

PS, Minutes for ShaLT Team Meeting, 31st May 2012

Agenda

Introductions

John Wyver, James Wallace

1 **11.30-1.00pm** Exploring John's 'further possible outline' for six standalone 10 minute films as replacement for the previous idea of five minute films, and whether this approach would allow us to better communicate some key ideas on film to our 'knowledge transfer' audiences. (It would be useful for attendees to have read the notes sent with this agenda before the meeting.)

2 **2.00-3.00pm** Following the first session discussion and decisions, to fill in some details as to a practical filming schedule.

3 **3.00-4.30pm** Exploring desirable images for use on map and in book (and perhaps on film) to be drawn from the Hollar 'long view' and Norden panorama and inset, now available and licensed for our use.

Present: Gabriel Egan (GE), Maurice Hindle (MH), Andrew Gurr (AG), Peter Sillitoe (PS), John Wyver (JW), James Wallace (JW2)

AG raised the importance of the idea of environment and circumstance for the films. He also asked about the relation of the films to the map. Core idea of 'what it was like then' and the importance of this to the films.

AG suggested we might use the Tompkins images of the Rose and the Boar's Head, including the 'Rose walkthrough'. MH raised the problem of the 'robotic figures' in these images.

JW: Importance of the films being comprehensive yet accessible. 5 films / elements to be compiled, each perhaps telling the story of a building and company. They can use archival and modern materials. Interviews with academics such as AG and GE. The films might feature readings from plays and source documents. AG suggested Thomas Platter's account of *Julius Caesar*.

It was generally agreed that there would now be less emphasis on staging but we could use plays as part of the visual spine.

JW: He takes a scene and 'workshops' it; 2-3 actors with JW2 directing; 2-3mins of material? Plus, use conventional documentary footage. Needs to strike a balance between documentary material and staging.

AG: *Richard III* and the importance of his onstage positioning in the play. Camera might show Richard from behind when he is on the edge of the stage at the beginning. We could also use *Hamlet* and the hat scene.

JW: Is the hat scene too specific? Why not just 'Shakespeare's company at the Globe'?

MH: But the point is that the scene illustrates social class/hierarchy/political complexities. eg 'why are 1590s history plays so important to audiences of the time?'

JW2: Agreed that JW's 5 strands work well as suggested, particularly alongside the geography and the mapping. Highlighted the importance of Lyly to the narrative. Suggested we could use the Banqueting House for his plays, with Elizabeth I looking on at the scene. Then, *Tamburlaine* at the Rose and so on. The 5 films would have to be chronologically accurate, stressing the development of theatre as 'aware of itself'. Suggested that Henslowe section is moved to no. 4 on JW's outline so that we start with the Burbages.

The question of how to visualize a journey. JW: what is the overall focus?

AG: Start films with similar images to the 'you are here' map photos, ie 'this is the part of London we are dealing with here'.

JW2: Name check characters between films to provide links.

Ideas for Films:

Burbage

Henslowe and Alleyn, from Rose to Fortune.

Court / Salisbury Court etc.

Lyly and early indoor theatre. AG: Start with this as No. 1?

Whitehall/Richmond/Hampton Court.

Jonson, Marston and the later boy companies. Parody of old plays like *The Spanish Tragedy*. Kyd could be used in the Rose film? Prince Hamlet's reference to the boy actors? Beeston could be brought in here.

Hamlet and Osrice at the 'real' Globe location?

JW: Standalone films that are linked together also. Use archaeology from the Theatre site?

MH: No image of James Burbage? But can use Tarlton's grave, church sites for actors and playwrights etc?

List of Possible Films:

Boy companies

Burbages

Rose

Blackfriars and new boy companies

Red Bull and Cockpit

Possibility of doing films via entrepreneurs?

Wescott and the boys/Burbages/Henslowe and Alleyn/Beeston?

JW2: *Othello* and its 'undressing' scene – discussion of men via boy actors as women. Also, Lyly and Elizabeth-as-spectator, then on to Lyly and the first theatres in the 1570s with boy actors.

AG: Importance of stressing that theatre comes to Elizabeth, unlike 'Shakespeare in Love'.

JW: JW and JW2 to meet and layout the 5 components for each film. 2-3 days for this. JW: Payment for JW2?

MH: We should still use Hollar in this new plan for the films.

Possibility of JW walking the sites in preparation of filming?

AG: ShaLT team can put together the various scenes from the plays.

JW: This should happen after JW and JW2 have done their 2-3 days of planning together.

AG to JW: Importance of getting over the strangeness of this older theatre world to a modern audience, such as the bizarre possibility of a jig at the end of *Hamlet*.