

Special Thanks to:

Charles Clark Chapter

Mississippi College School of Law

Lauren Ray & Maverick Theatre

Germantown High School's
Theatre 1 Class

Butler Snow, LLP

All the Other Volunteers

Oh Shake-Scene!!

By John C. Henegan



A Production for the
Charles Clark Inn of Court

Monday, September 29, 2014



Queen's Bench, London, 1500s

GREENES,
GROATS-WORTH
of witte, bought with a
million of Repentance.

*Describing the follie of youth, the falshood of make-
wifte flatterers, the miserie of the negligent,
and mischiefes of deceiuing
Courtezans.*

Written before his death and published at his
dyeing request.

Felicem fuisse insaufum.



LONDON
Imprinted for William Wright.
1 5 9 2.

“... there is an upstart Crow, beautified
with our feathers, that with his Tyger's
hart wrapt in a Player's hyde, supposes he
is as well able to bombast out a blanke verse
as the best of you and being an absolute
Iohannes Factotum, is in his own conceit
the only Shake-scene in a country.”

- *Greene's Groats-worth of Witte*

DRAMATIS PERSONAE

William Shakespeare
actor, dramatist, and poet

Cliff Johnson

Queen Elizabeth

Katie Hester

Edward Coke
Solicitor General, Speaker of
the House, Special Judge

Wayne Drinkwater

Thomas Heneage
a spokesman of the Crown of
England

Luther Munford

Emilia Ball
mistress of Robert Greene

Meta Copeland
Marjorie Horne, Understudy

Robert Greene
novelist, dramatist, and
pamphleteer

David Maron

Thomas Nashe
dramatist and pamphleteer

Patrick Roberts

Richard Mulcaster
headmaster of St. Paul's
School, London

Ray McNamara

Richard Vennar
dramatist, lawyer, and
trickster

Greg Copeland

Henry Chettle
printer and dramatist

Iason Marsh

Richard Field
printer

Patrick Lyon

Bailiff/Clerk
of the Queen's Bench

Barbara Wallace
Wendy Scott, Understudy

Shylock
moneylender

Joe Fernald

Antonio
a merchant from Venice

John Hall

Portia
friend of Antonio who appears
as Consigliere Balthazar in the
courtroom

Sara Beth Wilson

Francis Bacon
lawyer, scholar, scientist,
philosopher, and essayist

Joe Fernald

Thomas Kyd
juror, scrivener, and dramatist

Iosh Vpshaw

John Donne
juror, lawyer, and author

Marsalis James

Jurors
including Kyd and Donne

Perrin Bauder,
Phillip Ellis,
Carlton Hedden, et al.

John Dee
scholar, mathematician,
astrologer, and expert witness

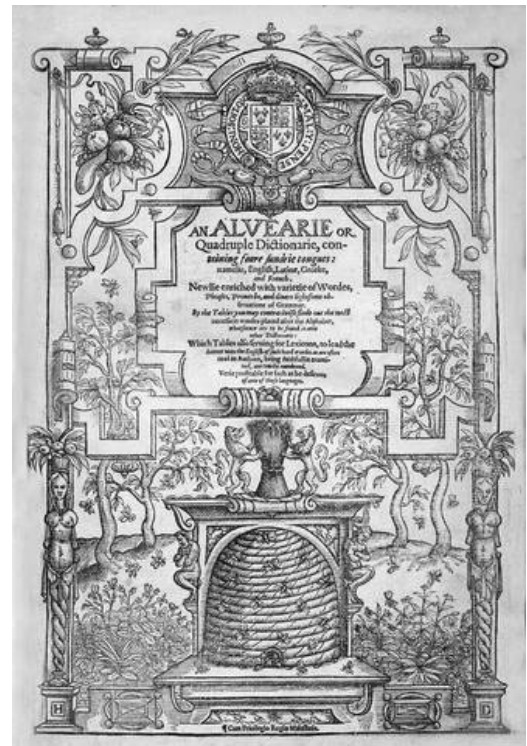
James Tucker

Richard Burbage
actor

Roy Campbell

Attendants to the Queen

Mandy Meyer,
Kasey Mitchell,
Pat Bennett



PRODUCTION CREW

Film Director

Anita Modak-Truran

Director of
Photography

Thomas Peede

Sound Operator

Iessi Meyer

Technical Support

Daniel Cole and
Joe Wilson
Tony Bellan

Wardrobe and
Costumes

The Actors

Music and Sound
Effects

Germantown High School
Theatre I Class

Sets and Props

Maverick Theatre,
Mississippi College
School of Law,
Lucy Baessler,
Lynn Gibbs,
and Joe Fernald

Art Directors

Maud Kuykendall
Morella Henegan

Logistics Management

SNM's Highlander

Pupilage Program
Materials

Mariorie Horne

Location Managers

Larry Bontempo,
Jim Rosenblatt,
and Meta Copeland

Scriveners

Karlotta Banks,
Lucy Baessler,
and Karen Prince

Author and Pupilage
Group Chair

John Henegan

SYNOPSIS

William Shakespeare, a native of Stratford-Upon-Avon, went to work in London in the late 1580s. He supported himself and his family, which he left behind in Stratford, by working in the theatre and for Richard Field, a printer and childhood friend.

After a few years working with an acting troupe, Shakespeare began collaborating on plays with other dramatists, including Robert Greene, Christopher Marlowe, Thomas Nashe, and George Peele. This included the *Henry VI* historical trilogy adapted from Holinshed's *Chronicles*. *Henry VI Part I* is a prequel written after *Part II* and *Part III*. A principal theme of *Part I* is that civil war between the Houses of York and Lancaster have led to England's neglect of the English army which is waging war in France and its recent military losses there. A principal character of *Part I* is Joan of Arc, a Roman Catholic peasant, who convinces Charles, the Dauphin of France, that she has had religious visions about how the French can defeat the English. She is depicted as a sorceress in scenes of *Part I* that are written by someone other than Shakespeare.

Henry VI Part I is written and performed within five years of the beheading of Mary Queen of Scots, a Roman Catholic who wore the colors of a religious martyr at her execution, after being tried and convicted for attempting to assassinate her sister, Queen Elizabeth of England, and within four years of Drake's decimation of the Spanish Armada in the English Channel within sight of Plymouth, England. Britannia is a small nation compared to Spain, and it benefits from the warring religious factions of France. The peoples of England are beginning to take pride as their nation makes claims to far off lands. They show increased self-assurance and confidence as they throw off Latin and fully embrace their own language in all professions and trades and at all levels of society.

SYNOPSIS (cont.)

While this may be the flowering of the English Renaissance, the Counter-Reformation is taking place in Europe. Thus, it is also a time of circumspection and counterfeit, paid government informants and double agents, government-sponsored torture and religious assassins. Queen Elizabeth, as head of the Church of England, must not only protect the Crown from Roman papists, who wish to overthrow her and the Anglican Church, but also from Puritans, who believe that the Queen and the Church of England lack true piety, being too much like the Church of Rome.

The people of London are attending the theatres located outside the City's fortified walls in ever increasing numbers. The *Henry VI* series is the hit of the 1591 and 1592 seasons. The actors and the public want Shakespeare to continue the series. Shakespeare is the envy of his fellow collaborators and playwrights, particularly Robert Greene and Thomas Nashe.

Richard Vennar, an Englishman who has fallen under the influence of the Catholic League while traveling in France, seeks to avenge the memory of Joan of Arc, an icon of the League, for the obscene way that she is vilified in *Henry VI Part I*. Vennar plays on the egos of Greene and Nashe and dupes them as he tries to ruin Shakespeare's reputation and end his career. Spurred on by Vennar, Greene or Nashe defame Shakespeare in a pamphlet published by Henry Chettle. Vennar then convinces their old friend Richard Mulcaster to go to Richard Field, Shakespeare's employer, and have him fire Shakespeare for plagiarism of *An Alvearie* or "*The Beehive*," a scholarly reference work by Professor John Baret of Cambridge.

When Field sacks Shakespeare, Vennar is there. Vennar, a lawyer in Lincoln's Inn, tells Shakespeare he will file a slander suit against Mulcaster. Shakespeare hires Vennar. When they go to court, Vennar switches sides before the judge enters, and Vennar defends Mulcaster.