

Shakespeare the Wordsmith 造词大师

Quotes from the programme

David: Here's the first few lines of the chorus speech to Henry V, spoken first of all in a modern accent:

O for a Muse of fire, that would ascend
The brightest heaven of invention,
A kingdom for a stage, princes to act
And monarchs to behold the swelling scene!

(Henry V, Act I, Chorus)

Now in Shakespearean pronunciation, it would have been something more like this:

O for a Muse of fire, that would ascend
The brightest heaven of invention,
A kingdom for a stage, princes to act
And monarchs to behold the swelling scene!

(Henry V, Act I, Chorus)

... all sounding very different from the accents that we're used to today.

Hume: Hume must make merry with the duchess' gold;
Marry, and shall. But how now, Sir John Hume!
Seal up your lips, and give no words but mum:
The business asketh silent secrecy.

Henry VI Part 2, Act I, Scene II
