

The Journey of Shakespeare's Pericles: Young People Discover Personal Meaning Through the Theme of Death and Resurrection

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Abstract

The Looking for Shakespeare program has evolved over a period of eight years at New York University and at Goldsmiths University in London. Its non-traditional rehearsal processes are designed to support young people by challenging them to deepen their understanding of one another, and their engagement with Shakespeare. Since issues of identity are of paramount importance for young people, we explore the relationship between identity and character. We seek to challenge and extend the identities of adolescents, so that the Shakespeare characters they create will be extensions of themselves. In our Pericles rehearsal process, the theme of death and resurrection became a focus and catalyst of forging new identities from disruptive personal experiences. Our company of young people was challenged to examine the implications of Shakespeare's narrative in their own lives: The play's events, especially the resurrection of Thaisa from the dead, stimulated their awareness of their own death and resurrection experiences and helped them to work together as a team.



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Gower Shakespeare based the narrator of Pericles, Prince of Tyre on John Gower (c. 1330-1408), a 14th-century English poet. One of Gower's principal works is called *Confessio Amantis* (Confession of a Lover), published in 1383. This work contains several Greek and Roman romances translated into English rhyming couplets. Follow Pericles' journey on this map of the Mediterranean Sea in the time of Ancient Greece. In Antioch. (ANN-tee-OCK). Pentapolis literally means "five cities" and was a district of five cities on the north African shore, then part of the kingdom of Carthage and currently part of the nation of Libya. Pentapolis lies 950 miles southwest of Antioch and 550 miles west of Egypt's city of Alexandria. Shakespeare's *Histories* focus on English monarchs. They usually play upon Elizabethan propaganda, showing the dangers of civil war and glorifying the queen's Tudor ancestors. The depictions of monarchs including Richard III (an enemy of the Tudors) and Henry V (one of the great Tudor monarchs) have been influential in creating a perception of these kings which has persisted throughout the centuries. Many historians point to inaccuracies in the depictions, but the plays have been very powerful in presenting a particular image which it is hard for many people to see past. The *Histories* Continuing our series marking the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death, Paul Taylor explains why even one of his less celebrated plays remains a source of wonder and inspiration. It was reading this as a teenager that prompted me to look at the play: its story of death and resurrection, loss and reconciliation has haunted me ever since. Read more. Celebrating Shakespeare's heroism and unsparing human truths. Why *Romeo and Juliet* can still break hearts – and families. Studying the most famous Shakespearean tragedy of them all. Discovering a timeless journey for the age of the refugee. 17-pericles-get.jpg. Athenian statesman Pericles, 494-429 BC.