

### Collaborative Archive and Introduction

During the past eleven weeks, we have worked through our individual archives to complete an original research paper on some aspect of Restoration and/or early eighteenth-century performance. Throughout our coursework and our discussion, we have been particularly interested in the performative, the intertextual, and the embodied experience of theater during this period; we might call it the three-dimensionality of the theatrical experience. To that end, the archive project asked you to engage one text on a more historical, material level, using the primary resources at your disposal to see the drama in a new light. As a web project, this archive enabled you to use contemporary technologies of seeing to juxtapose a variety of media and sources in new and interesting ways, ideally to help generate your research interests. In a sense, the online archival projects—themselves a kind of theater—are meant to recreate a more embodied, performative way of engaging with the early conditions of modern drama. The final component of this class is a collaborative version of your individual projects, to be completed as a private, non-live web site and submitted to me on a CD-ROM for secure Internet publication. Not only are you looking at these plays in an original manner, but you are also using the capabilities of current technology to share your views and create a more textured scholarly environment for the study of Restoration and early eighteenth-century British drama.

#### **How To:**

- To complete this last component of the course, I have put you into groups based on your research interests. Read this assignment sheet in its entirety.
- Collaboratively, you should cull the most significant intertexts from your individual work, particularly insofar as they helped you prosecute your research essay.
- Recreate a collective electronic archive of your intertexts, folding your own work into this new archive.
- Finally, and most importantly, compose a 5-6 page introduction to your collaborative archive that suggests a way of seeing each student's work in relation to the group. You might want to look at a few sample introductions to get your bearings.
- This introduction should coherently represent the work of everyone in your group and address the new (electronic) form in which your work is presented. This introduction should be suitable for publication.

#### **General Requirements:**

- Think about the differences between print and electronic publication, and structure your collaborative archive in a manner that takes full advantage of the Internet as a medium.
- Your site should look professional and reliable; remember, this is a public contribution to scholarship, and you will want people to treat it as such.

- Think about the best way to organize your site—are you going to have all essays in one place, all primary sources in another, all secondary sources in a third? Or, might you be able to use the electronic medium more effectively to juxtapose different pieces of your archive? What about your presentation of the introduction? Will it be all on one page, which can be difficult to read, or will it be broken up? If so, what logic will you use? You are limited here only by your imaginations and your self-reflection.

**Web Etiquette:**

- Your site should have a title that appears both in the site itself *and on the title bar of your browser*.
- Any images used in site construction should be acknowledged in a “site information” page.
- All key images should employ descriptive alternative text for the blind.
- All links must work effectively.

**Minimum Content Specs:**

- Each student’s essay, in full, with works cited/bibliography pages associated with each
- Introduction equivalent to 5-6 MS Word pages
- At least two key archival intertexts from each student
- An MLA formatted “works cited” page *for the site itself* that contains the citations for all archival intertexts included in the collaborative project
- A “site information” page containing information about you (the authors), the course for which the project was completed, and any acknowledgements

**Due Date: On CD-ROM to my office/mailbox by 2:00pm on December 15<sup>th</sup>**