



Forkbeard Fantasy: Shooting Shakespeare



17th September 2004



bfi Video Publishing's [Silent Shakespeare](#) is the inspiration for Forkbeard Fantasy's Shooting Shakespeare, which begins touring the UK 28th September at the Hall for Cornwall in Truro. Forkbeard Fantasy, maestros of comic cine theatre, are renowned and much loved for their eye boggling comic shows, multiple film projections, grotesque characters, hilarious puppetry and wild mechanical sets.

The idea for Shooting Shakespeare sprung from a conversation on Early Cinema between Deborah Shaw of the Bath Shakespeare Festival and Neil Brand, musician and composer of soundtracks for numerous *bfi* DVD and video releases (including the recently released [Piccadilly](#), [South](#) and [The Ring](#)). Of particular interest were early 1900s films of Shakespeare's plays made by some of the great Shakespearean actor managers and impresarios of the time, which are held by the *bfi* National Film and Television Archive and are available on *bfi* Video's Silent Shakespeare.

Forkbeard Fantasy were well known to Deborah for their work with film in theatre and their particular penchant for the Early Years of Cinema, which they'd explored in their hit show, *The Fall of The House of Usherettes* in 1995, a celebration of 100 Years of Cinema. The result was Forkbeard Fantasy's 30th anniversary show, *Shooting Shakespeare* is a murder mystery comedy set in the pioneering days of Early Cinema. Set in 1904, a group of fledgling movie moguls, desperate to elevate the tone of their upstart art-form, enlist the help of the mighty theatre impresarios to shoot the first ever silent version of *The Tempest*.

[Silent Shakespeare is available to buy on VHS](#)

Silent Shakespeare will be available to buy on DVD from 25th October, priced £19.99. To place an advance order for the DVD, please email marketing.films@bfi.org.uk

[Forkbeard Fantasy website](#) including dates and venues for Shooting Shakespeare.

[The isle is full of silence](#)

Article on Silent Shakespeare in *The Guardian* (March 10th)

2004)

Silent Shakespeare features a new score specially commissioned by award winning young composer [Laura Rossi](#). Silent Shakespeare will be touring selected cinemas around the UK with a live musical accompaniment of Laura's score, beginning at Cambridge Arts Picture House on 24th October. Further details of the Silent Shakespeare tour will be available soon.

Last updated Thursday October 14 2004 contact: feedback@bfi.org.uk

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