

Ch. side  
3/1/10  
YST

94

Binder: Literature Section (until it's turned in)  
Act I Assignment:  
Queen Mab Monologue  
Due: Tuesday, March 2

Mercutio's "Queen Mab" speech is a famous part of the play Romeo and Juliet. However, its fame comes from an uncertainty about why it is included in the play. It's so unusual that it creates a dilemma for directors and actors: what tone should actors use to deliver the monologue?

Various productions of the play have used various tones / delivery styles:

Gounod's opera version tone: playful  
1960's Zeffirelli's film version tone: tracing, sarcastic, exaggerated, twisted  
1990's Luhrmann's film version tone: mystical, tempting, dark

You will be forming an opinion about this dilemma. If you were a director, what tone would you direct your actor to use when delivering the Queen Mab monologue?

Step 1: Read the Queen Mab monologue and the conversation that follows.  
Honors: Act I, scene 4, lines 53-103, which is on p. 807-808  
Standard: Act I, scene 4, lines 53-103, which is on p. 60 to the top of p. 65. You may use Shakespeare's lines **OR** the more modern phrasing.

Step 2:  
List the words or phrases from the monologue that stand out to you in any way. Then list your associations with each word or phrase (just like the C-Connotation step in TP-CASTT)

Faints: storms, magic, wings, mystics ...  
wagon: travel, transport, dreaming, thinking, going,  
wings: delicacy, lightness, ability, knowledge  
blister: wounds, marks, scars, pain,  
their breaths with sweetmeats, lured are - succumbing to pleasure,  
Customs, foreign threats; violence, revenge, darkness, lured things.  
hags, evil, demons, witches, filthy, dirty, clown.