

Renaissance Academy of Performing Arts

“How Can I Prepare Now?”



Speak the Speech . . . Do not be intimidated by the need to learn and speak Elizabethan English. Its easy! All Apprentices will take a workshop in “Elizabethan As a Second Language.” We provide all Apprentices with a copy of the *Elizabethan Language Book*. You can prepare now by reading the actual words of Elizabethans aloud. Shakespeare’s lighthearted play *The Merry Wives Of Windsor* presents a good collection of colorful characters and is a good place to start.

Other books:

The Complete Works Of William Shakespeare, annotated edition
The Bible, King James Version
The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood, Howard Pyle, Signet, 1985 (focus on the dialogue).
Shakespeare’s Insults, Wayne F. Hill & Cynthia J. Ottchen, MainSail Press 1991

Get Help from Hollywood You might begin by viewing two recent motion pictures. The first, *Shakespeare in Love*, captures the colorful characters, humor and the romance of the era which we attempt to portray at the Faire. The second, *Elizabeth*, focuses on the intrigue of the Elizabethan court and the emergence of Queen Elizabeth I as a legendary woman and powerful monarch. Both are rated “R” and not appropriate for children.

Meet the People and Their Times A vast number of books dealing with the history, culture and folklore of the era have been published over the years. You’ll find a good deal of useful information in the following small sample.

The Birth of the Elizabethan Age, Norman Jones, Blackwell Publisher 1993
The Customs & Ceremonies of Britain, Charles Kightly, Thames & Hudson 1986
Daily Life in Elizabethan England, Jeffrey L. Singman, Greenwood Press, 1995
Dictionary of Superstitions, I. Opie & M. Tatem, Oxford University Press 1989
Elizabethan Life in Town and Country, M. St. Claire Byrne, Methuen 1925/Sutton 1987
The Description of England, William Harrison, Dover/Folger 1994
The Elizabethan Renaissance, A. L. Rowse, Scribners 1971
The Golden Bough, Sir Jame George Frazer, Any edition
Lost Country Life, Dorothy Hartley, Pantheon Books 1979
Popular Culture in Early Modern Europe, Peter Burke, Harper & Row 1978
The Portable Elizabethan Reader, ed. Hiram Haydn, Viking 1955
Religion & the Decline of Magic, Keith Thomas, Charles Scribner’s sons 1971
Vexed & Troubled Englishmen, Carl Bridenbaugh, Oxford 1968