - which would make them family, and give them a reason to get along. Caesar and Antony agree to this plan, and shake hands. Caesar, Antony and Lepidus leave.

Maecenas, Enobarbus and Agrippa drink together and talk about Cleopatra. Enobarbus describes Cleopatra in extreme detail, making her sound dreamlike, beautiful and perfect, leading a ship. Everyone leaves - Agrippa and Enobarbus run off together.

Antony and Octavia enter with Caesar. Antony promises to do right by Octavia, kisses her on the hand, then Octavia and Caesar leave. The soothsayer enters and tells Antony to return to Egypt, warning him that Caesar will be luckier than Antony. Antony sends Soothsayer away, then decides he should listen to his advice and go to Egypt. He leaves.

Cleopatra enters with the maids. They talk briefly, then Mardian enters. Cleopatra worries Antony is dead, but Mardian says he's not. She doesn't listen, and speaks angrily to him, scaring him. She finally listens to the good news. Everyone celebrates, until Mardian says Antony is married to Octavia. He starts talking about what they do in bed together, and everyone screams and shouts. Cleopatra runs to Mardian, pushes him over and hits him. He screams, then Cleopatra tells him to leave.



Antony & Cleopatra – Synopsis

Cleopatra asks the maids to get Mardian back. He screams loudly and is dragged on stage. He again tells Cleopatra that Antony is married, which Cleopatra finds hard to believe, and is angry about. Mardian clings to the pillar then runs off the stage in fear, and Cleopatra sits down sadly. The maids comfort her. She asks Charmian to find out what Octavia looks like, then they all leave.

Pompey and Menas enter, joined by Caesar, Antony and their soldiers. The two sides argue and negotiate. They agree to find a peaceful solution to the war, and promise to cook each other dinner to celebrate. They shake hands, and all leave together to go to Pompey's ship. Menas stays on stage, and Enobarbus re-enters, and they talk about the deal. Menas isn't happy with it, and Enobarbus doesn't think that Antony and Caesar will stay allies, because Antony will get bored of Octavia.

Caesar, Antony, Lepidus, Pompey and Maecenas enter the top platform, talking and cheering happily together. They chant as Lepidus drinks. Menas tries to get Pompey's attention from below, but he's too distracted to listen. Eventually, Menas tells Pompey that he could kill Caesar, Antony and Lepidus. Pompey gets frustrated because he wished Menas had killed them without telling him. The party finishes and everyone leaves.



Antony enters the main stage with Caesar, Lepidus and Octavia. Caesar says goodbye to Octavia and Antony, hugging before they leave. Caesar takes extra time with Octavia, and she runs to him to give him a final worried hug. Antony and Octavia leave together.

Antony & Cleopatra – Synopsis

Cleopatra comes on stage with the maids. Mardian, bandaged and upset, walks on with them. Mardian gives updates about Antony and Octavia, and Cleopatra asks for lots of details about Octavia. Mardian imitates Octavia - how she talks and walks - making her sound much worse than she really is. Cleopatra is happy to hear this, and re-hires Mardian, who celebrates loudly and runs off. Everyone leaves.



Octavia walks on angrily, followed by Antony. Antony is angry with Caesar, and Octavia feels stuck between the two of them. Antony tells her to go and talk to Caesar, and they both leave.

Enobarbus enters and lies on the floor. Eros enters via the yard and says Lepidus has been arrested. They leave together to find Antony.

Caesar and Agrippa enter, complaining about Antony. Octavia enters by herself, which upsets Caesar, as he thinks she should have been escorted. Octavia says she's here to discuss the fight that Caesar is planning against Antony, but Caesar thinks Antony has tricked her into coming to Rome, so he can go to Cleopatra. Octavia is upset, but Caesar says she's welcome in Rome with him. Maecenas enters and welcomes Octavia, then everyone leaves.

Antony & Cleopatra – Synopsis

Enobarbus and Cleopatra enter, mid-argument. Cleopatra wants to join in with the war, but Enobarbus thinks this will distract Antony. Antony enters, and hugs Cleopatra. Canidius also enters. Enobarbus and Canidius think that Antony should use land soldiers, but Antony decides to use Cleopatra's ships. A soldier comes in and begs him not to use ships, but he dismisses everyone and they leave.

Caesar and Antony walk on and off the stage, each with their different armies, making plans. A dramatic fight scene follows, with people waving flags, sails and sea monster puppets. Some of the fabric behind the stage is hoisted down and everyone runs off stage.



END ACT 1

ACT 2

A person on the top platform holds a puppet on a stick, then two more people enter, dressed as animals. They exit the stage, and Enobarbus enters, shouting about how they've lost the war. Decretas and Canidius enter one by one, also upset about the war. They all leave.

Antony enters with two soldiers. He tells them to leave and shouts angrily, admitting he's lost power. Cleopatra reluctantly boards his ship with the maids, but Antony runs away from her into the yard, shouting loudly. Cleopatra's women urge her to comfort Antony, but he's angry with her for leading him into a losing battle. She apologises, kneeling down and crying. Antony slides across the stage and hugs her. Antony asks for some wine, then everyone leaves.



Caesar enters with his army and tells Thyreus to try and steal Cleopatra away from Antony. They all leave, then Cleopatra enters alongside Enobarbus and the maids. She asks Enobarbus if it's her fault they lost the war, and Enobarbus says it's Antony's fault for letting his feelings distract him. Cleopatra and the maids leave. Antony enters, angrily scheming about how to respond to Caesar. He leaves, and Enobarbus angrily shouts about Antony's plan, which he thinks is ridiculous.

Antony & Cleopatra – Synopsis

Alexas enters with Cleopatra and the maids, saying a messenger from Caesar is here. Thyreus enters, and says Caesar is willing to forgive Enobarbus and Cleopatra if they agree to abandon Antony, and say that he forced them into doing what he wanted. Thyreus says that if they promise to be loyal to Caesar, nothing bad will happen to them. Cleopatra agrees, and the Thyreus kisses her hand.

Antony enters, and pushes Thyreus angrily. He orders that his soldiers take Thyreus and whip him. They take Thyreus away, and Antony shouts at Cleopatra for betraying him. The soldiers return and throw Thyreus, bloody and groaning, on the floor. Antony continues his angry speech and grabs Thyreus by his neck, then Thyreus is taken off stage.



Cleopatra begs for Antony's forgiveness, and Antony accepts the apology. Antony, suddenly cheerful, decides to continue the fight, and makes a plan for war against Caesar. Happily, Cleopatra and Antony exit, leaving just Enobarbus. He says he will abandon Antony, then exits.

Watchmen enter, and talk together. They pause as they hear ominous music from behind the stage. They draw weapons and decide to follow the noise, leaving the stage.

Cleopatra and the maids enter with Antony and Eros. Cleopatra and Eros help Antony get dressed. A fanfare announces Enobarbus and Decretas. Enobarbus leaves almost as quickly as he enters. A soldier enters and tells Antony that Enobarbus has abandoned him and gone to Caesar. Antony says to send Enobarbus all his treasures, then everyone leaves.

Antony & Cleopatra – Synopsis

Caesar, Agrippa and Enobarbus enter, but only Enobarbus stays on stage. He talks about his regret of abandoning Antony. Proculeius enters briefly, saying Antony has sent him his riches, and Enobarbus says Proculeius can keep them. Enobarbus says he'll find a ditch to die in, then leaves.

A battle begins, with lots of people sword fighting, then Antony's army celebrate and hug as they win the fight. Eros high fives an audience member. Cleopatra comes on and celebrates with them. Trumpeters enter the top platform, and Antony tells them to play. They all exit.



Watchmen enter and hide behind a pillar as Enobarbus walks on stage. Enobarbus talks about how he wants to die, and how he hopes Antony will forgive him. He collapses to the ground, saying "Antony" before going quiet. The watchmen go over to him, trying to wake him, but Enobarbus is dead. The watchmen drag his body off the stage.

Caesar and Antony pace on and off the stage, talking about their plans for battle. Antony tells Decretas that he's going to see what Caesar is doing, and climbs up the pillar. Left alone, Decretas talks about his worries for Antony - he doesn't think they'll win the war. People walk towards him, holding sea monster puppets and flags, then they exit.

Antony climbs down the pillar, shouting about how Cleopatra betrayed him and his fleet have surrendered. Decretas leaves and Antony kneels down. He draws a knife, and goes to cut his throat with it, but stops himself. He shouts angrily, then calls for Eros.

Antony & Cleopatra – Synopsis

Cleopatra enters, and Antony angrily tells her to leave and run to Caesar. He chases her off stage, and says he wishes he'd killed her. He shouts angrily, then runs off stage.

Cleopatra runs on stage, along with her men. She tells them that Antony is very angry, and they make a plan to run away. She asks Mardian to tell Antony that she's killed herself, and they all exit.

Eros enters with Antony, who feels lost and upset. Mardian enters, and Antony shouts at him angrily. The messenger tells him that Cleopatra has killed herself, and that her last word was "Antony". Eros and Mardian leave.

Antony says he'll end his life like Cleopatra did. He calls for Eros, and asks him to kill him. Eros doesn't want to, but nervously draws his sword while Antony kneels down ready to die. Instead of killing Antony, Eros stabs himself, collapses onto the ground and dies.

Antony rushes to Eros before stabbing himself and panting in pain. He feels his wound, making his hands bloody, and becomes confused that he hasn't died. Antony calls out to the guards, who rush in, and he asks them to finish killing him. The guards refuse, and run off. Decretas grabs a bloody sword and runs off to take it to Caesar - so he can join Caesar's army.



Antony & Cleopatra – Synopsis

Diomedes and Mardian rush to Antony, and explain that Cleopatra is actually alive. Diomedes calls Antony's guards in, and everyone helps to carry Antony and Eros off stage.

Cleopatra and the maids enter on the top platform, and someone comes on the main stage to clean it. Diomedes runs on stage briefly to tell Cleopatra that Antony is dying. Antony is carried on stage, and Cleopatra kneels down to speak to him while the maids gather rope.

Antony is tied to the rope and pulled onto the platform. Cleopatra kisses Antony, who gives a sad speech. He tells Cleopatra only to trust Proculeius, then he dies. Cleopatra becomes very upset, and collapses next to Antony briefly. The maids think she has died until she stands and delivers a passionate speech. She holds the maids' hands, and says she will end her life, too. They all put Antony behind the blue cloth and leave.



Decretas enters, along with Caesar and some soldiers. Decretas tells them he'd like to join Caesar's army, and that Antony is dead. Decretas kneels and pushes the bloody sword across the floor to Caesar, who picks it up. Caesar gives a sad speech about Antony, then Diomedes enters. He asks Caesar about his plans for Cleopatra, then leaves. Caesar tells Proculeius to go and tell Cleopatra that she'll have everything she needs, so they can capture her. They all leave.

Antony & Cleopatra – Synopsis

Cleopatra enters with the maids, and a throne on a platform is wheeled on stage. She walks up the steps and sits on it, then two messengers from Caesar enter. One hides behind a pillar. Proculeius promises Cleopatra safety with Caesar. One of the soldiers sneaks up behind Cleopatra and grabs her. The other soldier holds the maids hostage.



Cleopatra shouts angrily at Proculeius and says she won't obey him. They physically struggle and Cleopatra shouts very loudly. Then, Dolabella shouts from the yard that he knows what Proculeius has done, and that Caesar has sent for him. He enters the stage, and Cleopatra talks about Antony. Charmian spits at the other soldier.

Caesar enters and asks to see Cleopatra. Cleopatra gives Caesar everything she owns, but Seleucus says that Cleopatra is hiding money. Cleopatra gets angry with Seleucus and chases her to the corner of the stage, where she lies down in fear before running away.

Caesar says they'll spare Cleopatra, and everyone bows down gratefully. Dolabella tells Cleopatra about Caesar's plans, then leaves. Iras and Charmian go to get clothes for Cleopatra. Mardian enters with a clown.

The clown has figs for Cleopatra, with hidden snakes in them, so she can die painlessly. Charmian brings on the basket of figs, which the clown takes from her and puts on the floor. Iras enters with Cleopatra's clothes. Cleopatra kisses her, and Iras falls down and dies.

Antony & Cleopatra – Synopsis

Charmian screams and cries next to Iras' body, realising she has died. Cleopatra sits on the throne, and puts a snake on her arm. She talks about how she will soon be reunited with Antony.

Charmian runs up the throne steps, and Cleopatra's speech fades. Charmian cries, and shuts Cleopatra's eyes and fixes her crown. She takes the snake from Cleopatra's arm and puts it down her dress.



Mardian and Diomedes run on panicking, asking where the queen is. Charmian collapses onto the floor and dies. Dollabella enters and asks what's happened. Caesar enters, and Mardian mentions the clown who came with the basket of figs and snakes. They realise that's how everyone was killed.

Caesar says that Cleopatra's body should be taken and buried next to Antony's, so they can be together again. Everyone leaves.

THE END

Sonic Story



There is live music throughout the performance, including tuba, French and ancient horns, percussion, trombone, trumpet.

Sometimes the musicians are onstage and sometimes they are on the balcony.



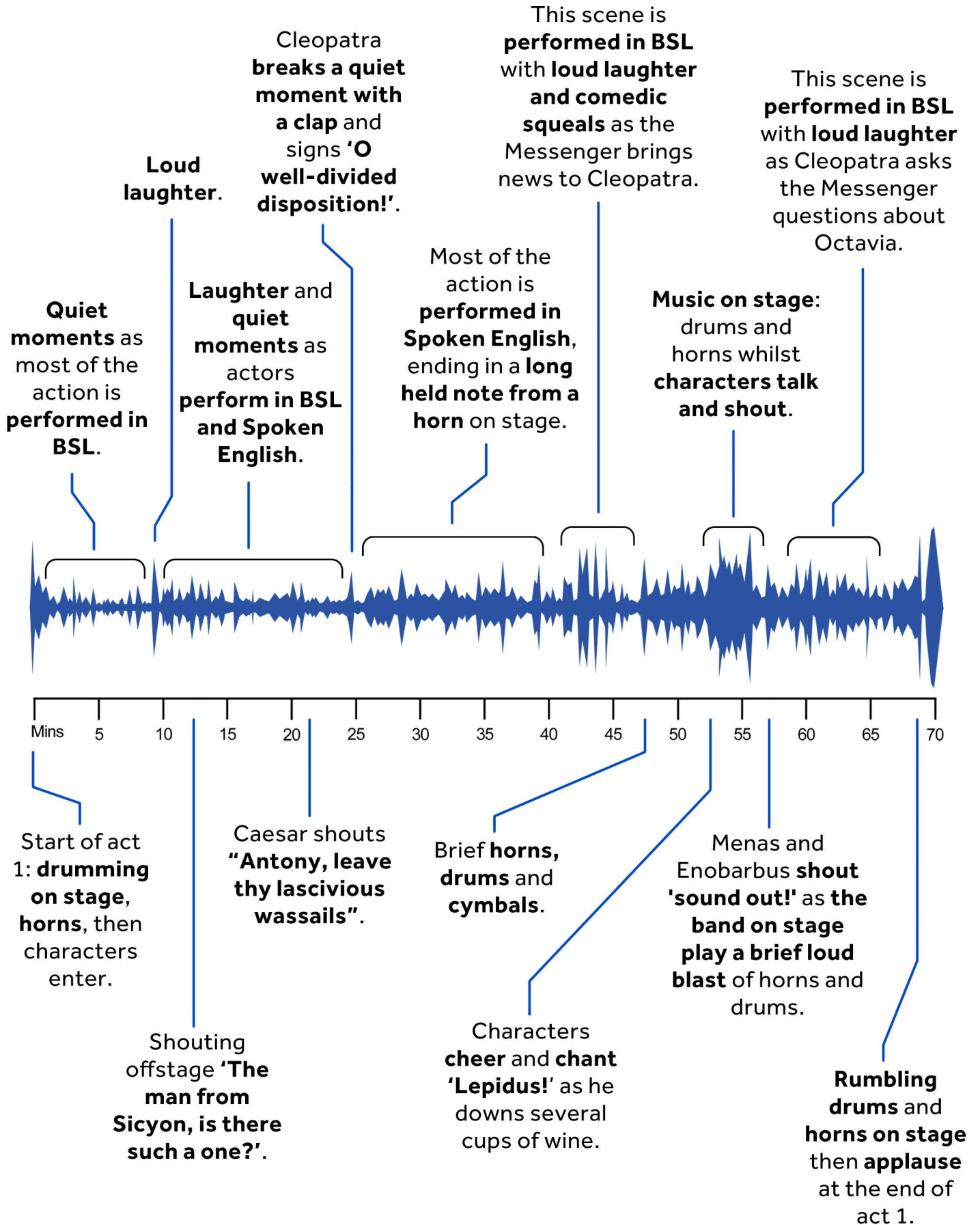
Because this is a bilingual production which uses British Sign Language (BSL) and Spoken English there are regular sections of quiet when the characters are performing in BSL.

The next two pages show a 'Sonic Story' of Antony & Cleopatra.

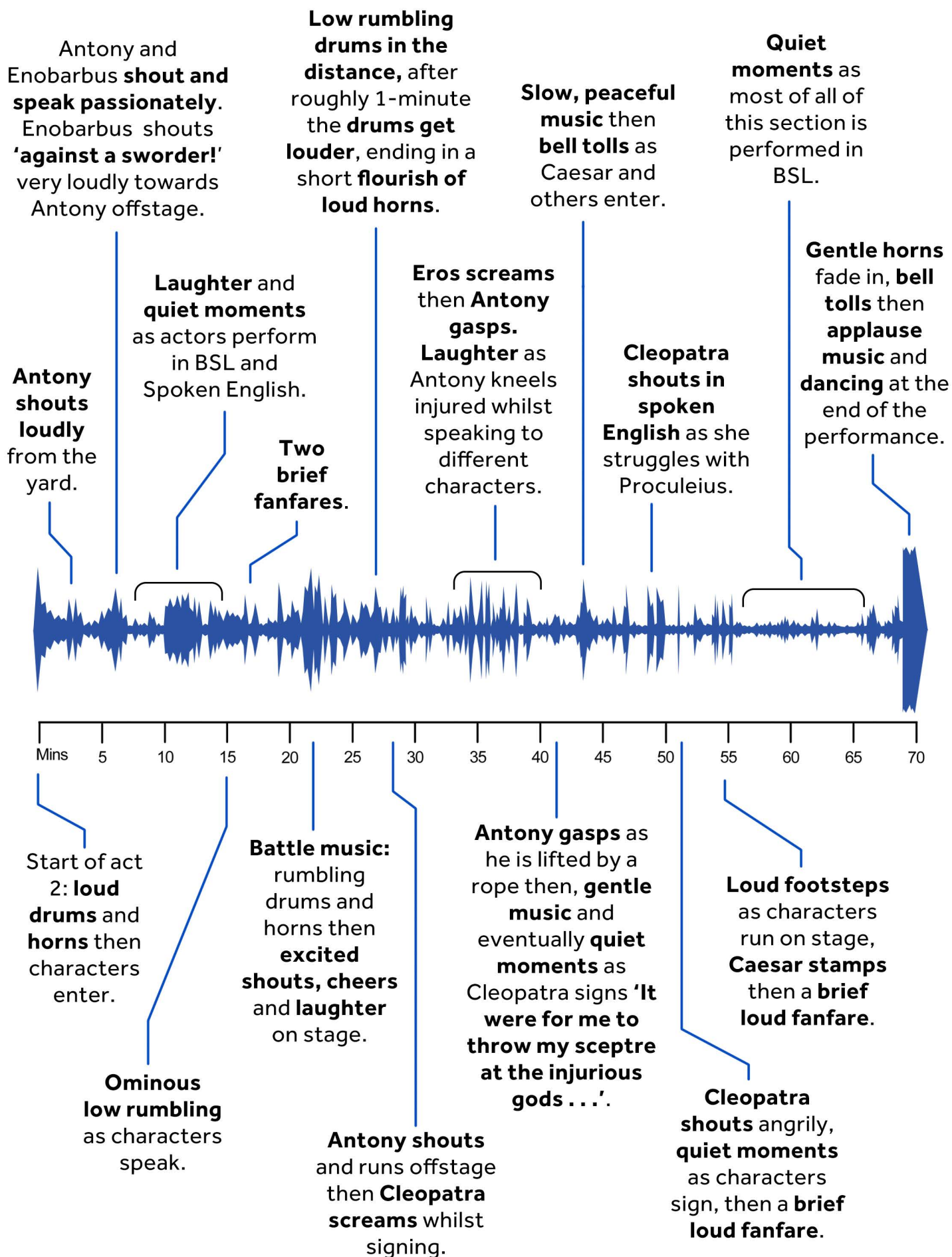


A Sonic Story is an infographic that gives detailed information about how the sounds of the show change over time.

Sonic Story – Act 1



Sonic Story – Act 2



Relaxed Performances

Relaxed performances will take place on:



Sunday 1st September 1.00pm
Thursday 5th September 7.30pm

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:



accessteam@shakespearesglobe.com



020 7401 1548

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



**SHAKESPEARE'S
GLOBE**

