

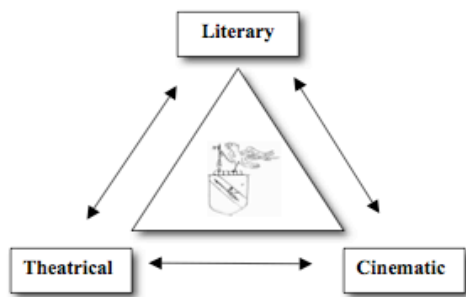
Transmediating Shakespeare

Transmediation is a young English word made from the ancient Latin roots, *trans-* meaning across and *medius* meaning middle. Today we use the word to name the act of translating meaning from one sign system into another. When we transmediate literature into theater and film, words on a page become sounds and images, sentences and scenes become shot sequences. We invent, in the words of *Hamlet* film director Michael Almereyda, “a parallel visual language that might hold a candle to Shakespeare’s poetry.”

Ask Questions

In his documentary film, *Looking for Richard*, Al Pacino asks, “What gets between us and Shakespeare?” This project challenges us to pile twenty-first century communication tools in the space between us and Shakespeare’s text and to question whether we are moving closer to or further from Shakespeare. When we transmediate the literary elements of a Shakespeare scene into a theatrical and cinematic production, what is lost in translation? What is gained? How should we read Shakespeare in the twenty-first century?

This project challenges you to find answers to these essential questions, and to ask more questions of your own.



Search for Answers

You will work in companies of five, reading several short scenes from a collection of scripts excerpted from William Shakespeare’s plays. In this collection, each scene focuses on a character that is pushed to the edges of the world in which he or she lives and marked by those more powerful as different, dangerous, and even despised. Some of the issues that get between us – race, religion, gender, ethnicity, age, education, wealth and social status – are issues that divide them too.

View the Model

View *Looking for Richard* and take focused notes on the cinematic composition.

Walk the Triangle

The project will be completed in three stages. Film each stage in the process.

Stage One: Read, Reread, Research

Stage Two: Interview, Rehearse, Storyboard, Perform

Stage Three: View, Storyboard, Edit, Produce, Reflect

During each stage, each member of your team will assume primary responsibility for a specific role. Work together, not apart: never forget that you are a team.

Stage 1: Literary Roles	Stage 2: Theatrical Roles	Stage 3: Cinematic Roles
Discussion leader Director Readers Camera operator	Director Actors Interviewer Camera operator	Director Editor