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Seminar on 'Shakespeare in Lockdown',
part of 'Shakespeare and Society' (MA course)

Set reading:

- Peter Kirwan and Erin Sullivan, 'From the Editors of the Special Reviews Section: Shakespeare in Lockdown', *Shakespeare Bulletin* 38:3 (forthcoming, 2020/21), pp. 1-7.
- Ben Brantley, Jesse Green, and Maya Phillips, 'This Is Theatre in 2020. Will It Last? Should It?', *The New York Times*, 8 July 2020, <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/08/theater/streaming-theater-experiments.html>.
- Laura Collins-Hughes, 'Digital Theatre Isn't Theatre. It's a Way to Mourn Its Absence', *The New York Times*, 8 July 2020, <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/08/theater/live-theater-absence.html>.
- 2-3 reviews of lockdown Shakespeare productions from the *Shakespeare Bulletin* special issue, the *Rethinking Shakespeare* blog (<https://medium.com/action-is-eloquence-re-thinking-shakespeare>), or any other publication (popular or academic).
- Please also watch at least 30 minutes of any Shakespeare production created during lockdown. That can include any production you might have already watched, such as the Ketterer's Men's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* on Zoom. If you haven't seen any productions of this kind, here are a few links to things you can still watch:
 - The Show Must Go Online - <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLBFO-wpdFFypTYtKyK7CEBCBgFZtRmL0z>
 - Ctrl+Alt+Repeat - [Midsummer Night Stream - The Stay Inn](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Midsummer_Night_Stream_-_The_Stay_Inn)
 - #ThinkingOutloudQuarantineShakespeare - <https://www.instagram.com/explore/tags/thinkingoutloudquarantineshakespeare/?hl=en>
 - *What You Will* - <https://www.theshakespeareensemble.com/>
 - The Backroom Shakespeare Project - [A Midsummer Night's Dream | The Back Room Shakespeare Project](https://www.backroomshakespeare.com/)
 - Forced Entertainment's *Table Top Shakespeare: At Home* project - <https://www.forcedentertainment.com/tabletop-live-catch-up/>

Questions for discussion:

- What is theatre?
- Can something created for a screen ever be theatre?
- What are some of the moments in the production that you watched that you think really worked - and why?
- To what extent do you think that the theatrical experiments explored during lockdown will affect theatre when (and if) we return to 'normal'?