

CURTAIN SPEECH

AM1: Kevin

AM2: Sam

AM3: Lindsey

CM1: Dayna

CM2: Michelle

Bear baiting: Barry, Mike, Michelle, Jenni

Brothels: Stephen, Kate, Dayna

Kate: Welcome. Thanks you's. Mailing List. Rest rooms.

John: We are No Holds Bard—anyone seen us before? repeat customers? So you know what we do?

brief interaction

Yes, this is Shakespeare THE WAY HE INTENDED IT.

Audience member 1: uh, hello... The way he intended it? like you know?

John: Well... yeah, um...

AM 1: You know just how Shakespeare's plays were meant to be performed?... yeah right...

AM 2: Sure he does...

AM 1: What, are going to ask him? um, last I checked, he's DEAD! Dead for like a hundred years.

AM 2: FOUR hundred years, buddy.

John: Yeah, and a lot's changed in that time. But we know what things were like back then. We do. Like audiences. Who came to the theater. Look at these people here.

AM 3: What about us?

John: Well, no offence, but you're not drunk.

AM 1: Yet.

John: You're not rowdy...

AM 2: Oh, we will be.

John: You're not illiterate. Well most of you. Shakespeare's audiences were largely working people, going to, well the East Colfax part of town, and choosing between the BEAR BAITING—(*three actors with stuffed animals act this out stage right*)—and the BROTHELS—(*three actors proposition the audience stage left*)—and, well, this transcendent poetry. To attract an audience, the shows had to be entertaining, fun. And sometimes, forgive us, a bit crude.

AM 1: Oh, Crude's okay with me. Crude okay with you?

Company member 1: Yeah, plus they had to do a different show every day to keep people coming back.

CM 2: Can you imagine that? Perform six days a week, different show every day? and next week more shows, dozens of shows, if a show's a hit you might do it once or twice more next month... but no run.

AM 3: Hey, when did they rehearse?

CM 1: What?

AM 3: They're doing a different play every day. When did they rehearse all these shows?

CM 2: Well, that's the thing. They didn't. They'd get their lines and cues the night before, meet the day of the show to figure out the fights, music and dance, so no one got hurt, and then performed.

AM 3: Okay, that's insane.

John: Yes, insane. But that's how they did it... so that's how we do it. Have you read this play?

CM 2: Nope.

John: Have we rehearsed this play?

CM 1: Never.

John: Do you know who's going to talk to you tonight, what's going to happen to you during the play?

CM 1 and 2: Nope.

John: But you've prepared your role?

CM 1 and 2: *holding up cue scripts* Here it is.

AM 1: Wait, what's that?

CM 2: This, my friend, is my lifeline.

CM 1: See there were no copy machines 400 years ago. The actor playing _____ wouldn't get the whole play scribed out for him, just his lines and cues.

CM 2: I don't even know who's going to say my cue, I'm just waiting to hear it, then I say my lines.

CM 1: And they'd roll their lines up on dowels—it's where we get the word "Role."

CM 2: World's first teleprompter.

John: So what's your "Roll" tonight?

CM 2: _____

John: And next time we do this show?

CM 2: _____

CM 1: The cast is different for every show—keeps everything new!

John: What you're about to see is a PLAY, the way we PLAY SPORTS. The action is non-stop and you're a part of it. Join in, play with us, enjoy—Can you do that?

AM 1, 2, and 3: Yeah.

John: CAN YOU DO THAT?

ALL: YEAH.

John: One person I have to introduce to you tonight, our other lifeline, the only person who has access to the whole script, in charge of the show and here to make sure you all have a great time, the one, the only, our onstage prompter, Jenni Graham.

Prompter: You ready to play? You ready to be a Shakespearean audience? Listen, you're allowed to heckle. You're allowed to yell things. You're encouraged to cheer and boo and let us know what you like and hate. Let's try that out... you see something you LOVE, someone does something GREAT, you say: _____ let's try that again— you see something GREAT you say EXCELLENT. Someone does something really evil you yell awesome.... we're ready. No Holds Bard is proud to present _____ . *BLOW WHISTLE*