

Impressive Expressions

EVERYTHING
to EVERYBODY

HERITAGE
FUND



In the theatre of Ancient Greece actors wore masks with different faces and expressions. These helped the audience understand what the character was feeling. In theatrical performances since that time, elaborate make-up, costume and the moving body have all be used to show a character's emotions.

The Birmingham Shakespeare Library includes around 17,000 photographs capturing a moment in time from a Shakespeare play, film or TV performance. A fabulous album of photos from a 1935 film of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* has images of world famous actors of the time including James Cagney, Mickey Rooney and Olivia de Havilland.

Characters from 1935 film of A Midsummer Night's Dream and a Greek theatrical mask sculpture National Archaeological Museum of Athens / CC0



These photographs are a wonderful resource as they show an incredible range of facial expressions conveying the many emotions experienced by Shakespeare's characters including happiness, love, hate, jealousy, anger, fear, triumph.



Using the masks outline on the next page, design faces that show a particular emotion. You could draw, paint or even collage your design.

Make an *Impressive Expression* on the face outline below.

Don't forget to add hair, ears, nose and even a chin or two! Some emotions have a colour associated with them, for example green for jealousy and red for anger. You could include these colours for extra impact.

