**Paper # 1 – Role of the Critic**

Go to the following online newspaper reviews of Seattle Shakespeare Company’s Spring 2013 production of “***The Taming of the Shrew***” :

[BWW **Reviews**: **Seattle** Shake's **TAMING OF THE SHREW** - A Rip **...**](http://broadwayworld.com/article/BWW-Reviews-Seattle-Shakes-TAMING-OF-THE-SHREW-A-Rip-Snortin-Good-Time-20130502)

*broadwayworld.com/.../BWW-****Reviews****-****Seattle****-Shakes-****TAMING-OF-TH****...*‎

May 2, 2013

[**Taming of the Shrew** by Cienna Madrid - **Seattle** Theater - The **...**](http://www.thestranger.com/seattle/taming-of-the-shrew/Content?oid=16635671)

*www.thestranger.com/****seattle****/****taming-of-the-shrew****/Content?oid=16635671*

 May 1, 2013

[Trailer Trash Meets High Class in **Seattle** Shakes' '**Taming of the** **...**](http://www.seattlemet.com/arts-and-entertainment/culture-fiend/articles/trailer-trash-meets-high-class-in-seattle-shakes-taming-of-the-shrew-april-2013)

*www.****seattle****met.com/.../trailer-trash-meets-high-class-in-****seattle****-shakes-****ta****...*‎ Apr 30, 2013

Finger Lickin’ Shakespeare with a Deep-Fried Twist

[http://cityartsonline.com/finger-lickin%E2%80%99-shakespeare-deep-fried-twist (Links to an external site.)](http://cityartsonline.com/finger-lickin%E2%80%99-shakespeare-deep-fried-twist)

Apr 29, 2013

[Rowdy gags and sexy sizzle tame '**Shrew**' | The Arts | The **Seattle** **...**](http://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=taming%20of%20the%20shrew%20seattle%20review&source=web&cd=1&ved=0CCwQFjAA&url=http%3A%2F%2Fseattletimes.com%2Fhtml%2Fthearts%2F2020917288_trailerparkshrewxml.html&ei=XtDIUY2JAqTYigL4_4CYBQ&usg=AFQjCNHa6y0ZcAipcWQtJ47uy2_ixfkD2Q&bvm=bv.48293060,d.cGE)

***seattle****times.com/html/thearts/2020917288\_trailerpark****shrew****xml.html*‎

May 3, 2013

Originally published May 3, 2013 at 5:01 pm Updated May 3, 2013 at 7:16 pm



“David Quicksall as Petruchio and Kelly Kitchens as Kate in “The Taming of the Shrew.”

By

[Misha Berson (Links to an external site.)](http://www.seattletimes.com/author/misha-berson/)

Seattle Times theater critic

In a time when the notion of “taming” a wife’s will to make her subservient to her husband is highly problematic, what to do with “The Taming of the Shrew”?

One choice is to subvert the misogyny of Shakespeare’s Punch-and-Judy comedy by underscoring its ironies, and slyly giving Kate (rather than her domineering mate Petruchio) the upper hand.

The alternative is to go with the flow, and party up the me-Tarzan message with the high theatrics and bumpkin slapstick the text allows for.

Seattle Shakespeare Company grabs the latter option in its crowd-pleasing production, which began as an outdoor Wooden O park show and has been revived for a run at the former Intiman Theatre.

Once again, director Aimee Bruneau’s staging cannily turns Padua into a trailer park full of rollicking rubes, played by much the same cast as the earlier edition.

Kate’s rich daddy is portrayed here as an aging glam mama (terrific Karen Jo Fairbrook, tottering in high heels and skintight apparel). Kate’s beauteous li’l sis Bianca (Brenda Joyner) is a baton-twirling prom queen.

Petruchio (David Quicksall), the fortune hunter who aims to tame Kate, comes on like a lanky, weathered rodeo rat. And his bumbling, puff-chested sidekick Grumio (David S. Hogan) isn’t the brightest light on the porch, to say the least.

The initially reluctant Kate is played to perfection by Kelly Kitchens, first as a hissing, motorcycle-riding hellion, then transformed into a smolderingly sexy but obedient wife. How? By being starved, held captive, denied sleep and just about everything else that violates the Geneva Conventions.

Craig Wollam’s trailer-trash set featuring a pair of battered RV’s sets the scene for a load of sight gags. Bruneau has stuffed the show with so much clever comic business, and her cast has such gung-ho fun with good ol’ redneck stereotypes, that one can (almost) suspend moral judgment to get into the rowdy spirit of things.

Actually it can be rowdy to a fault: the show runs long, and milks some of its more outrageous bits dry.

What truly sustains this “Shrew,” and makes Kate’s capitulation to Petruchio sort of tolerable, is the erotic sizzle between Quicksall and Kitchens. They’ve got it, and they flaunt it.”

Read the reviews and answer the following three questions **according to each critic**. They all answered the questions – but the answers may not always be obvious. I have included BRIEF imaginary examples from a “review” of an imaginary play. Your answers should be longer!

1. What was being attempted?
2. Was the attempt successful?
3. Was the attempt worthwhile?

These critical criteria are discussed in your textbook, THE ART OF THEATRE, on page

Here is what I am looking for in your answers to the three questions for each review:

1. **What was being attempted?**

What was this particular production, director and company trying to do with this particular play?

“According to Critic A, The “Imaginary Theatre Company” put on a production of the play “Title” where they were attempting to **“reinterpret Grimm fairytales in a steam punk manner”**

1. **Was the attempt successful?**

What did the critic think? They may site acting, lights, the play itself, etc.

“Overall, Critic A thought while the steam punk aspects of the play were interesting it **“did not work as a coherent play ”**.”

1. **Was the attempt worthwhile?**

Even if they hated the production they may have thought it was a worthwhile attempt –OR— they may have thought the production was beautiful to look at and well executed but a real waste of time or subject matter.

“Ultimately, Critic A was impressed by the risk taking even though it was not fully successful and would highly suggest **“audiences take the opportunity to experience the intrigue of steam punk”.”**

Please support these opinions with the text of each review. **BOLD anything you copy and paste from the text and put that text in quotations.**  Be sure to give each Critic’s name, “online paper” name, article title and link to the review by copying/pasting the URL.

You can use the following format:

PART 1:

A. Critic’s name – Newspaper name – Title of Review – URL

 1.

 2.

 3.

B. Critic’s name – Newspaper name – Title of Review – URL

 1.

 2.

 3.

C. Critic’s name – Newspaper name – Title of Review – URL

 1.

 2.

 3.

D. Critic’s name – Newspaper name – Title of Review – URL

 1.

 2.

 3.

E. Critic’s name – Newspaper name – Title of Review – URL

 1.

 2.

 3.

PART 2:

1. Most helpful review in your opinion

Tell me which **review was the most helpful to you** if you were trying to decide whether or not to attend this show. Give reasons for your choice. Would you be more or less inclined to see it based on the critic’s article? Why did you choose this particular critic’s review as most helpful/the best? This is where **YOU** **get to review the critic**!

1. Least helpful review review in your opinion

Tell me which **review was the least helpful to you** if you were trying to decide whether or not to attend this show. Give reasons for your choice. Would you be more or less inclined to see it based on the critic’s article? Why did you choose this particular critic’s review as least helpful/the worst? This is where **YOU** **get to review the critic**!