

Ch. side
3/1/10
yvt

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, justness, 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.

✓