

Introduction to Playing for Shakespeare

The game begins with the narrative frame in which Nicholas is co-opted to join the theatre. In Renaissance England there were stories about boys being kidnapped to join the troupes of child actors. Although there were no such rumours about the adult professional companies, we have deliberately hinted at this in Nicholas' story. Nicholas was not a real actor in Shakespeare's company or otherwise (he is named from amongst the most popular boy's names in Tudor England). Although Nicholas is made up, most of the people he meets in the course of this game were real historical people. He should be imagined as about 15 years old, perhaps a young apprentice before he joined the theatre. Boys (and girls) matured later in Tudor England than they do today so Nicholas would not yet have reached puberty and his voice would be unbroken.

If you wish to skip the framing narrative just click 'skip' in the top right corner and go straight to the start of Game One.

At any point in the game narrative clicking 'skip' will take you to the start of the game. During the game itself clicking the "X" in the top right will return you to the main menu allowing you begin the game again or to switch to another game.



Nicholas



Richard Burbage



William Shakespeare



Alexander Cooke