



A new play by Katherine Tozer for Palimpsest,
commissioned by Dr Johnson's House
for performance 17th/24th April 2016 at 3 and 7pm

Playing to the Crowd follows Dr Johnson as he begins the process of editing Shakespeare's plays. With him in his Gough Square drawing room are Charlotte Lennox, who surveyed Shakespeare's sources in her *Shakespeare Illustrated*, and Johnson's former pupil, David Garrick, the celebrated actor and theatre manager. Johnson wants to hear Lennox read King Lear 'as Shakespeare wrote it'- Garrick, however, wants to know: will un-edited Shakespeare sell?

CAST

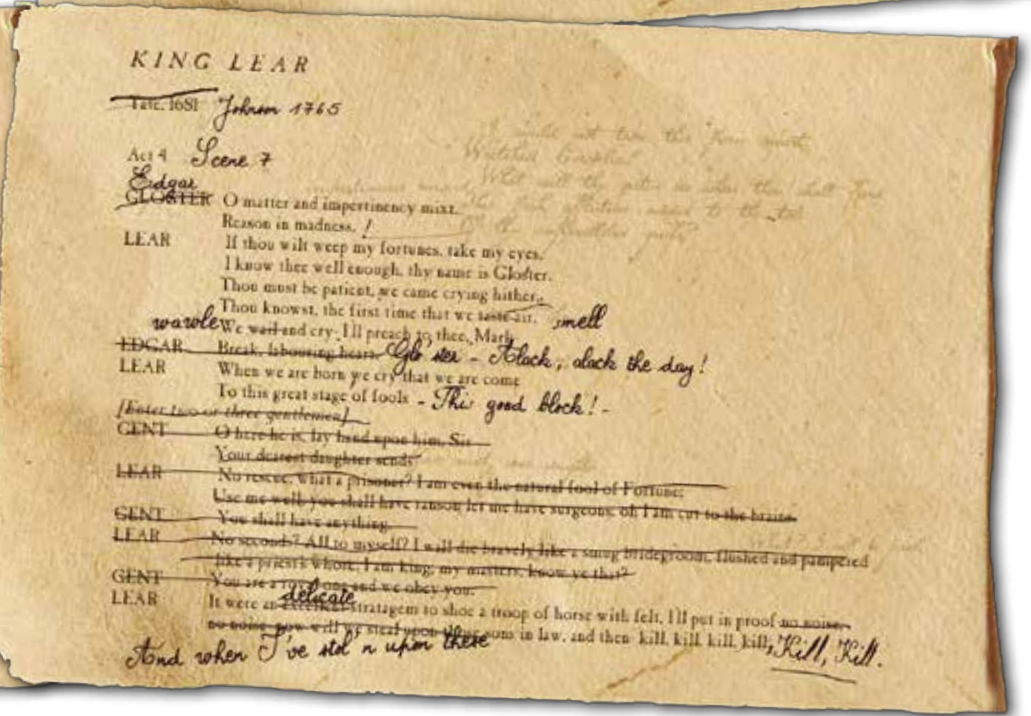
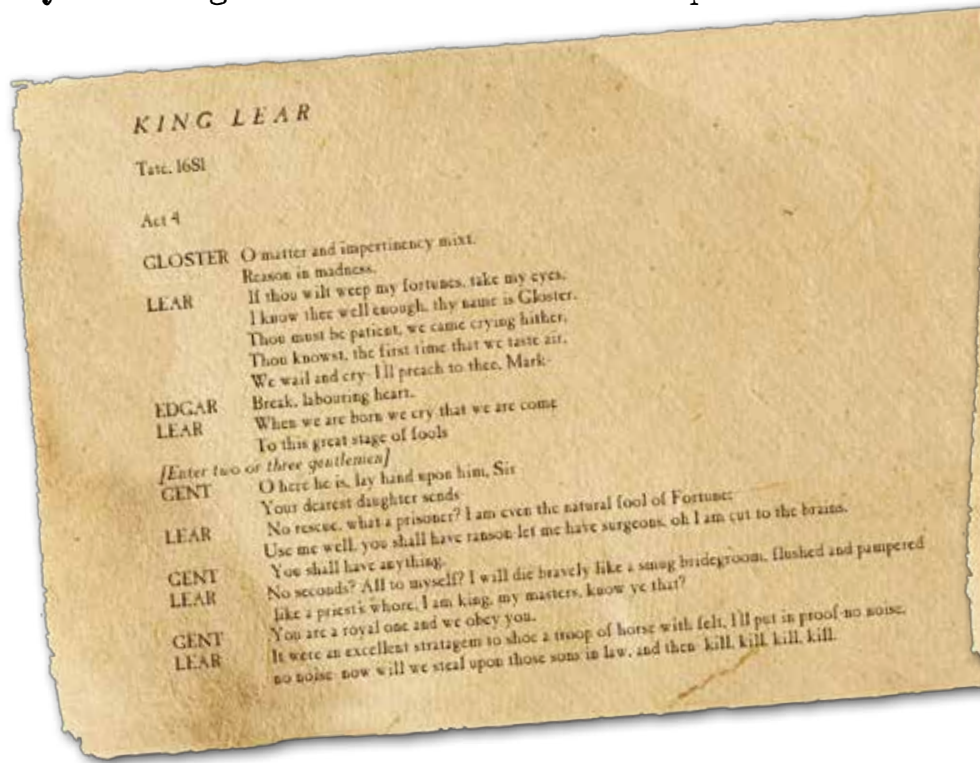
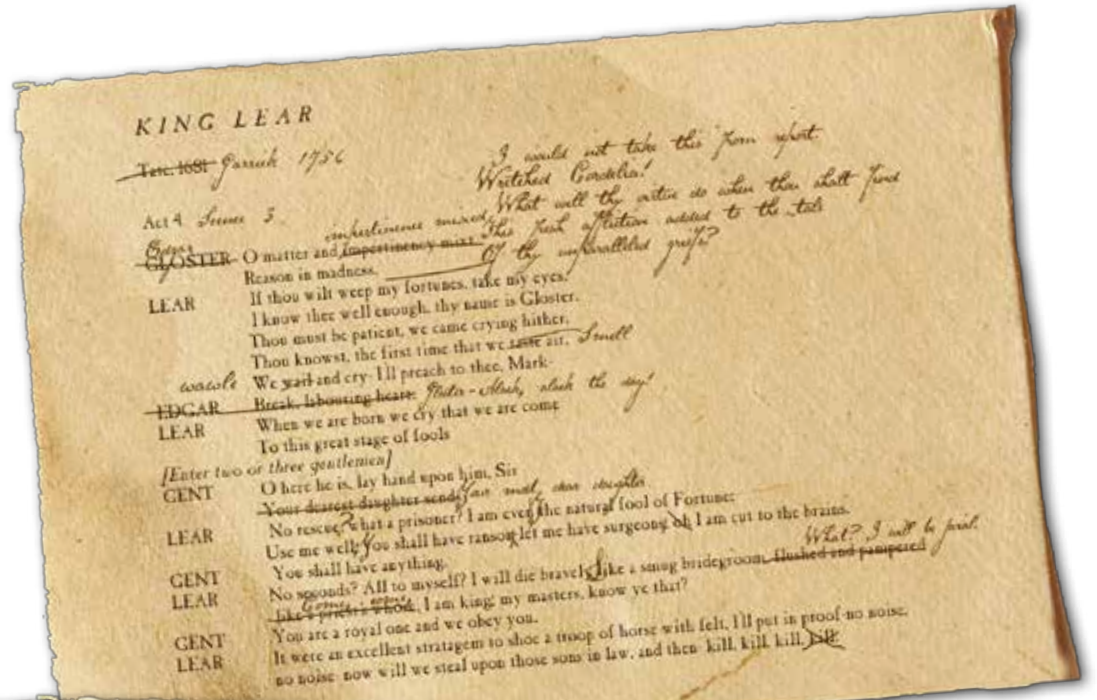
Dr Samuel Johnson - Alex Blake.
David Garrick - Nick Barber.
Charlotte Lennox - Katherine Tozer.

CREW

Director - Patrick Sandford.
Online - Oli and Chloe at Node.
Short Film - Gavin Leisfield and David Smith.
Props - Mario Ruiz.
Costume - Alicia Bloundele.

THANKS

Laura Irwin and Celine Lupp McDaid and all the
volunteers at Dr Johnson's house.
Mark Elstob, Blanche Marvin & Ana Garcia at Leighton House.
Plus thanks to Henry Hitchings, Phyllis Nagy,
Guy Ladenburg and Patrick Sandford for scriptural advice.



GLOSSARY – *First Folio* and *Quarto*.

During the Elizabethan era, plays were commonly printed as separate works in ‘quarto’ format.

A ‘quarto’ is a book produced from large pieces of paper, each of which is printed with eight pages of text, four to a side, then folded twice to produce four leaves (eight pages). Quartos are generally around eight inches high and consist of around an hundred pages.

Eighteen of Shakespeare’s thirty six plays were printed as quartos, many within his lifetime. For example, *Henry IV Part I* was first published as a quarto in 1598, with a second quarto edition in 1599 followed by a number of further quarto editions.

The texts of some of the extant quartos are highly inaccurate, full of errors and omissions. It has been speculated that they were produced by actors who had badly memorised their lines.

After Shakespeare’s death, the ‘First Folio’ of his plays was published in 1623. It is thirteen inches tall and contains four hundred and fifty four leaves, created by folding each large sheet of printed paper only once, creating four pages, to the quarto’s eight.

Collated by two actors from Shakespeare’s company, the First Folio gathers together pretty much Shakespeare’s collected works. Only around 230 First Folio editions now survive.

This weighty (and now priceless) volume is considered to contain some of the fairest versions of Shakespeare’s plays, however the quartos still hold a scholarly allure and are pored over by those who seek to divine what Shakespeare actually wrote.

For a wealth of online supporting material created to augment this play, please visit @Play2thecrowd on Twitter and visit www.palimpsest.co for tickets and more information.