

Jeremy Johnson

Reflection on *The Rover*

When I read about the Royal Shakespeare's Company production of *The Rover*, I was immediately interested in watching the show. After seeing the performance, I was left thoroughly entertained and humored, but also a sense of inquisitiveness. This was the first time I was ever exposed to this particular work of Shakespeare, and although the duration of these productions are longer than most, the engagement the show brought to me surpassed my expectations. The live music, and dance/celebration that was incorporated in the show were some of the key elements that kept me engaged in the story. Watching a production that was staged in an Elizabethan style house and theatre brought a unique type of feel and appeal to watching theatre that I was not quite used to either. I began to feel what it must have been like to watch theatre long ago.

From a story written long ago, it makes me think about circumstances and the way of life around a Spanish carnival. The costumes in this production for example, helped make that connection to what was going on in these characters' lives. It also leaves enough for the viewer to analyze what kinds of actions were accepted and perhaps even common during that time period. The story told by the Royal Shakespeare Company was just as beautiful and suspenseful as I thought it would be, and I left with knowing about another work from Shakespeare that I had previously not read or seen before.