



THE EARL of SOUTHAMPTON



Venus and Adonis

By William Shakespeare

VENUS AND ADONIS

by **WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE**

**Adapted by
Steve Fitzpatrick**

Shakespeare wrote 'Venus and Adonis' in 1593 and dedicated it to Henry Wriothesley, 3rd Earl of Southampton. It was extremely popular, going through 16 editions in 47 years. By contrast the collected plays went through 3 editions in a comparable period of time.

The reason for its success was probably that it was considered a daringly erotic work, and while we haven't felt it necessary to issue any warnings or set any age-limits, it is still described (by Wikipedia) as 'Shakespeare's most graphic depiction of sexual excitement'.

The story is from Ovid, but Shakespeare was probably inspired – as so often in his early career – by Christopher Marlowe, whose own piece of classical erotica 'Hero and Leander' was written immediately before.

It has been dramatized before, by the Royal Shakespeare Company in 2004, performed by marionettes, and by the Isango Ensemble of Cape Town at the Globe in 2012 and 2013.

CAST

NARRATOR 1:	JOHN TURNER
NARRATOR 2:	MAGGIE TURNER
VENUS:	NINA FLITMAN
ADONIS:	JOEL DYER

Directed by Steve Fitzpatrick

**Thanks to: Jo Matthews (for providing cake).
Anne Gilmour**