



Much Ado About Wenlock Teachers' Pack

Included in this pack are:

1. Introduction
2. Games and Exercises
3. Mask Work
4. Character Drawing
5. Music and Sound
6. Further Reading
7. Follow-up Opportunities



1 Vamos Theatre: Much Ado About Wenlock Teachers' Pack 2012 Introduction

1.1 Introduction: Rachael Savage, writer and director

An engaging story is often the inspiration for successful theatre and I hope this will be true of *Much Ado About Wenlock*. Few outside the Shropshire town of Much Wenlock know that it is the true home of and inspiration for the modern Olympic Games and thus the real starting point for the London 2012 event. I was drawn into a fascinating tale of a 19th century visionary and knew it could be a rich piece of theatre.

At its heart, this is the story of an inspirational Victorian doctor, William Penny Brookes, a GP who dedicated his life to enhancing the health and well being of all classes in his small rural town. *Much Ado About Wenlock* has been researched and written using historical facts inspired by the life of Dr Brookes; his story weaves within the fictitious characters who have been invented to help tell our tale.

Ale houses were the only real recreation for working men, and with copious amounts of alcohol readily available, they used it to numb their fatigue, drown their sorrows, and give relief to pain. Dr Brookes, in his wisdom, turned to the idea of prevention. He devised the notion that the working people of the town could be liberated from ill health, and the harsh effects of hard work, through athleticism and other more curious forms of physical, mental, social, and artistic activity. He looked to the ancient Greek Olympics for inspiration and developed the first Wenlock Olympian Games, held in October 1850, a mixture of athletics and traditional country sports for men and boys. These early Games sometimes included a 'fun' event; once a wheelbarrow race and another year - for the ladies - a knitting race and a running race for a pound of tea!

Brookes did not gain immediate support from all sides. The church and upper classes were up in arms, believing that allowing the working classes to take part would cause "rioting, lewd behaviour and men to leave their wives." However, over 160 years later, at the beginning of July every year, Much Wenlock continues to celebrate its very own Wenlock Olympian Games in honour of the town's most celebrated physician.

In 1890, the Frenchman Pierre de Coubertin, who is usually credited with inspiring the modern Olympic Games, heard about Brookes's Games and visited them. He said of Dr Brookes, "If the Olympic Games, that modern Greece has not been able to resuscitate, survive.... it is due not to a Greek, but to Dr W.P. Brookes."

Tragically, Brookes died four months before the very first modern day Olympic Games. He would perhaps be amazed, but hopefully gratified, that a theatre company in 2011/12 would bring his story to the attention of thousands of people throughout the UK in a piece of full mask theatre; and I think he would forgive the fictitious characters and their stories, and maybe smile at their antics, knowing that truth is often stranger than fiction.

"Vamos is incredible. The company inspires the pupils and the staff."

St Augustine's Catholic High School



"The content was inspiring, the pace was fast and the delivery was outstanding. As a classroom practitioner I benefited from being taught by a professional."

King Charles High School



"Excellent. Definitely would recommend. An inspirational, uplifting day!"

Kingsley College



"That was the best TED day I've ever been on!"

Teacher on Mask Making Training



© 2012
Vamos Theatre:
71 Malvern Road
St Johns
Worcester WR2 4LJ
tel: 01905 748249
info@vamostheatre.co.uk
www.vamostheatre.co.uk



2 Vamos Theatre: Much Ado About Wenlock Teachers' Pack 2012

Games and Exercises

2.1 Creating the learning space

You will need a clear space. A school hall or studio is perfect, though often not available. If using a classroom, all chairs and tables need to be stacked away to create as much space as possible.



2.2 A Perfect Circle

Aim: to enhance the dynamics of the group and to ensure that everyone can see each other.

In order to get a group of people to stand in a perfect circle, you need to ask them to look at their feet. If their feet are slightly behind the two pairs of feet on either side of them, then the group will be in a perfect circle.

Every session, and many exercises, start and end in a perfect circle.

Standing in a perfect circle enhances the dynamics of the group and ensures that everyone can see each other. It encourages every individual to feel valued and respected.

"Vamos is incredible. The company inspires the pupils and the staff."

St Augustine's Catholic High School



"The content was inspiring, the pace was fast and the delivery was outstanding. As a classroom practitioner I benefited from being taught by a professional."

King Charles High School



"Excellent. Definitely would recommend. An inspirational, uplifting day!"

Kingsley College



"That was the best TED day I've ever been on!"

Teacher on Mask Making Training



© 2012
Vamos Theatre:
71 Malvern Road
St Johns
Worcester WR2 4LJ
tel: 01905 748249
info@vamos theatre.co.uk
www.vamos theatre.co.uk



2 Vamos Theatre: Much Ado About Wenlock Teachers' Pack 2012 Games and Exercises

2.3 Respect

Aim: to introduce the term "respect" when getting a group to listen to each other.

This exercise demands concentration, giving focus, and most importantly "respect".

Practise this stage first:

In a perfect circle, ask each person to number themselves, starting with yourself as number 1. Each person needs to remember their own number. Each person is now called a bunny and a number. e.g. "Bunny number 1".

Each bunny calls another bunny using the same script. e.g.

"Bunny number 1, bunny number 1, calling bunny number 3"

"Bunny number 3, bunny number 3, calling bunny number 7"

"Bunny number 7, bunny number 7, calling bunny number 10".....and so on

If you are talking, you must make two bunny ears with your hands on top of your head.

Practise this stage next:

When a bunny is talking, the two bunnies on either side of the talking bunny "have to get down and pay that bunny some respect." This is done by placing your ear (the one closest) towards the bunny speaking, and lowering yourself down.

If you are too slow, or do not pay respect, or use the wrong ear, you have to sit down, but remain sitting in the circle.

Remember...

- If you call a bunny that is already out, you too are out.
- Also, if number 2 and 3 are out, then number 4 has to pay number 1 respect.
- There should always be two people paying you respect.



May the best bunny win!

The Respect game is a great way to explain the importance of giving focus to others when wearing a mask. E.g., if all mask actors look to the front all of the time, the audience do not know who to look at and the story gets lost. But when a mask actor gives focus to another mask performer, the audience know exactly where to look.

"Vamos is incredible. The company inspires the pupils and the staff."

St Augustine's Catholic High School



"The content was inspiring, the pace was fast and the delivery was outstanding. As a classroom practitioner I benefited from being taught by a professional."

King Charles High School



"Excellent. Definitely would recommend. An inspirational, uplifting day!"

Kingsley College



"That was the best TED day I've ever been on!"

Teacher on Mask Making Training



© 2012

**Vamos Theatre:
71 Malvern Road
St Johns**

**Worcester WR2 4LJ
tel: 01905 748249
info@vamos theatre.co.uk
www.vamos theatre.co.uk**



2 Vamos Theatre: Much Ado About Wenlock Teachers' Pack 2012 Games and Exercises

2.4 The 123 game

Aim: a concentration game that has endless possibilities

Stage One: Teaching "123" with a volunteer

Stand facing your volunteer, making eye contact. The first person says "1", the second person says "2" and the first person then says "3". Repeat this with the second person starting, saying "1". Continue counting to 3, with the numbers passing from one to another.



This game can then be developed, step by step, to replace each number with an action and a sound, such as a jump and a meow.

Allow time for each number to be replaced, and do not replace all three at once.

SO...

First, replace number 1 with an action...
e.g. Jump, "2", "3"

Action

Jump, "2", "3"

THEN...

Replace number 2 with a different action...
e.g. Jump, clap, "3"

Action

Jump, clap "3"

AND THEN...

Replace number 3 with an action...
e.g. Jump, clap, stretch

Action

Jump, clap, stretch

Stage Two: Performing

After practising, each pair performs their piece in the middle of the circle. I make sure that before they move to the centre, they each agree who is going to start, maintain eye contact, and have a moment of stillness before they begin. The key is not to giggle whilst performing....easier said than done.

Stage Three: Development of "123"

This game can be used in many ways. The 123 can be replaced by anything; themes from the show, moments in history, or information about an artist. I also use it to make a "Contract of Respect," where the 123 is replaced by ways in which students think they should behave in a drama class, i.e. listen, respect, kindness. Always encourage sound and action interpretations rather than just words. Meaning can be explained afterwards.

"Vamos is incredible. The company inspires the pupils and the staff."

St Augustine's Catholic High School



"The content was inspiring, the pace was fast and the delivery was outstanding. As a classroom practitioner I benefited from being taught by a professional."

King Charles High School



"Excellent. Definitely would recommend. An inspirational, uplifting day!"

Kingsley College



"That was the best TED day I've ever been on!"

Teacher on Mask Making Training



© 2012
Vamos Theatre:
71 Malvern Road
St Johns
Worcester WR2 4LJ
tel: 01905 748249
info@vamostheatre.co.uk
www.vamostheatre.co.uk



2 Vamos Theatre: Much Ado About Wenlock Teachers' Pack 2012 Games and Exercises

2.5 Silence Lines

Learning point: communicating in silence is possible; making a sound behind the mask breaks the magic.

This is a great game with a large group, as they can work in two teams. If the group is less than ten people, they should work in one team together. So, with pupils in two straight lines standing facing each other, give them a task to carry out in utter silence. I often use a point scoring system to help enforce the no speaking rule.

The tasks, for example, can be to arrange themselves in:

- Order of height
- Darkness of eyes
- When their birthday falls within the year from January 1st to December 31st

Watch each task very carefully and observe how they communicate without speaking. After each one, imitate how people communicated: looking at speed, conflict, confusion and clarity to show how this in itself makes a piece of theatre.

2.6 Physicality

Learning point: this is useful work for an actor in any role to discover their physicality, walk, pace and moments of stillness.

Looking at the characters from the *Much Ado About Wenlock* production, ask the pupils to find a space in the room on their own. They will need to listen carefully, work without speaking, and explore the ideas that you give to them.

Choose a character from the show.

An interesting starting point for making your character's physicality is your contact with the floor. Feet turned in or out, weight at the front on toes, or side of feet? Play with this. How does your body respond?

What part of the body is leading? For example, are your knees bent and leading, or is your pelvis or chest or nose forward and therefore leading?

Now pull the face of your character: how does this too affect your physicality?

What is the pace of your character? Start to move your character around the space, making sure that you are walking with all the physical knowledge that you have just explored.

What happens when you pause? All movement needs moments of stillness.

"Vamos is incredible. The company inspires the pupils and the staff."

St Augustine's Catholic High School



"The content was inspiring, the pace was fast and the delivery was outstanding. As a classroom practitioner I benefited from being taught by a professional."

King Charles High School



"Excellent. Definitely would recommend. An inspirational, uplifting day!"

Kingsley College



"That was the best TED day I've ever been on!"

Teacher on Mask Making Training



© 2012
Vamos Theatre:
71 Malvern Road
St Johns
Worcester WR2 4LJ
tel: 01905 748249
info@vamostheatre.co.uk
www.vamostheatre.co.uk



3 Vamos Theatre: Much Ado About Wenlock Teachers' Pack 2012 Mask Work

3.1 Introduce the masks

Show the group some masks and ask the following questions:

Question: Where do you find the character?

Answer: The character of all masks is found primarily on the eyebrows and the mouth.

Question: What breaks the magic of the mask?

Answer: So many things! But mainly, speaking and making any noise behind a full mask breaks the magic.

Discuss hot seating. Saying “no” is dull and I threaten to send them off stage if they repetitively respond this way. It’s like coming to work and hitting my head against the wall! Say yes and we can go anywhere.

3.2 Characterisation

Looking at the characters from the show, or from your set of masks, get the pupils to explore different ways of standing whilst trying to “pull the face” on the mask. At each stage have everyone standing in a space in the room, or a semi circle, or if it’s a noisy group get 5 volunteers up to show it.

- Pull the face of your character to start with and see how this affects your body.
- Your next clue for making your character’s physicality is to notice your contact with the floor. Are feet turned in, or out, weight at the front on toes, or side of feet?
- How does your body respond? What part of the body is leading? For example: are your knees bent, is your pelvis forward, is your chest out or is your nose sticking up?
- What is the pace of your character? How fast might they walk?
- What happens when they come to a stand still: do they pose?
- Your facial expression will change as your character’s emotions change and this too will change your physicality.

3.3 Hot seating

Hot seating means to ask a character/actor questions. It is not an easy thing to do. Having a script does help. Having an actor who says “no” to everything is dull, boring and hard work. Before hot seating, I always play these two games in order to make my hot seats as successful as possible.

“Vamos is incredible. The company inspires the pupils and the staff.”

St Augustine's Catholic High School



“The content was inspiring, the pace was fast and the delivery was outstanding. As a classroom practitioner I benefited from being taught by a professional.”

King Charles High School



“Excellent. Definitely would recommend. An inspirational, uplifting day!”

Kingsley College



“That was the best TED day I’ve ever been on!”

Teacher on Mask Making Training



© 2012
Vamos Theatre:
71 Malvern Road
St Johns
Worcester WR2 4LJ
tel: 01905 748249
info@vamostheatre.co.uk
www.vamostheatre.co.uk



3 Vamos Theatre: Much Ado About Wenlock Teachers' Pack 2012 Mask Work

3.4 Just say "No!"

Aim: to show the frustration and boredom behind blocking ideas.

In pairs, one person asks questions, the other answers "no" to everything. The person saying "no" should be encouraged to cross their arms, avoid eye contact and to give as little energy as possible.

E.g.

"Are you having fun?"

"No"

"Are you looking forward to Christmas?"

"No"

"Do you like pink?"

"No"

The frustration only comes after two or three minutes when the pupils are struggling to think of anymore questions. Ask the pupils who asked the questions how it made them feel. You are hoping for words such as "hard", "frustrated" and "bored".

3.5 Yes let's!

Aim: to listen to and accept each other's ideas

Warning: this game should be noisy! And a few rules of not leaving the space, hurting each other or climbing the apparatus could be useful just before they start.

In pairs,

Rob asks, "Shall we jump up and down?"

Sam replies, "Yes let's" (and they do it together.)

Sam then asks, "Shall we knock on the door?"

Rob replies, "Yes let's" (and they run to knock on the door together)

And so on...

They can sing, dance, shout and give birth to a pig on the moon.

"Vamos is incredible. The company inspires the pupils and the staff."

St Augustine's Catholic High School



"The content was inspiring, the pace was fast and the delivery was outstanding. As a classroom practitioner I benefited from being taught by a professional."

King Charles High School



"Excellent. Definitely would recommend. An inspirational, uplifting day!"

Kingsley College



"That was the best TED day I've ever been on!"

Teacher on Mask Making Training



© 2012

**Vamos Theatre:
71 Malvern Road
St Johns
Worcester WR2 4LJ
tel: 01905 748249
info@vamos theatre.co.uk
www.vamos theatre.co.uk**



3 Vamos Theatre: Much Ado About Wenlock Teachers' Pack 2012 Mask Work

3.6 How to wear a mask, and the first simple hot seat.

- Using one volunteer, show how to put on a mask - turned away from the audience, with the elastic at the top of their head to stop the mask from slipping.
- At each point of your questioning, be sure to leave pauses for the mask to respond, and only feed them more questions if they need additional provoking. You should feel like you are working hard to make them react.
- Make sure that at the end of every hot seat, the actor turns their back to the audience before they take their mask off and ensure that they receive a big round of applause.

Get the mask to turn around and start to hot seat:

"Hello, how are you? Can you have a good look around at everyone here today? Are you scared of anyone here? Why? Has something terrible happened to you today? Was it your cat? What happened? Who did it? What would you like to do to them?"

Or "Hello, give us all a big wave. Have a good look at everyone here. There is someone really special in the room isn't there? Show me who it is. You really love them, don't you? You really, really love them, don't you? Why? What is it about them that you love the most: their hair, shoes, dancing or everything?"

Always finish with:

"Thank you for coming - big round of applause - turn round before you take your mask off".

3.7 Five mask hot seat

- Ask all the 5 mask actors to turn round together. Get the audience to give them a huge round of applause. Ask a variety of questions to which they will respond. For example:
- How did they get here today? Who is the cleverest? Can you all get yourself into order of the most clever?
- Get yourself into the order of most attractive or strongest.
- Who is the funniest? Why? Who is the best dancer? Show me. Which one should not be trusted? Why not? What did she do?

3.8 Two people meet

One at a time, two people come on stage and look at each other five times and then leave the stage one at a time. They can have two chairs next to each other to go and sit on. Discuss what worked, and what the story was. There is usually a beginning, middle and an end. I always play music underneath these scenes, a piece without lyrics. This is the first stages of devising mask theatre. If you use music with lyrics, it makes the audience more aware that the full mask is incapable of speaking.

"Vamos is incredible. The company inspires the pupils and the staff."

St Augustine's Catholic High School



"The content was inspiring, the pace was fast and the delivery was outstanding. As a classroom practitioner I benefited from being taught by a professional."

King Charles High School



"Excellent. Definitely would recommend. An inspirational, uplifting day!"

Kingsley College



"That was the best TED day I've ever been on!"

Teacher on Mask Making Training



© 2012
Vamos Theatre:
71 Malvern Road
St Johns
Worcester WR2 4LJ
tel: 01905 748249
info@vamostheatre.co.uk
www.vamostheatre.co.uk



3 Vamos Theatre: Much Ado About Wenlock Teachers' Pack 2012 Mask Work

3.9 Meet the professional athletes hot seat

All five mask actors turn round together, after 3 seconds

"So, you know why you are all here? Yes, of course you do.... because, you are all professional athletes and you all want to be considered for the next Olympic Games."

Individual questions:

- So, (try to give the masks names) "mask number one" or "Goofy" or "Mr Sankey" What is your sport: running; sprint or long distance; javelin; high jump?
- How many medals have you won?
- What country do you compete for? (tricky one to answer in mask!).
- What is your coach like, your personnel trainer? Fat, lazy, strict, do they let you watch TV?
- Tell us about your training habits? Do you train everyday? What do you do? If they have no answer- offer- press ups, star jumps, spotty dog?
- What are your eating habits like: vegetarian, MacDonalds' milkshakes, pizza, nothing, chips, healthy diet?

"So, let's have a simple race to see who might join the team for Great Britain."

"This race is a brand new Olympic sport called "First to put" and basically the winner is the first to put something where I tell you to."

3.10 "First to put"

- Elbows on knees....and now look up (to ensure they are looking at the audience).
- Hands on head
- One foot on your bum
- Little finger in belly button
- Elbow to elbow
- Etc etc....!

3.11 Group questions

- So tell me: out of all of you, which one of you is going to win a medal this/ next year?
- Who is going to lose?
- Who does the most training?
- Who uses illegal substances to improve their performance?
- Which one should not be trusted? Why not? What did she do?

"Great, thanks very much for coming. Can I have just have one last group photograph, with your proud Olympic pose that you will pull when first introduced to the stadium?"

"Thank you for coming - big round of applause - turn round before you take your mask off."

"Vamos is incredible. The company inspires the pupils and the staff."

St Augustine's Catholic High School



"The content was inspiring, the pace was fast and the delivery was outstanding. As a classroom practitioner I benefited from being taught by a professional."

King Charles High School



"Excellent. Definitely would recommend. An inspirational, uplifting day!"

Kingsley College



"That was the best TED day I've ever been on!"

Teacher on Mask Making Training



© 2012

**Vamos Theatre:
71 Malvern Road
St Johns
Worcester WR2 4LJ
tel: 01905 748249
info@vamostheatre.co.uk
www.vamostheatre.co.uk**



3 Vamos Theatre: Much Ado About Wenlock Teachers' Pack 2012 Mask Work

3.12 Hot seat using props

Five masked actors all turn around together, or ask them to turn around one at a time to have an individual entrance and initial character establishment.

Have five random props lying on the floor in front of them, all in the same pile (anything from a teddy bear to a frying pan to a lipstick to an empty packet of crisps).

Ask them to go and find their belonging.

- Have you all definitely got your own objects, or has someone else taken yours?
- Has someone stolen it?
- Why should they give it to you?
- What will you do to them if they won't give it to you?
- What will you do if they do give it to you?

They may decide to swap belongings. You may have to give orders to avoid too much confrontation.

- So, you all now have your own special, precious belonging.
- Who has the most precious belonging?
- Who has the most expensive belonging?
- Who has a useless, worthless possession?
- How long have you had it?
- What do you use it for?
- But it also has additional uses doesn't it?
- Can you show us?
- Thank you for coming - big round of applause - turn round before you take your mask off.

This hot seat shows how informative props are as part of a character's detail, how much focus they can be given, and how mime is to be avoided.

"Vamos is incredible. The company inspires the pupils and the staff."

St Augustine's Catholic High School



"The content was inspiring, the pace was fast and the delivery was outstanding. As a classroom practitioner I benefited from being taught by a professional."

King Charles High School



"Excellent. Definitely would recommend. An inspirational, uplifting day!"

Kingsley College



"That was the best TED day I've ever been on!"

Teacher on Mask Making Training



© 2012
Vamos Theatre:
71 Malvern Road
St Johns
Worcester WR2 4LJ
tel: 01905 748249
info@vamos theatre.co.uk
www.vamos theatre.co.uk



4 Vamos Theatre: Much Ado About Wenlock Teachers' Pack 2012 Character Drawing

4.1 Character Drawing

Aims: to explore character in detail. This can be useful for drama, theatre design and even history.

Stage One:

Split your class into groups of 4-6.

Each group needs a space, with a large roll of paper on the floor. One member of each group lies down on the piece of paper, whilst the others draw around that person's outline.

Add the details of a large heart, a circle for the insides of their tummy, a pair of pants (non gender specific!), a thought bubble and a speech bubble.



"Vamos is incredible. The company inspires the pupils and the staff."

St Augustine's Catholic High School



"The content was inspiring, the pace was fast and the delivery was outstanding. As a classroom practitioner I benefited from being taught by a professional."

King Charles High School



"Excellent. Definitely would recommend. An inspirational, uplifting day!"

Kingsley College



"That was the best TED day I've ever been on!"

Teacher on Mask Making Training



© 2012

**Vamos Theatre:
71 Malvern Road
St Johns
Worcester WR2 4LJ
tel: 01905 748249
info@vamostheatre.co.uk
www.vamostheatre.co.uk**



4 Vamos Theatre: Much Ado About Wenlock Teachers' Pack 2012 Character Drawing

Stage Two - Time to imagine

Ask all the students to individually find a quiet space, far away from anyone that might distract them and to sit on the floor with their eyes closed. You are then going to offer a list of questions about their character for them to think about on their own.

Character Questions:

- How old are they?
- What is their name?
- Where were they born?
- What is their favourite item of clothing?
- What is their favourite food?
- What music do they like?
- What is their favourite thing to look at?
- What is their favourite possession?
- What do they smell like - their perfume, their feet, their breath?
- What accident might have happened to them when they were younger?
- What are they allergic to?
- What are they afraid of?
- Who do they love the most?
- What do they want to be when they grow up?
- Have they ever been hurt?
- Who by? What happened?
- Have they ever been in love?
- What do they like to drink?
- Think of your character's details that you have drawn - of their heart, their tummy, their underpants and their two thought bubbles.
- Who is in their heart?
- What is in their tummy?
- What kind of pants do they wear? This is an optional question.
- What is in their thought bubble?
- What is the kind of thing they would say? Write it in the speech bubble.

Stage Three - Time to create

Each group then re-gathers around their character. With lively music (playing quietly), repeat the list of questions to prompt ideas. Encourage them to both DRAW as well as write descriptions. For example, if they have a favourite piece of jewellery, make sure that they draw it. All characters need faces, hair, shoes, clothes, as well as the questions answered.

"Vamos is incredible. The company inspires the pupils and the staff."

St Augustine's Catholic High School



"The content was inspiring, the pace was fast and the delivery was outstanding. As a classroom practitioner I benefited from being taught by a professional."

King Charles High School



"Excellent. Definitely would recommend. An inspirational, uplifting day!"

Kingsley College



"That was the best TED day I've ever been on!"

Teacher on Mask Making Training



© 2012
Vamos Theatre:
71 Malvern Road
St Johns
Worcester WR2 4LJ
tel: 01905 748249
info@vamostheatre.co.uk
www.vamostheatre.co.uk



4 Vamos Theatre: Much Ado About Wenlock Teachers' Pack 2012 Character Drawing

Stage Four - Introducing the characters

Ask the groups to decide how they are going to share introducing and explaining all about their character. As a whole group, visit each character with everyone looking and listening carefully. This exercise should generate endless ideas and is basically another form of hot seating.

Your Character Drawing might look a little like this:



"Vamos is incredible. The company inspires the pupils and the staff."

St Augustine's Catholic High School



"The content was inspiring, the pace was fast and the delivery was outstanding. As a classroom practitioner I benefited from being taught by a professional."

King Charles High School



"Excellent. Definitely would recommend. An inspirational, uplifting day!"

Kingsley College



"That was the best TED day I've ever been on!"

Teacher on Mask Making Training



© 2012
Vamos Theatre:
 71 Malvern Road
 St Johns
 Worcester WR2 4LJ
 tel: 01905 748249
 info@vamos theatre.co.uk
 www.vamos theatre.co.uk



5 Vamos Theatre: Much Ado About Wenlock Teachers' Pack 2012 Music and Sound

5.1 Much Ado About Wenlock Soundtrack

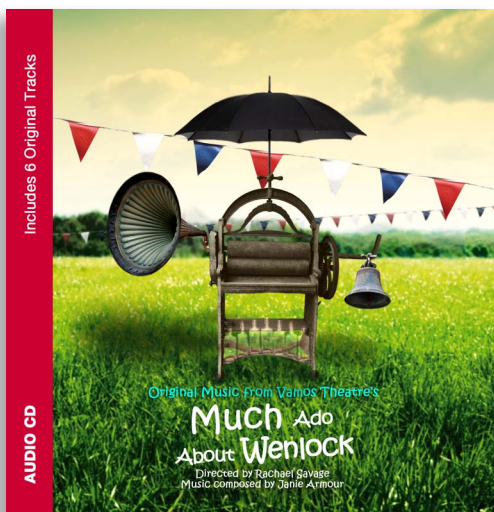
A CD of the music for *Much Ado About Wenlock* can be bought to support and inspire your drama teaching. It is perfect to use for mask and physical theatre and includes the "audience watching the Olympics" soundtrack which can be used for your own Olympic project. Please contact the Vamos office to order one, or alternatively, CDs will be on sale in our theatre venues.

Music and sound play an important role in *Much Ado About Wenlock*. The soundtrack helps to tell the story, reinforcing and underpinning the action on stage. Vamos's composer, Janie Armour, has used a combination of musical styles and recognisable everyday sounds to help the audience interpret elements of the story, such as:

- The personality of a character
- What a character is feeling
- Where the action is taking place
- What the pace of the action is

When the baby is born (CD track 1: 2'43), the piano plays a high musical box-like theme, helping illustrate the baby's delicate character: when Eddie is learning to box for the first time, the music gets bolder as it progresses, showing how Eddie is getting more confident (CD track 6): The jazzy music for the Butcher's scene (CD track 3) is based rhythmically on the chopping and sharpening of knives, as well as the cries of animals, to show humorously where we are and what kind of characters the butchers are. Finally, in the Race (CD track 4: 5'00 – 6'52) the pace of the music helps the audience feel the excitement of the race, and all its ups and downs.

In a piece without words, the soundtrack carefully reinforces the action on stage, and helps to keep the story clear and engaging.



**The Sound Track:
Original Music From Vamos
Theatre's *Much Ado About
Wenlock*
by Janie Armour
is now available on CD.**

For more info contact:
info@vamostheatre.co.uk
or visit:
www.vamostheatre.co.uk/merchandise

"Vamos is incredible. The company inspires the pupils and the staff."

St Augustine's Catholic High School



"The content was inspiring, the pace was fast and the delivery was outstanding. As a classroom practitioner I benefited from being taught by a professional."

King Charles High School



"Excellent. Definitely would recommend. An inspirational, uplifting day!"

Kingsley College



"That was the best TED day I've ever been on!"

Teacher on Mask Making Training



© 2012
**Vamos Theatre:
71 Malvern Road
St Johns
Worcester WR2 4LJ
tel: 01905 748249
info@vamostheatre.co.uk
www.vamostheatre.co.uk**



6 Vamos Theatre: Much Ado About Wenlock Teachers' Pack 2012

Further Reading

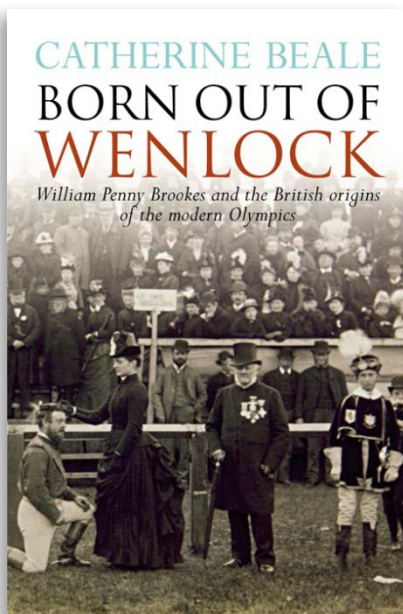
6.1 Born out of Wenlock

For more historical inspiration see Catherine Beale's book, *Born out of Wenlock*. Read the true story of the Wenlock Olympian Games and its Victorian participants - one of endeavour, dedication, love, loss, cheating, drowning and even murder.

Born out of Wenlock: William Penny Brookes and the British origins of the modern Olympics by Catherine Beale.

"Excellent... I read throughout immediately, finding it absolutely fascinating... most readable ... Much recommended." Roddy Fisher in Roadrunner

"A lovely book... absorbing" Brian Viner, *The Independent*



Born out of Wenlock
Catherine Beale
ISBN 978-1-85983-967-6

£12.99

Available signed by the author on
www.cbeale.co.uk
or from bookshops and on-line.

"Vamos is incredible. The company inspires the pupils and the staff."

St Augustine's Catholic High School



"The content was inspiring, the pace was fast and the delivery was outstanding. As a classroom practitioner I benefited from being taught by a professional."

King Charles High School



"Excellent. Definitely would recommend. An inspirational, uplifting day!"

Kingsley College



"That was the best TED day I've ever been on!"

Teacher on Mask Making Training



© 2012
Vamos Theatre:
71 Malvern Road
St Johns
Worcester WR2 4LJ
tel: 01905 748249
info@vamos theatre.co.uk
www.vamos theatre.co.uk



7 Vamos Theatre: Much Ado About Wenlock Teachers' Pack 2012 Follow-up Opportunities

7.1 Following on

Much Ado About Wenlock presents many follow-up options to explore, right across the curriculum. Here are a few ideas of themes:

- Bullying
- Training and practice
- Alcoholism
- Health
- Family
- Child mortality
- Health and safety
- Community
- Fitness

In the historical research for this production we had great fun exploring the following areas:

- The Victorian Age
- Children in Victorian times
- Education in Victorian times
- Health in Victorian times
- Dr William Penny Brooke's achievements
- The connection with Pierre De Cumbertain

The London 2012 Olympic Games has a website to visit and many ways to get involved, including following the journey of the Olympic Torch.

"Vamos is incredible. The company inspires the pupils and the staff."

St Augustine's Catholic High School



"The content was inspiring, the pace was fast and the delivery was outstanding. As a classroom practitioner I benefited from being taught by a professional."

King Charles High School



"Excellent. Definitely would recommend. An inspirational, uplifting day!"

Kingsley College



"That was the best TED day I've ever been on!"

Teacher on Mask Making Training



© 2012

**Vamos Theatre:
71 Malvern Road
St Johns
Worcester WR2 4LJ
tel: 01905 748249
info@vamos theatre.co.uk
www.vamos theatre.co.uk**