

Watch these different performances of Marc Antony's speech.



Damian Lewis from Band of Brothers and Homeland <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q89MLuLSJgk>

Youtube:

Damian Lewis as Antony in Julius Caesar. Watch those changes!



College students doing the big funeral speech:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZkuCaCHEjyQ>

Youtube:

Mark Antony's Funeral Speech (dj jiminez)



William Shatner (Captain James T Kirk from Star Trek)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_mnDDk464M

Youtube:

William Shatner Clip Julius Caesar Funeral Speech

Yes, it's black and white and wobbly but worth looking at for the way he interacts with the audience. A very 'politician being man of the people' performance



Marlon Brando (considered a big deal actor)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7X9C55TkUP8>

Youtube: **Mark Antony's Speech** (Pochido)

Yes, it's in black and white again. Total opposite to the Shatner one.



Charlton Heston (Planet of the Apes)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0bi1PvXCbr8>

Yes, he's old and it's a bit cheesy. In Shakespearan era clothing. Worth watching especially from 5:30 for the way Caesar's body is used to manipulate the plebians.

Youtube: Charlton Heston Mark Antony speech "Julius Caesar" (1970)



1) Copy the screen grabs from the other page and use them in your inquiry portfolio.

Underneath each picture, sum up in your own words how the character of Antony comes across in each performance (how he starts, how and when we see him change, how he ends up)

Damian Lewis his figure of speech slowly and proper, exaggerating his words with emphasis to make it very clear. He keeps an even pulse during his first words but change his pitch deeper after can phrase in order to give these words more emphasis. He always keeps eye contact with the camera, indulges the audience in what he is saying.



During the speech, the camera is slowly tracked in, keeps the audience intrigued as more body language is shown. He uses his body language to show how he feels on an issue, either implying he agrees or disagrees with something. During the speech he always keeps eye contact.

He ends up being vocally very slow, showing raw emotion, finally stops making eye contact when he states, 'My heart is in the coffin, their with Caesar.' He looks down and creates a bold statement in his love for Caesar. Overall, he seems rather deceiving and wants to take control of the audiences mind via these actions.

This adaptation starts with Antony laying down Caesars body, gives a more natural and realism feel. The slow music fills up the airiness of the event and therefore results in the Occassion being more set up. Antony doesn't make I



contact with the camera, but talks to his audience in front of him. He is more charismatic in his actions through his whole body as he uses the whole stage.

Antony comes across as stern and bewildered in his speech and doesn't give any signs of greed in changing the audiences opinion. He stays true to himself and Caesar.

He ends up using his emotions to take control of the

audience, uses screams and pitches to intrigue the audience in what he is saying. He comes across very true to Caesar and taken apart by his death and doesn't really want anything bad to happen from his speech.

William Shartner portrays Antony at the start of his speech as nervous and dishonourable through how his murmured words and low pitch shows a slight touch of lack of empathy for the moment in time. His fast pace can also shadow nervousness.



Through the speech, Antony uses his pitch louder during the passages in order to show he is becoming less nervous and more persuasive in his speech. He uses pauses for dramatic effect and makes the audience involved in what he is saying by using hand gestures to intrigue them.

He finally comes across as charismatic as he puts emphasis on some words to grab the audiences attention and has settled into becoming the centre of attention. You can see he irks this spotlight through the way he makes cunning facial expressions.

Marlon Brando plays Antony as self centred as he is not affected by the wide audience wanting to hear him. His body posture shows how he is an able man and is able to stay true to himself. His figure of speech is loud but fast, as he is incapsulating what he is trying to say into small parts, showing that he is possibly dazed.



During his speech he addresses the audience with eye contact and exaggerated sounds in order to make the audience conflicted over a matter. This makes Antony seem cunning.

He ends up screaming at the audience in disbelief and anger so they can see that he is emotional about the matter. This shows how clever Antony is as he is showing them fake emotions in order to get them on his side on conflict.

Charles Heston presents Antony as well proposed as he uses his voice to first gain the audience attention using high and low pitches. This shows how influenced Antony is in the subject.



During the speech Antony manipulates the audiences attention by using his body language as a tool to show his feelings. Like running around to show his transitions in the parts of speech to showing hand gestures to indulge the audience in what he is saying.

He finishes by incapsulating himself in the audience so he is one of them, to further manipulate them into believing in what he is saying.

2) Which performance do you prefer and why?

I most prefer Charles Hestons adaptation as the actor uses his body language to get the audience interested. This included running around to show his transitions in the parts of speech to showing hand gestures to indulge the audience in what he is saying. As well as this, his cheesiness makes it easy to follow. Finally his connection to the crowd gives the since more importance and results in the hole thing being more relatable from a audience standpoint.

3) Which bits of different performances are the most effective and why?

Damian Lewis' start of his performance was the most effective because of the way he exaggerated his words with emphasis to make it very clear. He keeps an even pulse during his first words but change his pitch deeper, he always keeps eye contact with the camera and indulges the audience in what he is saying.

The change of William Shartners adaptation is the most effective due to his change of pitch, becoming louder during the passages in order to show he is becoming less nervous and more persuasive in his speech. He uses pauses for dramatic effect and makes the audience involved in what he is saying by using hand gestures to intrigue them.

The end of Charles Heston's adaptation is the most effective as he becomes one of the audience and changes his level of importance in order to gain control over the audience, resulting in becoming passionate and loved by all.

4) Write down the 3 most important lines or short quotes that Antony delivers. What techniques can we see and why do they make things more powerful or interesting? What are the most important/powerful/symbolic words? Why?

Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears;

Antony involves all of the audience through stating there work. The metaphor of lend me your ears can be interpreted as borrowing someone's time to listen to what Antony has to say. This technique is used well as it shows that Antony is wise in his choice of words, therefore making the audience interested in what he is going to say. The powerful words in this passage is lend and ears, as it summarises what Antony wants clearly and with emphasis.

My heart is in the coffin there with Caesar,

This passage shows Antony's raw emotions, through showing his closeness in friendship with Caesar. Once again, Shakespeare has used the metaphor of putting his heart in the coffin, translating to saying that his love and thoughts are with Caesar. The symbolic words are love and coffin as it shows the juxtaposition of love and death.

I come to bury Caesar, not to praise him.

This quote shows Antony's sternness towards Caesars burial. This quote is made more interesting by showing how he is going to affiliate his burial, but instead does the opposite of this. The powerful words in this are bury and praise, these show opposites as burying is sad, praise is happy. It shows the two directions that Antony can go by in his speech.

5) What is Shakespeare telling us about through these quotes: eg about friendship, politicians, power, the public?

Antony is trying to portray the idea of friendship in these quotes by using the theme of love to emphasise his closeness with Caesar. This was most shown in, 'My heart is in the coffin there with Caesar.' This causes the audience to feel sorry for Antony, and getting sucked into Antony's persuasion.



6) One of the most recent performances of Julius Caesar has caused HUGE controversy and shows my Shakespeare is still relevant.

Watch this YouTube report on a Donald Trump-like Caesar performed in New York: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-qfzqBr1qh0>

You may also want to read:

<https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2017/jun/12/donald-trump-shakespeare-play-julius-caesar-new-york>

and, for a totally different viewpoint:



7) Next, read the pdf file 'Trumpian Julius Caesar Dropped by Sponsors' on the Google Classroom task.

- Write down what the for/against arguments are for staging it in this way?

For	Against
Keeps the same storyline as Julius Caesar Shows how Donald Trump could be ceased of power Shows the learnt lessons of the Romans, emphasis' for history to not repeat itself. Shows the comparison of protest for inequality in America/Rome	US firms pulled out support for the production Was overly graphic in Trumps death Raises the issue of political violence, assassinations Portrays Trump as a dictator in a democratic country.

1. Is it wrong for the public theatre to portray Julius Caesar as Donald Trump, considering he is assassinated on stage?

Yes it is wrong as they are publicising an assassination of him, which could spur on democrats to rebel against him, possibly in that manor.

2. Does history repeat itself, if so why?

It doesn't as millions have learnt from this in how to address a matter, nobody with that is capable of getting within distance of Trump doesn't want to assassinate him, there isn't any dictatorship and Trump cannot pass any law and legislations without the approval of others.

- 8) Find a photograph of an actor you think would be the ideal choice to play Marc Antony on stage.



Tom Hiddleston, plays roles such as Loki and the Night Manager. He is suitable as he is able to portray himself as deceiving and persuasive, with a hint of arrogance. This would be a key part in Antony's speech, being able to persuade the audience and also showing a touch of cunningness.

I would base Tom's costume of a torn battle/military suit with cuts in it, to help show that he is a competitor and battles but comes out better from it, making the crowd believe that he is a good guy with good morals, therefore helping them get manipulated into believing him.

I would set it in a slightly worn down Roman temple that showed fatigues, like Tom's costume to show that he has done well for his culture and wants to do what's best for his culture. Those setting would therefore emphasise this theme.

The idea from the costume and setting would give the idea of battle scars and history, giving the impression to the crowd that he knows what he is talking about and results in them buying into it.

- Briefly explain why you think they are suitable.
 - What kind of costume would you give them and why (eg historically Roman, Shakespearan, formal army uniform, battle fatigues, gang clothes, other).
 - Where/When would you set it and why?
 - What kind of ideas would your choice of costume and setting give to the audience?
- 9) Write some DEVELOPED director's notes about how you would want them to deliver your chosen lines.

- How should they use their voice, emotion, body language, position on the stage?

Tom would use his voice to be a nervous speaker, but will build up his speaking ability and become persuasive and maniacal. He will use body language according to how he is emotionally for example when nervous he will make less eye contact, stay in the same spot and stutter once or twice. There will be times where he gets emotional such as when he takes a break off stage and also when revealing the body to the people. When he is angered he will start to use more hand gestures, move more and stare at different parts of the crowd.

- who he/she is looking at/talking to at key points and why?

He will be looking down that the lower/further spots in the crowd as they are more of the common folk and have more chance of being persuaded. He will look at the higher parts of the temple when he talks about the noble men such as Brutus and when he is talking about the assassination itself.

- What language or techniques are most important to them in these lines and why?

Volume is the most important technique as depending on his volume will help depict if he is angered or shy or timid. This will keep the audience interested in what he is saying and therefore be manipulated into believing Antony.

10) Explain how you would want your actor to engage the audience and get them to take the part of the Roman Plebians. How will your actor 'work the crowd' and how do you hope the audience will respond?

I would want Tom to work the crowd by using his tone of language to make the crowd angered over a controversial topic. This would be done where he states that he won't read Caesars will. I would want my actor to use big hand gestures to the crowd involved to almost will them into pandemonium so that's all that is on their mind. I would hope for the response of the crowd almost begging for Antony to read the will. This would result in them being manipulated into believing everything Antony says.



Left: Caesar (top) and Marc Antony (bottom) in HBO's Rome TV series.

Right: Marc Antony works the crowd in a British stage version from June 2017.