

Book of Will Character Descriptions

Everyone is welcome. Shakespeare is for everybody. With the exception of the actors playing Henry and John, actors may play more than one role. The play is written in modern English, but characters occasionally quote from Shakespeare's plays and sonnets. Ages given reflect the characters' ages.

Henry Condell – 40; feisty, hopeful friend, actor in the King's Men

John Heminges – 50; reasonable friend and financial manager of the King's Men; owner of the Globe Tap House, a good man, a gentleman

Richard Burbage – 50s; seasoned lion of the stage, famous across England, loud and proud

Rebecca Heminges – 50; John's wife, a good wife. Strong, busy with their grocery business, a woman who has weathered much but loves her husband, children, and God; good friend of Elizabeth's

Elizabeth Condell – 40; Henry's wife, savvy and fun; good friend of Rebecca's

Ben Jonson – 50; Poet laureate of England, friend and rival of Shakespeare. Amazing drunk. A bear of a man. Surprisingly weepy

Sir Edward Dering – 60; book and theatre lover

Emilia Bassano Lanier – 50; fiery Italian feminist and poet, independent woman, lover of life and Shakespeare

Anne Hathaway Shakespeare – 60; Shakespeare's now ailing wife. Strong-willed, a classy lady, a survivor

Ed Knight – 40; Stage manager for the king's Men; self-serious and particular

William Jaggard – 60s; Successful if shady publisher of books, plays and playbills. An ass

Alice Heminges – 35, John's daughter, runs the Globe Tap House, knows everyone and hangs with the boys

Susannah Shakespeare – 30; Anne and William's daughter; a good girl with baggage

Isaac Jaggard – 30; William Jaggard's son; an artist at heart

Ralph Crane – 30; humble scrivener of the King's Men. Quick, sure, quiet

Marcus – 20; apprentice in Jaggard's shop; nosy; touchy; honest

Boy Hamlet – 20; young and cocky

Other characters include a Crier, a Fruit Seller, “Bernardo,” “Francisco,” “Horatio,” “Marcellus,” and assorted Bar Patrons