



## **ESSAY QUESTIONS**

The following questions are suitable essay style questions, which students can answer once they have seen the production of *The Taming of the Shrew* at the Globe.

- 1) During the performance at The Globe, the audience laughed a great deal. Do you think that the comedy in the performance overshadowed the serious themes of the play?
- 2) The performance at The Globe drew on Katherina's words to Bianca 'you puppet' by including two puppets used during the play. How did the puppets help the audience to understand the play?
- 3) Petruchio's reaction to Katherina's long speech in the final scene of the play is important. How did the actor's facial expressions and movements show what Petruchio was feeling at the end of the speech in the performance at The Globe? How do you think Katherina was feeling?
- 4) There were many modern properties (objects used by actors) like Gremio's mobility scooter and modern designs like the wedding cake decorations in the performance of *The Taming of the Shrew* at The Globe. How did these features help the audience to understand the themes of the play?
- 5) *The Taming of the Shrew* has a complicated plot and several disguises. How did the performance at The Globe help the audience to follow what was going on?
- 6) When Katherina physically attacked Petruchio in the performance at The Globe many in the audience laughed. Did you think that some of Katherina's violence, such as the way she twisted his nipple, was too comic or did you think it helped to show the audience the seriousness of her situation?
- 7) In an interview on the *Playing Shakespeare* web-site the actor playing Bianca says that the character is stronger than is often thought. How did the character of Bianca appear in the performance at The Globe? Did she appear more forceful than you expected?
- 8) One of the important themes of *The Taming of the Shrew* is the way that women were seen as the property of men. How did the performance at The Globe make this theme clear for the audience?