

GESTURE - *AND THE QUALITY OF MERCY*

A workshop for Theatre studies, Drama and English Students and Teachers

The workshop will introduce students and teachers to the empowerment of actors through gesture's ability to enhance chosen words, paint the scene for audiences and reflect the passions. Gesture can also produce moments of classical beauty.

Helga Hill, director of the Early Arts Guild of Victoria, will present the workshop. In addition to annual invitations (1977-1998) to teach historic dance and gesture for early opera/masque productions in Europe, she has more recently given courses at the University of Melbourne and Sydney Conservatorium. Private programs in gesture have been provided for teachers and leading singers.

Assisting in the workshop will be actress Annabel Green who studied gesture with Helga Hill at the University of Melbourne in 2008. She now performs regularly with the Early Arts Guild of Victoria.

WORKSHOP CONTENT

The following topics and performances will be included –

1. Background to gesture – its history, philosophy and aim
2. Basic gesture movements and conventions
3. Presentation of a poem with gesture
4. Discussion of (3) – choice of words suitable for gesture, their size and direction. Placement of persons/things mentioned in the text.
5. Presentation of Portia's speech
6. Discussion of (5) – choice of words to gesture and placement of persons within the courtroom, etc.

OTHER DETAILS – Time required – forty minutes to set up. The presentation will take two normal school periods. Suitable venue and student numbers – to be discussed. Overhead equipment to be supplied by the school. Printed material will be provided gratis to each student. Publicity material and press release will be issued in advance. Local media welcome – if school wishes.

COST - \$400 plus travel - \$50 in the metropolitan area. More distant schools may apply for a quote.

ENQUIRIES AND PAYMENT – Early Arts Guild of Victoria, 52 Nimmo Street, Middle Park, 3206. Vic. – Phone 03 9699 8417 – email helgamhill@bigpond.com