

## CUE SCRIPTS

When Shakespeare was writing, a printed version of the text was unavailable to the players. Everything was written by hand.

It follows then that the players only had the character's "cue scripts" to work from.

What is a "cue script"?

It is a scroll where all the lines that your character has to say are written; with a few words of the speech before each of yours.

If one looks at Romeo & Juliet (ACT II scene ii) for example, she has a long speech which finishes "... take all myself"

At which point Romeo starts ...

"I take thee at thy word ... "

The cue script means that the player playing Romeo does not know what she is going to say until the performance. (There was no time for rehearsals – they performed a different play every day and over the course of a year they performed 150 plays).

Prepared are the cue scripts for Romeo & Juliet in the balcony scene.

### Exercise.

The students are given a scene from the play, with either Romeo or Juliet to study.

The Romeos go to one corner and the Juliets to another.

They work on the texts they have and prepare the lines; helping each other with the meaning and the iambic pentameter.

They have 10 minutes to prepare.

Depending on the time available, one or more couples of Romeos and Juliets then perform the texts in front of the class.