



REVIEWING BRIEF

Use the guide below to write a review for the Playing Shakespeare with Deutsche Bank production of *The Merchant of Venice*.

Write a heading

- Write the title of the production and state that it was written by William Shakespeare.
- Say that you saw it at Shakespeare's Globe and the date you saw it.
- Write your name.

Set the scene (Context)

- Give a description of the Globe, assuming that the reader has never visited before. Perhaps describe how it feels when you first arrive, as well as what the building looks like.
- Maybe add a brief history of the Globe, including its origins and its reconstruction.
- Mention the type of play (e.g. comedy, history, tragedy). You may choose to add when the play was written or published.
- Describe the theme(s) of the play – its main subjects or message.

Narrative and Character

- Write a brief summary of the plot.
- Outline the main characters. You can put the actors' names in brackets after the characters they played, or mention their names as you evaluate the acting, e.g. *'Jessica was movingly portrayed by Bethan Cullinane...'*
- Try to show how the characters behaved in the context of the plot, scene, or with other characters. For instance, *'At the end of the scene, Bethan Cullinane, who played Jessica, heightened the sense of sadness by her use of long silences....'*

Acting Skills/Styles

- If the piece was supposed to be 'naturalistic', say if you thought the actors were convincing.
- Show how their voices or movements affected the way that they performed their part.
- Mention any outstanding performances by the actors (good or bad), giving examples and details.

Technical Evaluation (Atmosphere)

- Describe how you were welcomed into the theatre.
- Describe what you actually saw on stage, including the set, costumes and music.
- Say if the lighting, costumes, or sound added something to the performance, or if they distracted from it.



**GLOBE
EDUCATION**

**PLAYING SHAKESPEARE
WITH DEUTSCHE BANK**

- Live music always plays an important part in Globe productions. How was it done and how were the musicians used?

Directorial evaluation

- The Globe stage is very distinctive. Was the way the actors used it innovative or traditional? Explain how.
- Do you think the director's interpretation was true to what Shakespeare intended? Would it have been performed like this when it was written? What might be different now?

Personal Thoughts

- How did you feel at the end?
- What are your lasting impressions?

Submissions

Email your review to us at youngcreatives@shakespearesglobe.com by 23rd March. We will then select some of our favourite entries and publish them in 'Week 8'.