

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

**SHAKESPEARE'S
GLOBE**

CYMBELINE

Contents



Visual Story

This document will give you a detailed description of what to expect from Cymbeline in the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse at Shakespeare's Globe.

Included:

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

Many thanks to TourettesHero who wrote the sonic story seen on pages 16-18.

The Cast

This shows the cast in and out of costume. Some of the characters appear in multiple costumes throughout.



Aaron Anthony



Guiderius / Lord



Madeline Appiah



Woman / Cornelia /
Belaria



Nigel Barratt



Lucius / Philario



Amanda Bright



Pisania



Gabrielle Brooks



Innogen



Silas Carson



Duke / Frenchman



Angelina Chudi



Ensemble / Cover



Nadi Kemp-Sayfi



Posthumus Leonata



Martina Laird



Cymbeline



Os Leanse



Ensemble / Cover



Jordan Mifsúd



Cloten



Pierro Neil-Mee



Iachimo



Saroja-Lily Ratnavel



Lady Helen / Arviraga

Show Notes

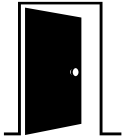


Relaxed Performance

A relaxed performance will take place on:

Friday 7 March 2025 at 2.00 pm

Sunday 16 March 2025 at 1.00 pm



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.

The content of the show is exactly the same.

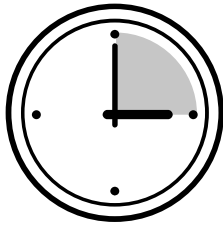


Content and Trigger Warnings

The production includes themes and depictions of:

- Sexual violence
- Sexual assault
- Child abduction
- Poisoning
- Decapitation
- Death
- War

Show Notes



Times

The show is roughly 2 hours 50 minutes long.

This is including a 20 minute interval.



Music and Sound

This performances includes many day-to-day objects used as musical instruments.

Check out our sonic story for full information. You can also wear audio mufflers or borrow some from the Welcome Desk.

Lighting

The Sam Wanamaker Playhouse is lit only through candlelight.

The candles move up and down throughout the show so there are some moments where the stage is more illuminated and some where it is a little darker.

Set

You can see many of the costumes used throughout the performance in the pictures throughout the synopsis.

The set looks like this:



If you don't want to know the plot of the show, you can skip to page 16.

Cymbeline – Synopsis

Cymbeline is the Queen of Britain. Cymbeline learns that her only daughter, Innogen, has secretly married a woman of low status called Posthumus. Furious with the couple's disobedience, Cymbeline decides to banish Posthumus from Britain. Before travelling to Italy, Posthumus gives her bracelet to Innogen, and Innogen gives Posthumus her ring.

In Italy, Posthumus boasts that Innogen is very faithful to her. An Italian man called Giacomo bets Posthumus that he can travel to Innogen and make her fall in love with him, and get Posthumus's bracelet to prove it.



Meanwhile, Cymbeline's new husband the Duke wants to annul Innogen's marriage to Posthumus. He wants his stupid son, Cloten, to marry her instead. He asks Cornelia for some poisonous substances, but Cornelia doesn't trust him so gives him some sleeping potion instead, which will cause the user to fall into deep sleep but not kill them. The Duke gives the substances to Pisania, who believes they are a medicine.

Iachimo goes to Britain to seduce Innogen. Innogen is very faithful to her wife. However, Giacomo persuades her to look after his travelling chest for him overnight.



Unbeknown to Innogen, Iachimo secretly hides in the chest and gains access to her bedroom. While she is asleep, Iachimo creeps out to record details of the room and also sees she has a mole on her body. He removes Posthumus's bracelet from Innogen's wrist, then hides in the chest again.

Iachimo arrives in Italy with the bracelet and intimate details about Innogen's body and room. Posthumus believes his wife has been disloyal. Posthumus is furious with Innogen's infidelity.

A representative from Rome, Lucius, arrives and asks for Cymbeline's payment to Emperor Caesar, as Britain at this time was under the Roman Empire. The Duke persuades Cymbeline not to pay, and Lucius informs her this will mean there will be war between Britain and Rome.



Pisania has received two letters from Posthumus. One says that Pisania should kill Innogen for her infidelity – but Pisania does not believe that Innogen has done anything wrong. Another letter, to be given to Innogen, says that Posthumus is now in Milford Haven. This letter is a dupe so that Pisania can lure Innogen away. Pisania gives the second letter to Innogen as she isn't sure how to proceed. Innogen decides to escape away to Milford Haven.

In Wales, Belaria is talking to her two children. She tells them she was previously in the court of Cymbeline, but was unfairly banished. When the children are off-stage, she reveals that the two children are actually Cymbeline's children, whom she had stolen as revenge for being banished.

In Milford Haven, Pisania reveals the other letter to Innogen, who is horrified. Pisania hatches a plan: Pisania will tell Posthumus that Innogen is dead, sending a bloody cloth as proof. Innogen will disguise herself as a man and will meet up with Lucius who will be returning from Rome. She can then hide among the Romans. Pisania gives Innogen's the 'medicine' she received from the Duke.

Back at the palace, Cloten threatens Pisania and asks where Innogen is. Pisania tells Cloten that she has gone to Milford Haven. Cloten decides to dress up as Posthumus and go to Milford Haven.



Innogen is lost and tired, but eventually she meets Belaria and her two children. They welcome her (believing her to be a boy) and take care of her. When she feels ill, she takes the medicine Pisania left for her and falls into a deep sleep.

Cloten reaches the home and insults the two children. They have a fight off stage, and Guiderius returns with Cloten's severed head! They see that Innogen is 'dead' – in fact, she is just asleep – and they feel terrible. They place the body of Cloten, dressed as Posthumus, next to Innogen, and leave for the day. When Innogen wakes, she sees the body and thinks Posthumus has died. Lucius comes along and Innogen introduces herself, still disguised as a boy, and Lucius tells her to become his servant.

Back at the palace, Cymbeline is having problems and asks Pisania where Innogen is. Pisania pretends not to know. The war between Britain and Rome begins. Belaria and the two children join the fight against the Romans.

We see Posthumus and Iachimo at the Roman army camp. He is angry with himself for his angry and violent decision. As apology, he escapes the Roman army camp and goes to fight for Britain instead.

Cymbeline - Synopsis

Posthumus defeats Iachimo, and Iachimo feels guilty for his deception, believing this has made him a worse fighter. The Romans initially capture Cymbeline, but Belaria and her children, and Posthumus rescue the Queen.

Once the battle is won, Posthumus puts on her Roman outfit, hoping that she will be killed. Cymbeline orders all the Roman soldiers (including Posthumus) be imprisoned.



Cymbeline knights Belaria and her children for their heroism. The doctor enters and reveals the Duke has died. The doctor confesses that the Duke intended to kill Innogen, which shocks Cymbeline. The Roman soldiers are brought in. Cymbeline intends to kill them, but Lucius asks that his servant be spared.

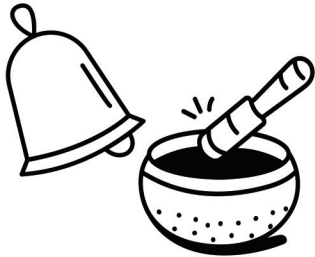
Innogen (dressed as the servant Fidele) asks Iachimo how he acquired the diamond ring he is wearing. Iachimo explains his bet with Posthumus. At this point Posthumus reveals himself, and finally Innogen reveals her true identity. All of the mysteries unravel as everyone explains their side of the story.

Cymbeline has Guiderius arrested for killing Prince Cloten. But Belaria confesses that the two children are in fact Cymbeline's children, and so Cymbeline is so relieved that she forgives Belaria and Guiderius.

Cymbeline pardons all the prisoners. With the Duke gone and no longer manipulating Cymbeline, she agrees to continue paying Rome and they go into a celebration.

CYMBELINE

Here is some information about the **music** and **sounds** in Cymbeline.

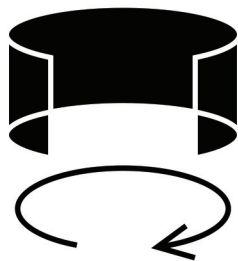


There is **live music** throughout the performance. Some instruments are visible from the musicians' gallery, including **hung glass cloches** and **singing bowls**.



The musicians use traditional instruments like **cello and guitar**. They also use objects to make sounds such as **flower pots, wine glasses, stones, marbles and water**.

The instruments and objects are **played in different ways** to make different sounds for example the glass cloches are tapped to sound like a shaker and struck to sound like a bell.



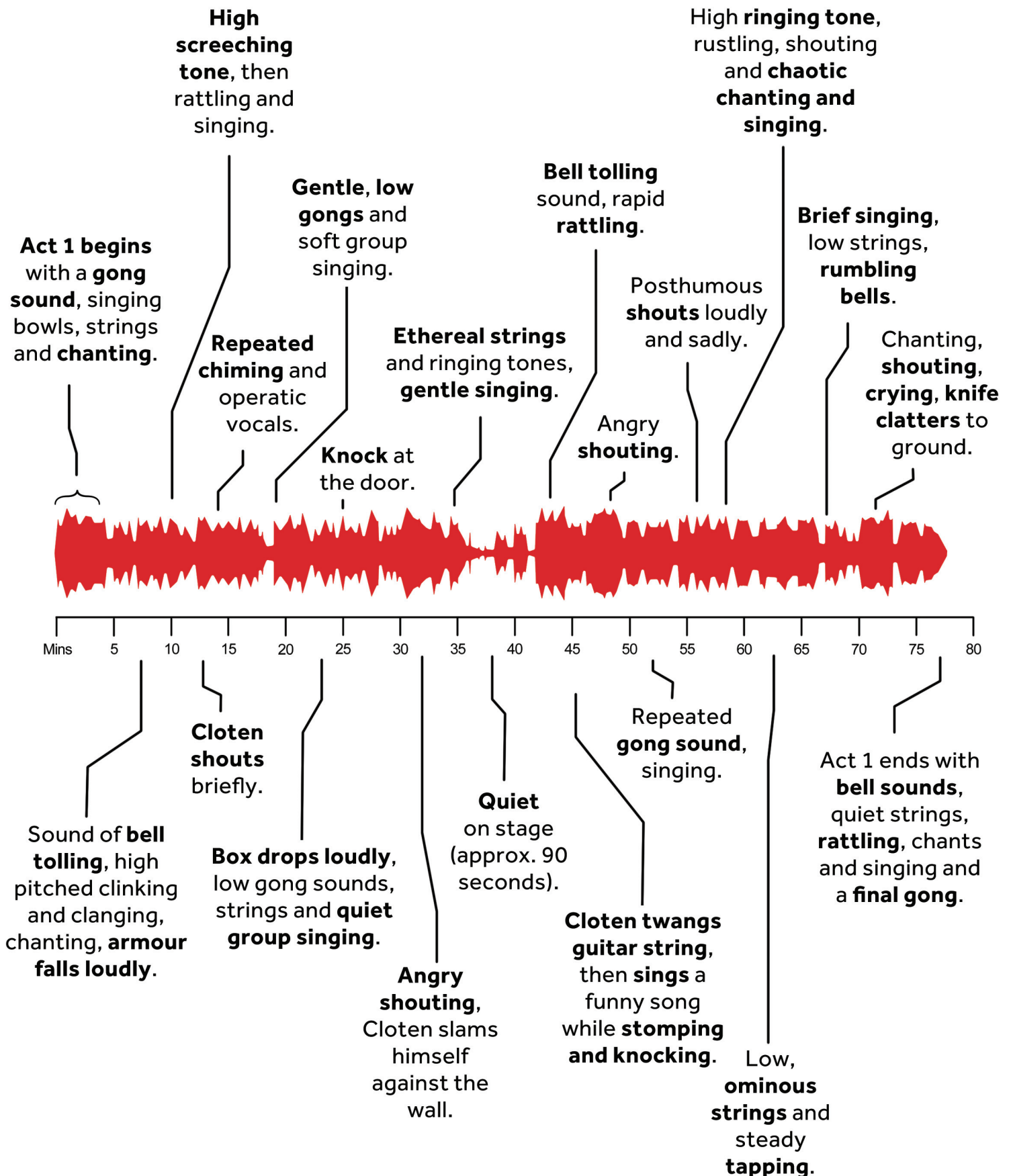
Actors sometimes enter the stage by walking or running **through the audience**. This means that **whispering, talking and singing** can often be heard in different places in the theatre.



The next two pages show the '**Sonic Story**' of Cymbeline. This highlights loud and quiet moments from the performance, and moments where the sound changes suddenly.

CYMBELINE

Sonic Story - ACT 1



CYMBELINE

Sonic Story - ACT 2

Act 2 begins with frantic **high pitched singing**, rapid clanging and **fighting**.

Rapid clanging, high pitched group singing.

High pitched singing, **clangling bell sounds**.

Ominous tones and whispering, then **screeching strings** and choral singing.

Group grunt loudly, **uneasy screeching tones**, low strings, chanting and a **loud shriek**.

High pitched **sliding whistle**, then ringing tone and **gentle singing**.

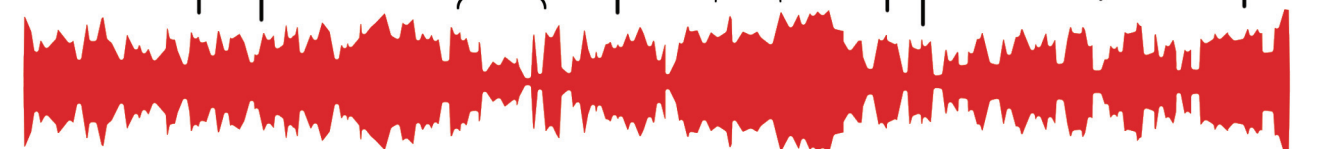
Clacking tones and **bell** sounds **change in pitch and speed**.

Brief quiet on stage.

Play ends with **group chanting and singing** and **three gong sounds**, then loud audience applause.

Ominous ringing tone.

Low strings, sound of **bell tolling**.



Mins 5 10 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75

Armour **loudly hits the ground**.

Low gong sounds, rattling strings, shouting, **screeching**, screaming.

Loud shouting and shrieking.

Brief quiet on stage.

High, gentle **ringing tone**, then sliding **screeches** and **soft strings**.

Imogen **shouts**.

Loud shouting and fighting, **clacking** sound.

Low **chiming** sound, **distressed shouting** and crying.

Distressed shouting, **sudden screaming**, collective **gasping**.

Steady clanging, high pitched **uneasy singing**.

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 or 020 7401 9919.



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