

# The Royalty of the Renaissance Study Guide



## Interactive Plays

Kitty's unique interactive plays weave history, literature, manners, customs, dance and music into theatrical presentations where audience members - both teachers and students - portray the key characters and historical figures of the times. Great sensitivity is used when involving participants, as some folks would prefer to simply sit back and watch the antics of their comrades.

*In order to set good examples of theatre etiquette, it is respectfully requested that teachers attend programs without papers or homework in hand.*

## The Royalty of the Renaissance

England (1598) The show provides students with a greater understanding of life and times in Elizabethan England. Customs, manners and class structure are explored by the students. Queen Elizabeth's journey to the throne and her royal lineage are also recreated. A court dance using period music and dance techniques is taught using teachers and students to portray the royal court dancers. The show ends with an exhibition of knightly manners and lady-in-waiting traditions encouraging participation from all.



## Lady Celia Beaumont

Lady Celia, a fictitious Elizabethan Lady-In-Waiting, speaks in an eloquent Elizabethan dialect while creating an historic depiction of life during the Renaissance Era. An appropriate blue velvet gown is worn with hoop, bum-roll and a ruff. A headpiece and veil complete the elaborate hand crafted attire.

## Performance Objectives

Create a supportive environment whereby students' participation results in a positive, self-affirming experience that allows them to co-create the show with the character by

- Enabling students to begin to think like an Elizabethan.
- Demonstrating the differences between the 16th and 21st Centuries
- Inviting students to participate in depicting those differences
- Illustrating the roles of men, women and children in the 16th Century
- Enabling students to understand, respect and appreciate the roles and changes of the last four hundred years.

Kitty Jones - Kit's Interactive Theatre - P.O. Box 43 - Sciota, PA 18354  
[info@kitsinteractivetheatre.com](mailto:info@kitsinteractivetheatre.com) [www.kitsinteractivetheatre.com](http://www.kitsinteractivetheatre.com)

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## Pre-Show Preparation

- Read a Shakespearean sonnet to note the difference in language
- Create Renaissance garb like armor, princess hats, helmets, masks, fans
- Discuss the class structure, from Upper Class to Lower Class:
  - King/Queen
  - Prince/Princess
  - Duke/Duchess
  - Lords and Ladies
  - Knights
  - Gentlemen
  - Yeomen/Farmers
  - Peasants/Working Class (tailors, brick layers, shoemakers)
  - Poor, beggars, thieves

## Post-Show Activities

- Spend a class period or an entire day greeting, escorting and conversing with each other as Elizabethan English folk.
- Prepare a scene from a Shakespearean play such as Romeo and Juliet.
- Hold a Renaissance Faire

## The Artist

Having developed her unique style of interactive theatre since 1987, Kitty combines her passion for history and her love of theatre to create 16 different high-energy shows.

Ms. Jones brings 4000 years of history and literature to life in programs ranging from *The Mysteries of Ancient Egypt* to *Women's Rights*. Since 1996, she has written, choreographed, produced and performed her own original material for Kit's Interactive Theatre. Kitty Jones has appeared on TV, Film and the stages of New York.

