



Act 2 Scene 2

2/15/19

Today's

Goals

- Discuss role reversal
- Read Act 2 Scene 2 out loud as a class

Focus Question:

- What is role reversal and how did it create humor in Shakespeare's work?
- What major conflict arises in this scene?

Role Reversal

- Remember, that in Shakespeare's time, women could not perform on the theater stage.
- So men had to play all the women's parts
- In one of Shakespeare's plays there is a male actor playing a female character who has to disguise herself as a guy...



Watch this clip

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jf67WlthWXk>
- If you liked this, then you'll like Shakespeare's Twelfth Night (this movie is based on this play!)
- Think back to Flute and his complaint against playing a woman character.
 - Why do you think it was such a hard thing for a man to play a woman's part?
 - Why do you think women were not allowed to perform on stage?

Males playing female roles



- The costumes used for the female characters were extremely elaborate, reflecting the clothes worn during the Elizabethan era.
- Wigs, or periwigs as they were called, were readily available as they were in fashion at the time so this was not a costuming problem.
- However, the make up used by Elizabethan women, and therefore the boy actors, was! The white make-up was lead based and highly poisonous!
- The young boy actors were therefore very unhealthy, had unpleasant facial skin diseases and a high proportion actually died of lead poisoning.
- The boy actors who took the female roles were also paid the least of all actors.
- Modern day actors playing female roles: Adam Sandler (Jack and Jill) Robin Williams (Mrs. Doubtfire) John Travolta (Hairspray)

Where are the women?

- Players and Playwrights were not consider the optimum career during this time period, and most had other full time jobs doing something else.
- Actors were usually low social status.
- Women weren't on stage because... it was the law. It was illegal.
- As acting troupes were traveling, there was an extreme lack of privacy, so it was also inappropriate for women to travel with men.

Modern day women playing male roles:
Amanda Bynes (She's the Man), Angelina Jolie (Salt)



They used to date but D\$ was like, suh, my homeboy Egeus got a hot daughter and she needs to be wed, so I volunteer as tribute (also, I hate Lys)

Characters: The Lovers

Helena ♀

OBSESSIVELY

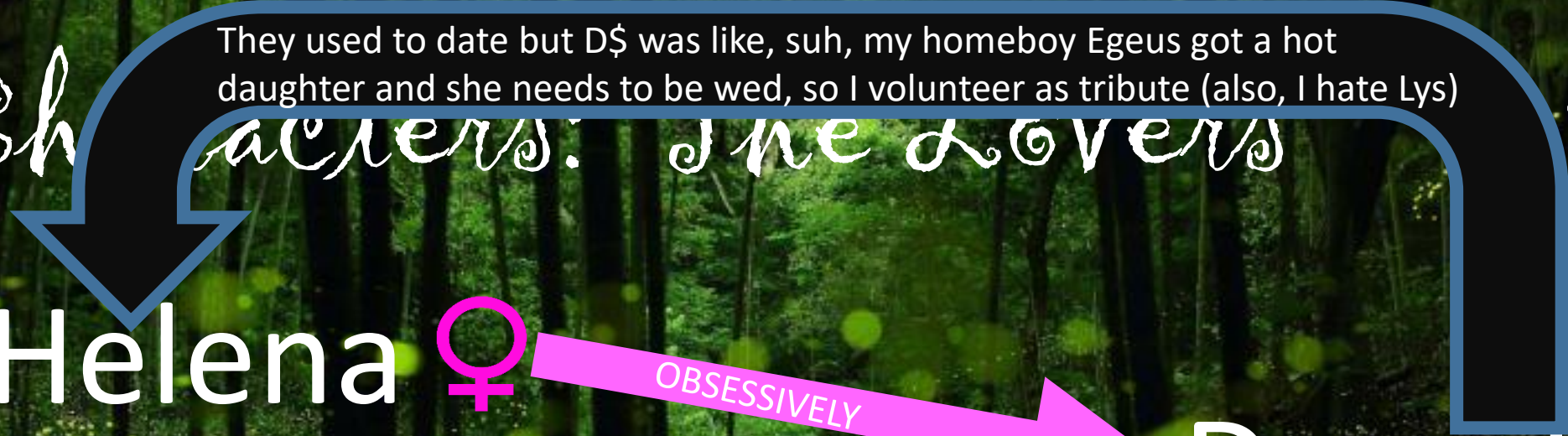
Demetrius ♂

Hermia ♀

Lysander ♂

Egeus (father)

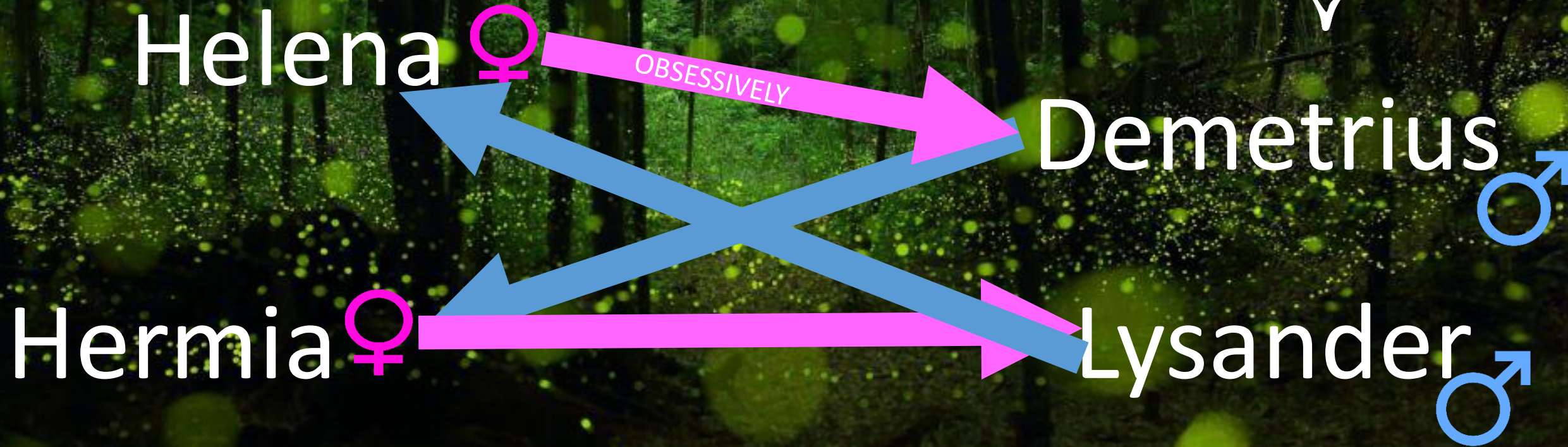
Act 1 scene 1



Role Call Page 1557

- Girls must play the male roles
- Boys must play the female roles
- Do this seriously- don't try to be funny, try reading your lines the way they were expected to be.
- Helena (Ms. B)
- Titania
- Fairy 1
- Chorus
- Fairy 2
- Oberon
- Lysander
- Hermia
- Puck
- Demetrius

Characters: The Lovers



Nobody loves the person that loves them back

Act 2 scene 2

Reflection Questions

- What was it like to hear/play the opposite sex?
- What challenges did you face as a performer/listener?





sources

- [Enotes.com](https://www.enotes.com)