

Visual Story

To support your visit to Shakespeare's Globe

**SHAKESPEARE'S  
GLOBE**

**THE COMEDY  
OF ERRORS**



# Introduction



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

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# Important Information

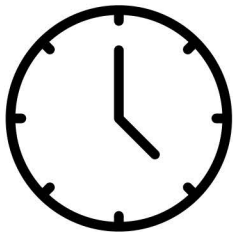


## About the theatre

The Comedy of Errors takes place in the Globe Theatre.

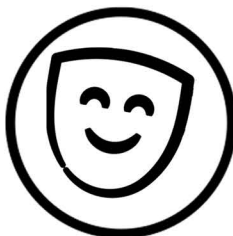
The Globe Theatre has no roof and a capacity of 1,570 (700 standing and the rest seated).

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



## Times

The Comedy of Errors is 1 hour and 45 minutes with no interval.



## About the play

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

## 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.

Four of the characters in *A Comedy of Errors* are twins. Both sets of twins have the same name, and wear the same costumes.

### Actor



Daniel Adeosun



Gabrielle Brooks

### Character



Antipholus of Syracuse



Adriana

**Actor**



Roman Hayeck-Green

**Character**



Officer / Cover



Shalisha James-Davis



Luciana



Christopher Logan



Angelo

## Actor



Phoebe Naughton



Danielle Phillips



Martin Quinn

## Character



Courtesan / First Merchant



Second Merchant / Luce



Dromio of Syracuse

**Actor**



Anita Reynolds

**Character**



Abbess



Paul Rider



Egeon



Caleb Roberts



Antipholus of Ephesus

**Actor**



Rhys Rusbatch

**Character**



Duke / Pinch



Lizzie Schenk



Ephesian / Cover



Sam Swann



Dromio of Ephesus



## Set



A wooden walkway extends diagonally out from one side of the stage. Characters often walk on it, and use it to come on and off the stage.



A piece of rope rigging hangs on one side of the stage, which characters climb and stand on. There is also a big piece of wood hanging directly above the yard, but no one climbs on this.



Characters often enter and exit through the yard. Sometimes, they do this using a boat.

# Content and Trigger Warnings

This production includes themes of:



Beheading



Xenophobia



Threatening behaviour



Intimacy



Violence and stage knife



Stage blood



Restraint

# The Comedy of Errors – Synopsis

The next 12 pages describe what happens in the show. If you do not want to spoil the surprise, jump to page 23.

A band of musicians play a dramatic song, and lots of people march in together holding flags and chanting "Ephesus". They walk around and wave the flags, and a boat full of people comes through yard. Flagpoles are stamped loudly, the song ends and everyone fights. An executioner pretends to decapitate someone and shows everyone the fake head.

Egeon has come to Ephesus from Syracuse, which the Duke says is punishable by death - unless someone can pay his ransom. Egeon explains his wife had twins while he was away for work, and at the same time, a poor woman also had twins. Egeon paid for her twins to be servants for his sons. They sailed home, but the journey was dangerous. Their ship split in half after hitting a rock, and the family were forced apart. Egeon stayed with one of his sons and his servant, but they had gone to look for their brothers. Now Egeon is in Ephesus, looking for them.

The Duke feels sorry for Egeon and says he has one day to find his family, but if he doesn't, he'll die. The Duke tells an officer to take him into custody. A peculiar fight scene begins, with lots of people fighting and falling over while happy music plays. Someone sits on the edge of the stage with a fishing pole, and two people have a dramatic sword fight. Sometimes, fights seem like they've finished, but carry on. The fighting stops when a nun pulls a gun on everyone. She tries to fire it, but it doesn't work. A woman breaks a chair over someone, and everyone exits.



## The Comedy of Errors – Synopsis

A merchant enters with Syracusan Dromio and Syracusan Antipholus. The merchant warns them to keep their money safe: the Duke will confiscate it if he learns they're from Syracuse. Dromio takes a bag of money from the merchant, and Antipholus tells him to bring it to the inn where they're staying. Antipholus asks the merchant to walk around town with him, but the merchant is busy, so leaves. Antipholus talks about how he feels lost while searching for his mother and brother.

Ephesian Dromio enters, panicked. Syracusan Antipholus is confused about how he's come back so early; he thinks he's talking to Syracusan Dromio. Ephesian Dromio thinks he's talking to Ephesian Antipholus, and tells him that he's late for dinner with his wife, and the food is burnt. Syracusan Antipholus doesn't know what he's talking about, and says he doesn't have a wife. Antipholus asks where his money is. Dromio is confused, because he never received any money. They argue, then Antipholus slaps Dromio three times. Dromio runs off. Confused, Antipholus worries that dark magic has convinced Dromio to give away his money. He says he'll leave if this continues, then exits.



Luciana and Adriana enter. Adriana is worried and upset because her husband, Ephesian Antipholus, isn't back for dinner. Luciana says they should have dinner anyway, and not worry about Antipholus. Ephesian Dromio enters, and tells them that Antipholus has gone mad, and that he hit him. Adriana wants to know whether he's coming for dinner, and Dromio says that Antipholus doesn't think he has a wife, and thinks Dromio owes him money. Adriana demands that Dromio goes and gets him, then chases Dromio around the stage until he leaves.

## The Comedy of Errors – Synopsis

Adriana speaks angrily about Antipholus, and worries that he's spending time with another woman, and has lost interest in her. Luciana tries to calm her down, and they both leave.

Syracusan Antipholus enters with Syracusan Dromio. Antipholus thinks that Dromio played a trick on him, not realising that he talked to Ephesian Dromio before. Syracusan Dromio is confused, then Antipholus slaps him for tricking him. They have a funny argument about why men go bald.

Adriana and Luciana enter. Adriana is angry with Syracusan Antipholus, as she thinks he's her husband. Syracusan Antipholus is confused and asks who she is. Adriana goes to hold his hand, but he flinches. She shouts at him, and Antipholus repeats that he doesn't know her. Luciana angrily asks why Antipholus is tricking Adriana, and says Dromio went to fetch him for dinner. Both Dromio and Antipholus are very confused.

Antipholus and Dromio argue with each other. Adriana asks them to stop arguing, and takes Antipholus by the arm. Antipholus speaks out to the audience in confusion, but decides to play along until he figures out why Adriana thinks they're married. Dromio is very confused, and tries to sneak off into the yard – but Luciana spots him, and pulls him up to the stage. Adriana tells Antipholus to come for dinner, and they all leave.



## The Comedy of Errors – Synopsis

Ephesian Dromio and Ephesian Antipholus enter with Angelo and Balthasar. Dromio asks Antipholus why he hit him, not realising it was Syracusan Antipholus who did. Ephesian Antipholus says he didn't hit him. Antipholus invites Angelo and Balthasar to eat dinner with him, but can't get into his house. Ephesian Dromio shouts up for someone to unlock the gate, but Syracusan Dromio calls back, refusing.

Ephesian Antipholus asks to come in, but Syracusan Dromio again refuses. Luce and Syracusan Dromio appear on the top platform and ask what's going on. Ephesian Antipholus knocks angrily at the door and talks to Adriana, but she doesn't believe it's him, because she's with Syracusan Antipholus. Ephesian Antipholus threatens to break in, but Balthasar persuades him to calm down and eat somewhere else. Antipholus says he'll eat dinner with a woman who Adriana is jealous of. They all leave.

Luciana enters with Syracusan Antipholus. Luciana is upset with how Antipholus is treating Adriana, and asks whether he's using her for money, or cheating on her. She asks him to be nicer to Adriana. Antipholus kneels down and says he'll devote himself to Luciana, because he finds her clever and attractive. Luciana is confused by this, and tells Antipholus he should be loyal to her sister. Antipholus says they're both single, so they should get married. Luciana runs off, upset.



## The Comedy of Errors – Synopsis

A confused Syracusan Dromio runs on stage, and climbs up the rigging. He tells Antipholus that a woman has claimed him like a pet. They talk about her appearance, making fun of how she looks. Dromio says she knew things about his body that she couldn't possibly know. This worries Antipholus, who tells Dromio that they shouldn't stay in Ephesus, and should look for a boat. Dromio runs off stage. Alone, Antipholus says his interest in Luciana distracted him, but that he needs to leave.

Angelo runs on and gives a chain to Antipholus. Antipholus is confused, and asks what he should do with it. Thinking that Syracusan Antipholus is Ephesian Antipholus, Angelo says that Antipholus asked him to make one. Antipholus says he didn't. Angelo thinks Antipholus is joking, and says he'll collect payment for the chain at dinner time, then leaves. Antipholus is confused, but likes the chain, so wears it. He leaves.



A merchant enters with Angelo. The merchant threatens to arrest Angelo if he doesn't give him money that he owes. An officer walks on stage, ready to arrest him. Angelo says he'll go to Antipholus' house to collect the money, then Ephesian Antipholus enters with Ephesian Dromio. He tells Dromio to go and get him a rope, and Dromio leaves.

## The Comedy of Errors - Synopsis

Ephesian Antipholus is annoyed with Angelo, because he never got the chain, but Angelo gives him a receipt – not realising he gave the chain to Syracusan Antipholus. Ephesian Antipholus says he doesn't have the money to pay Angelo on him, but Adriana will pay him when he brings the chain to her. Angelo insists that Antipholus has the chain, and they argue.



The merchant interrupts angrily, and the officer arrests Angelo. Angelo tells the officer that Antipholus should be arrested instead, because he didn't pay for the chain. The officer arrests Antipholus, who says he'll pay bail and then get revenge on Angelo.

Syracusan Dromio enters and says he found a boat, which Syracusan Antipholus asked him to do. Ephesian Antipholus is confused, saying he never asked for a boat – he wanted a rope. He tells Dromio to give Adriana a key and tell her there's a purse of money inside a desk which will pay his bail money. He explains that he's been arrested. Dromio turns around, sees the arresting officer and screams. Everyone leaves.

Luciana and Adriana enter. Luciana tells Adriana that Syracusan Antipholus, who she thinks is Ephesian Antipholus, finds her attractive, and insists he isn't married. Adriana is angry at first, insulting Antipholus, then becomes sad and says she wants Antipholus to love her.



## The Comedy of Errors – Synopsis

Syracusan Dromio bursts in, saying Antipholus has been arrested. Shocked, Adriana sends Luciana to get his bail money. Adriana asks for more detail about the arrest, then a bell dings. Dromio says that the time has changed, and it's gotten earlier. They're confused about this. Luciana runs in with the bail money, and Dromio leaves with it. Everyone leaves.

Syracusan Antipholus enters, followed shortly by Syracusan Dromio. Dromio is confused that Antipholus is free, and has a chain. Dromio throws him the bag of money, then a courtesan runs in. Thinking he's Ephesian Antipholus, who she had dinner with, she hugs Syracusan Antipholus from behind and nuzzles his neck flirtatiously. Confused, Antipholus and Dromio convince themselves that she's the devil.



They tell her to stay far away, but she grabs Antipholus and asks him to have dinner with her. Dromio tells him not to go. Dromio and Antipholus run laps around the stage, away from the courtesan. She says that if Antipholus gives her a diamond or a chain, she'll leave them alone. Dromio tells Antipholus to be careful, and Antipholus calls her a witch and runs off with Dromio. Left alone, the courtesan says that Antipholus is mad and won't give her what she wants. She decides to tell Adriana that Antipholus stole her ring. She leaves.

## The Comedy of Errors – Synopsis

Ephesian Antipholus enters with the officer. Ephesian Dromio enters with some rope, and Antipholus asks him where his bail money is – thinking he's Syracusan Dromio. Dromio says he used it to buy rope, like he was asked. Antipholus angrily hits Dromio with the rope, then Dromio fights with the officer. Antipholus hits Dromio with the rope again, shouting angrily. Dromio complains about Antipholus treating him unfairly.



Luciana, Adriana and the courtesan enter, along with Doctor Pinch and his staff. They watch, shocked, as Dromio gets hit by Antipholus. Adriana tells Pinch to cure Antipholus, so Pinch strides forward dramatically, followed by everyone else. He stretches out his hand to feel Antipholus' pulse, but Antipholus slaps him. Pinch says that Antipholus is possessed by Satan, and Antipholus hits him again, saying he's not mad.

Everyone runs from Antipholus in unison. Antipholus asks Adriana why she shut him out of their house at dinner time. Adriana doesn't realise she had dinner with Syracusan Antipholus, so tells him that she had dinner with Ephesian Antipholus. This confuses Ephesian Antipholus, as well as Ephesian Dromio – who agrees that Antipholus was shut out. Adriana says that she sent Ephesian Dromio to get bail money for Antipholus, but Ephesian Dromio says he was only told to get rope.

## The Comedy of Errors – Synopsis

Pinch decides that both Dromio and Antipholus are possessed, and must be tied up in a dark room. Antipholus threatens Adriana, who runs away. Everyone runs around, shouting dramatically. Pinch and his team wrestle Antipholus. The officer says if Antipholus doesn't pay his fee, the officer has to pay it. Adriana agrees to pay it. Everyone shouts and runs around.



The officer says Angelo owes the merchant money, and the courtesan says that Antipholus stole her ring. Adriana sends the officer to get Angelo. All the women run off stage. Syracusan Antipholus enters with Syracusan Dromio. They prepare to leave Ephesus, and run off stage.

The merchant enters with Angelo, arguing about the money Angelo owes. Syracusan Dromio and Syracusan Antipholus enter, with Antipholus wearing the chain. Angrily, Angelo asks whether Antipholus received the chain. Antipholus says that he never denied receiving it. The merchant mistakes him for Ephesian Antipholus, and says he did. Syracusan Antipholus has a sword fight with the merchant. They stop fighting when Luciana, Adriana and the courtesan enter, saying that Antipholus is mad. Dromio runs to defend Antipholus, and they run into the abbey together.

The Abbess enters and asks what's happening. Adriana says Antipholus is possessed. The Abbess asks her a few questions, then says Antipholus isn't mad; Adriana has just scared him with her jealousy and cruel treatment. Luciana defends her sister and says she's not been cruel.

## The Comedy of Errors – Synopsis

Adriana sends everyone into the abbey, but the Abbess stops them. She says Antipholus has entered the abbey for sanctuary, so she won't let any visitors in. She tells everyone to leave, and storms off.

The Duke arrives on a boat via the yard, along with Egeon and the officer. Egeon will die unless someone pays his ransom. Adriana interrupts to tell the Duke that the Abbess won't let her see Antipholus. She explains he has gone mad. Angelo goes to knock at the abbey gate, but then another boat comes through the yard. The person on it shouts for the Duke's help. They say Antipholus and Dromio have burnt off Doctor Pinch's beard.



Adriana says that Antipholus and Dromio can't have done that, because they're in the abbey. The person on the boat stumbles on stage and insists they're with Pinch, then runs off. Ephesian Dromio and Ephesian Antipholus emerge from the boat – they were hiding under some cloth. Wielding swords, they run on stage. Everyone is confused, because they think Dromio and Antipholus are in the abbey. Dromio and Antipholus kneel down, begging for mercy from the Duke. Meanwhile, still sentenced to death, Egeon realises that Antipholus is probably his son.

## The Comedy of Errors – Synopsis

Ephesian Antipholus shouts at Adriana because she refused to have dinner with him. Adriana insists they ate together, and Luciana agrees. Antipholus angrily tells Angelo he never received the chain he paid for. Angelo says he's lying, and that everyone in the audience saw what happened. The merchant says he heard Antipholus confess to lying, and that they had a sword fight before Antipholus ran into the abbey.

Everyone is confused about how Antipholus could be outside, and in the abbey, at the same time. Antipholus says he never went into the abbey. The Duke asks for Dromio's opinion, and he tells the Duke that they went to have dinner with the courtesan. Angelo knocks on the abbey gate, then Egeon asks Dromio if they're really Antipholus and Dromio. Dromio says they are. Egeon says Antipholus and Dromio know who he is. Neither of them recognise him, so he tells Antipholus that he's his dad. No one believes Egeon.

Syracusan Antipholus enters the stage with the Abbess and Syracusan Dromio. Everyone is shocked. Syracusan Dromio recognises Egeon and greets him. The Abbess realises Egeon is her husband. Egeon asks where their children are, and the Abbess says she was separated from them. Everyone realises the family has been reunited. Syracusan Antipholus goes to Luciana, and flirts with her. The confusion about the bail money, the chain and the dinner is cleared up, and the Duke frees Egeon. The courtesan gets her diamond back.



## The Comedy of Errors – Synopsis

Happy that everything has been resolved, the Abbess takes her sons' hands and invites everyone to celebrate together inside the abbey. The Duke becomes emotional and starts to cry. Everyone leaves apart from the two Dromios, who laugh together and walk around the stage.

Syracusan Dromio tells Ephesian Dromio that there's a woman waiting for him. Between them, they try to work out who is older, so the eldest can walk into the abbey first. They don't know, so they hold hands and enter the abbey together.

Everyone dances and celebrates together.



**THE END**

# Sonic Story



There is live music throughout the performance, played by a band. The band are usually on the balcony, but sometimes appear on stage.

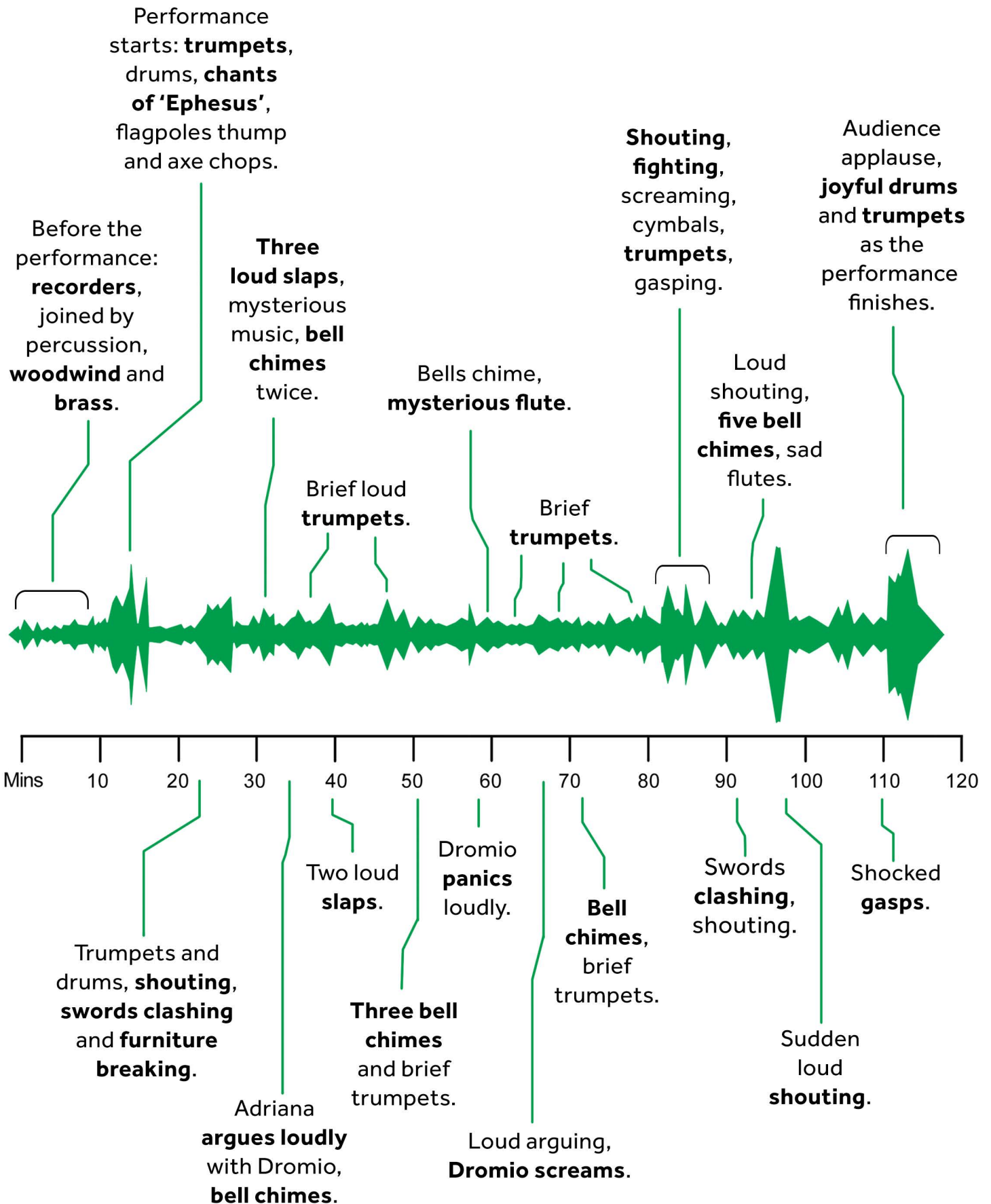
The music is mainly trumpets, drums and woodwind. It can be loud or quiet.



The next page shows a 'Sonic Story' of *The Comedy of Errors*.

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

# Sonic Story





# Relaxed Performance Information

**Relaxed performances will take place on:**



Tuesday 3 September 2.00pm  
Wednesday 18th 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](mailto:accessteam@shakespearesglobe.com)**



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Visual Story designed by: Touretteshero CIC, 2024  
Production photography: Marc Brenner



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