

ENL ####
Season/Term
Kemp

Queering Performance/Performing Queerness

In this assignment, you will explore the impact that the production and performance elements of drama have on desire, bodies, affect, and the queer potential of early modern drama.

Part 1, Group Research & Compiling a Performance History

In this first phase of the project, you and your team will compile a performance history of the play you have been assigned. Your group will attempt to make this history as complete and exhaustive as possible.

You will collaborate on a group presentation using the technology of your choice (I suggest Prezi or Powerpoint, but am open to alternatives) which will introduce some of your findings to your classmates.

Slides should include (but are not limited to):

- A timeline of notable performances
- A description of the earliest performance you can find record of, including any known information about the recorder_s themselves, any known audience reactions or public reception, any reviews (positive or negative), and any known production choices.
- A description of the most recent performance you can find record of, including any known information about the recorder themselves, any known audience reactions or public reception, any reviews (positive or negative), and any known production choices.
- A profile of any popular or notable performers, actors, theatre companies, or production staff associated with a production.
- Any film adaptations of the play, with cast list & director.
- At least 2 detailed profiles of specific productions, detailing particular stylistic and/or production choices (may focus on set design and setting, costume or makeup design, character interpretations or casting, etc).
- A breakdown of trends, tropes, or themes you notice within or across performances.

These slides should reflect significant research and thoughtful reflection on your group's research. Your presentation need not respond directly to questions of queer theory or gender & sexuality studies at this stage.

Group presentations will take place at the beginning of class, Week 8.

Part 2, Individual Argument and Performance Analysis

Now that you and your group have gathered a good deal of research about the performance history of the play, you will shift into analysis. How does a given performance respond to issues of gender, sexuality, desire, bodies, or affect? How does the production engage camp or humor? You might even think about how a particular company's values, staff, or geographical location impacts its reception and production.

In this final paper, (approximately 2-3 pages) you will choose one production of the play, and **make an argument about how that production enables or rejects queer readings of the text.** You may choose to unpack the choices in one particular scene or to focus on one design or production element that permeates the entire production, but you should have a clear and arguable thesis that you support with evidence from the production.

Please be sure that your paper is in proper MLA format—1" margins, 12 pt font, in-text citations, etc. For questions about MLA format please see course resources for Style Guides.

We will have a peer editing session in class on Week 10.

The final draft is due to me by ###.