

6 - THE WORLDS OF THE PLAY (PART 2)

How have previous directors staged Othello?

WHAT YOU NEED

- A piece of note paper, or a notebook and something to write with.
- A computer with internet connection, ready to visit the following pages on [Setting](#) and [Productions](#).
- (Optional: access to an online pinboard e.g. Pinterest or an offline app).
- (Optional: A large sheet, and materials to create a Mood board).

ACTIVITY

- Load the 'Setting' page on the Shakespeare Learning Zone, [here](#).
- Take a look at the gallery and notice the various interpretations of Venice and Cyprus in past productions of *Othello*.
- Directors and designers work together to come up with a concept of how they want the set to look and feel. Some Directors base their interpretations of Venice and Cyprus on places we don't know in the real world today.
- If you have completed 'The Worlds of The Play Part 1' find the adjectives you came up with to describe the two worlds.
- You now have the task of designing the sets. Begin to think about how these two contrasting worlds may look.
- Create a 'mood board' for Venice and Cyprus, either digitally or as a collage using your own drawings or old newspapers and magazines. A mood board can help a designer to think about the overall impression they want the audience to have of a place. This can be a collection of colours, textures, fabrics, styles of clothing, buildings, art work and anything else that you see which inspires you. In your mood board, try to label the things you add to help you remember your thought process.

EXTENSION

- Load [this page](#) on 'Staging Othello' in the Shakespeare Learning Zone.
- Go through the 'Key decisions to make' tab and read all the questions under the subcategories: 'Military', 'Race and Belonging', and 'Gender'.
- Do further research into past productions of *Othello*: find images or reviews to discover that director's interpretation.
- Begin to answer the questions on the page yourself, basing your decisions on the mood board you have just created.