

...HE DOTH NOTHING BUT TALK OF HIS HORSE...  
...IT IS EXCELLENT TO HAVE A GIANT'S  
STRENGTH, BUT IT IS TYRANNICUS TO  
GET IT LIKE A GIANT.

# CALLIOPE®

EXPLORING WORLD HISTORY

A Cobblestone  
Publication

## William SHAKESPEARE Master Playwright

THAT  
WOULD  
HANG US,  
EVERY  
MOTHER'S  
SON.

CONDEMN  
THE FAULT,  
AND NOT  
THE ACTOR  
OF IT?

TO BE OR  
NOT TO BE—  
THAT IS THE  
QUESTION:

NOTHING  
WILL COME  
OF NOTHING.

LET'S TALK  
OF GRAVES,  
OF WORMS,  
AND  
EPITAPHS...

A HORSE,  
A HORSE, MY  
KINGDOM  
FOR A  
HORSE!

AND MY LARGE KINGDOM FOR A LITTLE GRAVE,  
...A LITTLE, LITTLE GRAVE, AN OBSCURE GRAVE...

I AM A MAN MORE  
SINNED AGAINST  
THAN SINNING.

I'LL  
NOT  
BUDGE  
AN  
INCH... I AM  
DYING,  
EGYPT,  
DYING.

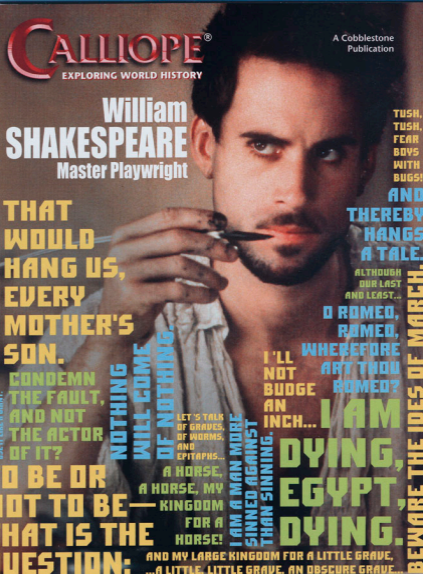
WHEREFORE  
ART THOU  
ROMEO?  
O ROMEO,  
ROMEO,

ALTHOUGH  
OUR LAST  
AND LEAST...

AND  
THEREBY  
HANGS  
A TALE.

TUSH,  
TUSH,  
FEAR  
BOYS  
WITH  
BUGS!

BEWARE THE IDES OF MARCH.



# BLACKFRIARS, THEN AND NOW

by Melanie G. Snyder



**I** imagine pawning your everyday clothes to purchase a silk gown with golden threads or a richly embroidered waistcoat to wear to an afternoon's performance of *The Tempest* at London's Blackfriars Theatre. Imagine now carefully putting on those stylish clothes and applying expensive perfume.

At great expense, you hire a coach to take you there in

grand fashion and stop at the feather sellers before proceeding to Blackfriars.

You pay the admission, which is about six times the cost of the cheapest ticket at the Globe. After entering the theater, you look around in the flickering candlelight to see who else is there. You toss your cloak over one shoulder to reveal your expensive clothing, making certain that people take notice. It is 1611, and Blackfriars is the place to be for London's wealthy and powerful.

Once inside, you head for the front and take your seat on a **gallant's** stool right on the stage. Candles illuminate the entire theater. The glittering jewels, golden garments, satins, silks, and feathers worn by the audience are as much a part of the scenery as the costumed actors on stage.

The actors, all male, play multiple roles, a practice known as doubling. Young boys play the roles of women.

The play begins, and you let yourself imagine that you are being tossed about at sea in a violent storm that sends you, shipwrecked, to a tropical island. A winged spirit sings, accompanied by a lute. You laugh at the "monster of the isle" with four legs and two voices, attend the



Teens from the Blackfriars Youth Company Theatre Camp rehearse and perform Shakespeare's works in the re-creation of London's Blackfriars Theatre in Staunton, Virginia (right and opposite).

engagement of Ferdinand and Miranda, and watch the **masque** performed by the spirits Iris, Juno, and Ceres. There are no special effects, elaborate scenery, or fancy lighting. This is the theater of the imagination.

Unfortunately, the London Blackfriars burned in 1666, but today if you travel to Staunton, Virginia, you can go to the world's only re-creation of the original Blackfriars. You will not need to pawn your everyday clothes to attend. Unlike the original Blackfriars, the Staunton re-creation makes Shakespeare available to everyone. Plays at this theater are performed with the lights on, and you are just as likely to become part of the action as the playgoers hundreds of years ago. You can even sit on a gallant's stool on the stage.

**Pawning** means giving something to another person as security for a loan.

In Shakespeare's time, a **gallant** was a high-spirited, stylish man.

A **masque** was a form of dramatic entertainment that was popular among the English upper classes during the 1500s and 1600s.



The actors are men, women, and, sometimes, teens from the Blackfriars Young Company Theatre Camp. Women play men. Men play women. All play multiple roles. There are still no special effects, elaborate scenery, or high-tech wizardry—just simple costumes, music, and Shakespeare's own words to immerse you once again in the theater of the imagination. 🎭



For more information on the new Blackfriars, see: [www.shenandoahshakespeare.com/](http://www.shenandoahshakespeare.com/)

For information on the Young Company Theatre Camp, see: [www.shenandoahshakespeare.com/education/YCTC.html](http://www.shenandoahshakespeare.com/education/YCTC.html)

