

CYMBELINE

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By **William Shakespeare**

Directed by **Esther Jun**

GRADE RECOMMENDATION

Grade 9+

CONTENT ADVISORY

The play deals with mature content including the exploration of sexual violence and assault as well as staged violence and depictions of death. [Please see the show page for a detailed audience advisory.](#)

SYNOPSIS

Forbidden love. Familial strife. Political intrigue. In *Cymbeline*, the final play from Shakespeare's First Folio, the playwright fuses romance, comedy and tragedy to create a unique fantasia brimming with mistaken identities and gender-swapping disguises.

Set in an ancient British kingdom, the story introduces Imogen, one of Shakespeare's most beloved heroines, as well as the dastardly Iachimo, a worthy contender for all-time greatest villain.

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

GLOBAL COMPETENCIES:

- Citizenship, Collaboration, Communication, Creativity, Critical Thinking, Metacognition, Self-Awareness

GRADE 9-12

- The Arts
- Canadian and World Studies
- English
- Health and Physical Education
- Technological Education

GRADE 11-12

- Social Sciences and Humanities

POST-SECONDARY

- Suitable for courses in disciplines such as Arts, Cultural Studies, Creative Writing, Drama, English, Fine Arts, Gender Studies, History, Human Rights, Social Development Studies, Teacher Education and Theatre

THEMES

- The Climate Crisis and Environmental Care
- Deceit, Disguise and Mistaken Identities
- Family and Belonging
- Fate and Free Will
- Forgiveness, Reconciliation and Hope
- Gender, Misogyny and Toxic Masculinity
- Generational Relationships and Rifts
- Grief, Loss and Separation
- Illusion vs. Reality
- Loyalty and Betrayal
- Magic and the Gods
- Power and Leadership
- Sex, Love and Desire
- War, Greed and Invasion

DISCUSSION AND REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Why do you think people today are so drawn to stories in the fantasy genre?
- What does forgiveness mean to you? What should forgiveness include?
- What makes a good leader? List three characteristics of a good leader and explain why you think each of them is important. Do you think we need leaders with different qualities for times of peace versus times of war? Explain your position.
- Can theatre help us solve the climate crisis? Why or why not?

STUDY GUIDES

- Study Guides for selected 2024 productions are available free of charge online: stratfordfestival.ca/StudyGuides
- Email educate@stratfordfestival.ca for access to past study guides.

BOOKING INFORMATION: STUDENT MATINÉES, WORKSHOPS & CHATS

STUDENT MATINÉES

You may book any available date, but selected student matinée performances for this show are at 2 p.m. on the following dates:

- Friday, May 10
- Thursday, May 16
- Wednesday, May 22
- Friday, May 24
- Monday, May 27
- Friday, June 7
- Tuesday, June 18
- Friday, September 6
- Wednesday, September 11

WORKSHOPS & CHATS

Workshops and Chats (virtual, onsite or at your school/centre) can be booked by calling the Box Office at 1.800.567.1600 or by emailing educate@stratfordfestival.ca.

Pre-Show Workshops customized to your students' needs and interests are available from 10–11 a.m. or 11 a.m.–noon before selected matinées.

\$10 per student

stratfordfestival.ca/Workshops

Half-Hour Post-Show Chats with cast and creative team members are available after selected matinées.

\$3 per student

stratfordfestival.ca/Chats

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Tools for Teachers includes InterACTIVE Preshows, Study Guides and Stratford Shorts.

PROUD SEASON PARTNER



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