



ACTIVITIES: KEY STAGE 3

INTERVIEWS WITH THE CAST - WEEK 1

Interview with Gloria Onitiri (Katherina):

- 1) Find the week 1 interview with Gloria Onitiri playing Katherina. In the interview Gloria discusses Katherina's place both in her family and the wider society.
- 2) Make a list comparing the different ways they are treated by their father and by other people in the play.
- 3) Discuss what this shows an audience about how daughters were treated at the time Shakespeare wrote *The Taming of the Shrew*.
- 4) Share what you have discussed with other students.

Interview with Alex Gaumond (Petruccio):

- 1) Find the week 1 interview with Alex Gaumond playing Petruccio. In the interview Alex talks about Petruccio's character and particularly the way in which he seems to be full of extremes of behaviour.
- 2) With other students discuss some examples of Petruccio's extreme behaviour.
- 3) For each example, find a quotation which shows his behaviour at that moment in the play.
- 4) Finally, annotate an image of Petruccio with the examples of the extreme behaviour and the quotations which show it.



Interview with Layo-Christina Akinlude (Bianca):

- 1) Find the Week 1 audio interview with Layo-Christina Akinlude who is playing Bianca. Layo describes Bianca as someone who is good at playing games with the lovers who are trying to win her hand in marriage.
- 2) Work with a group of fellow students. Discuss Layo's ideas about Bianca. Her sister describes Bianca as a puppet suggesting she doesn't take control of what is happening to her. Layo's ideas suggest Bianca is taking more control of what is happening to her than Katherina thinks.
- 3) One student should take the role of Bianca and the other members of the group should ask her questions about her behaviour in the play. Some of the questions should put the point of view of Hortensio and the other characters hoping to marry her.

Interview with James Backway (Lucentio):

- 1) Find the week 1 interview with James Backway playing Lucentio. In the interview James explains how he views Lucentio at the start of the play. He feels that Lucentio is a young man able for the first time to explore all the excitements of being away from home. James says that at the end Lucentio has learnt something about life.
- 2) Work with another student. How do the comments James makes increase your understanding of Lucentio. Decide what you think he has discovered by the last scene.
- 3) Using an image of Lucentio from the web-site, surround the image with key quotations which show what he is like and what he learns from everything that happens in the play.
- 4) Share your ideas with other groups of students.



Interview with Michael Fenner (Baptista):

- 1) Find the Week 1 audio interview with Michael Fenner playing Baptista on the Playing Shakespeare web-site. Michael discusses the way Baptista behaves at a time when fathers were totally in charge of a family. He also describes how this production is using the idea of organised crime groups such as the Italian Mafia as a guide to the way Baptista should behave.
- 2) Work with a group of fellow students. Research some of the examples Michael mentions in the interview such as the Mafia and identify how the members of these organisations behave.
- 3) Look at the way Baptista behaves in the play and make links with your research findings about organised crime.
- 4) Record your thinking by annotating an image of Baptista from the production and share with other groups.

Interview with Samuel Martin (Tranio):

- 1) Find the Week 1 audio interview with Samuel Martin playing Tranio on the Playing Shakespeare web-site. Samuel describes Tranio and Lucentio as the 'lighter' male characters in contrast to the other 'nastier' men in the play. He goes on to describe Tranio as a schemer able to invent plots and tricks for his master Lucentio.
- 2) Work with a group of fellow students. Discuss the character of Tranio and decide whether you agree that he and Lucentio are less serious characters than the other men in the play.
- 3) Next discuss the ways in which Tranio demonstrates that he is a clever and inventive servant. Identify how he helps his master Lucentio during the events of the play.
- 4) Annotate an image of Tranio from the web-site including the ways he helps Lucentio and the evidence showing that he is a clever and resourceful man.