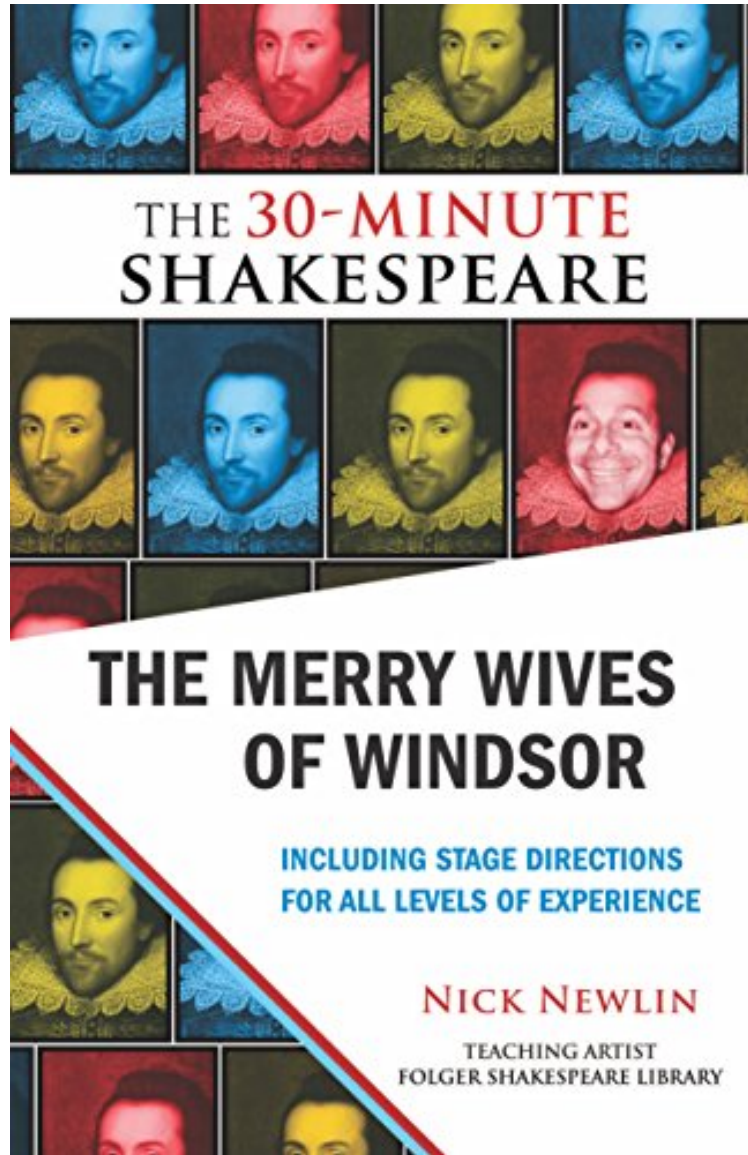


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The Merry Wives of Windsor: The 30-Minute Shakespeare

William Shakespeare

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William Shakespeare : The Merry Wives of Windsor: The 30-Minute Shakespeare before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Merry Wives of Windsor: The 30-Minute Shakespeare:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. AN EXCELLENT ADAPTATION By James K. Brendlinger I am using this script to produce THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR at the high school where I teach. The author did a great job of boiling the show down to an essence while still retaining Shakespeare's language and showcasing the characters in four representative scenes which tell the story in a economical and easy-to-follow manner. From a

teacher's perspective, this book was a great way to introduce students to a Shakespeare play they otherwise might never have encountered in high school. I taught it in four lessons, using the notes in the book as supporting material. We also watched a few scenes from a production of Verdi's FALSTAFF, a scene from MY OWN PRIVATE IDAHO (partially based on HENRY IV, and including a Falstaff-like character), and a scene from Kenneth Branagh's HENRY IV to compare the "historical" Falstaff to the "comedic" Falstaff. Then we watched a bit of I LOVE LUCY and compared Lucy Ethel to the Merry Wives. We used all of these influences to create a 30-minute production in class, and will present it to the public at our county's Shakespeare Festival at the end of the month. All of this was much more fun working with the adaptation than it might have been if I had tackled the full script. Students who especially enjoyed it have already investigated the full script on their own--again, something I doubt they would be doing in high school if they hadn't had this introduction. I strongly recommend this book (and the rest of the series) to educators who want to introduce a variety of Shakespeare plays to their students in a limited amount of time. Also excellent for Thespian One Act Play festivals. I would welcome any further inquiry about this script.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Revealing Shakespeare By Vickie Shurelds Author/Performer Nick Newlin has given an incredible tool to instructors and teachers of Drama/Theatre. As an educator, I have witnessed the attempts of several teachers as they introduce Shakespeare as required by state laws. Now that I have read The 30 Minute Shakespeare version of The Merry Wives of Windsor, I wish I could put a copy in the hands of each teacher in our state. The performance notes and pitfalls and solutions are such timesavers and each time I read the script, I am more impressed with the continuity of the story reduction, which was done without marginalizing the rich language and subtle wit of the Bard. I'm the Executive Director of the KidZ Drama Klub (KDK) and over the years, several of our members have asked for a chance to work on a Shakespeare play - until now, I have been hesitant to do that, knowing the amount of material that would need to be covered and the demanding work of getting through the language. With our copies of Nick Newlin's book in hand - we are planning our first performance for next spring. I am pleased to recommend the Merry Wives of Windsor and the entire 30 Minute Shakespeare series for community theatre directors, school curriculum coordinators, and Drama/Theatre teachers. Thanks, Nick for putting it all together!

Planning a school or amateur Shakespeare production? The best way to experience the plays is to perform them, but getting started can be a challenge: The complete plays are too long and complex, while scene selections or simplified language are too limited. "The 30-Minute Shakespeare" is a new series of abridgements that tell the story of each play from start to finish while keeping the beauty of Shakespeare's language intact. Specific stage directions and character suggestions give even inexperienced actors the tools to perform Shakespeare with confidence, understanding, and fun! This cutting of THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR begins with one of Shakespeare's favorite fat knights, Sir John Falstaff, announcing his intention to woo both Mistress Ford and Mistress Page simultaneously, to the delight of his cohorts Bardolph, Pistol, and Nym, who then decide to double-cross Falstaff. The characters' movements on stage are clearly denoted so that even inexperienced actors can give the scenes life: Robin is nearsighted, Bardolph is a drunk who tries to juggle, and Pistol and Nym are constantly jostling for position. Other key moments include the hilarious wooing of Mistress Ford by Falstaff and the hysterical concealment of Falstaff in the laundry basket. The cutting ends in the woods with Falstaff dressed as a stag, being tormented by fairies for his comeuppance. The edition also includes an essay by editor Nick Newlin on how to produce a Shakespeare play with novice actors, and notes about the original production of this abridgement at the Folger Shakespeare Library's annual Student Shakespeare Festival.

About the Author Nick Newlin has performed a juggling and variety act for international audiences for 23 years. Since 1996, he has conducted an annual Play Directing residency affiliated with the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, DC. Nick has a BA from Harvard University with Honors 1982 and an MA in Theater from The University of Maryland with an emphasis on Play Directing.