

Introduction to Gil Vicente & His Work

Gil Vicente was a Portuguese playwright and poet from the 16th century. His plays, written in verse in both Portuguese and Spanish, exemplify the transition from the Middle Ages to the Renaissance. He is often referred to as “The Father of Portuguese Drama” and he frequently directed and acted in his own plays.

Gil Vicente’s theater was born of oral traditions, but previewed modern theater because of the implementation of sets, costumes, props, and special effects. During this time period, plays were performed in palaces for the members of the royal court. The actors often interacted with the members of the audience, thereby breaking the “4th wall.”

Auto da Barca do Inferno takes place in an imaginary port where two ferries await their passengers. Each character argues with the Devil and the Angel about which ship they deserve to board. There is a pattern in which every character heads first to the Ship of Hell, realizes that this boat goes to the Inferno, and then appeals to the Ship of Heaven. The characters that are not admitted in this boat return to the Ship of Hell. In the end, only the knights and Joane, the “fool” who was too ignorant to be responsible for his actions, board the Ship of Heaven. All the other characters go to Hell.



Meet the Characters

(IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)

Companheiro (Companion): The Devil’s right hand man. He never leaves his master’s side and does whatever he is told by the Devil.

Diabo (Devil): A seasoned mariner who regularly comes to port with his loyal companion. His mission: take the deceased to Hell. Come one, come all! The boat is big and there are plenty of oars to go around!

Fidalgo (Nobleman): The Fidalgo is an entitled character who assumes that his status among men should grant him eternal life. He is devastated to find out not only his fate but also the truth about his not so faithful wife. Nothing can free him from the eternal grasp of the Diabo and his ever tormenting servant.

Anjo (Angel): The angel is the character foil for the devil. His main goal is to make sure no undeserving soul boards the “Barca da Glória.” He faithfully and persistently rejects those who unworthily attempt to make their way onto the ship and graciously welcomes those who come prepared having suffered for Christ in the truest Catholic sense.

Padre (Friar): A “holy man” who hasn’t been acting very holy throughout his life (just ask his mistress, Florença). He would love to get on the “Barca da Glória” because of his service to the Lord, but his actions may land him somewhere else.

Joane: Joane is a “parvo” (village idiot) that speaks whatever he thinks, not caring about the consequences. Joane knows about Hell and rejects boarding “a barca do inferno” as soon he realizes the Devil is trying to take him. Joane’s sincerity and innocence grant him access to the “Barca da Glória.”

Creditor (Onzeneiro): The creditor loves money. He thinks it can buy anything, even a pass to Heaven on the “Barca da Glória.” He even tries bribing the angel, not knowing that his stubborn love for money blinds him and drags him to Hell.

Brísida Vaz: A madame who arranges illicit relationships between young “virgins” and priests (or other adulterous men).

Cavaleiros (Knights): Died in the religious crusades, fighting in the name of Jesus Christ, which immediately qualifies them for heaven. They will enter from the back at the end of the play.

Meet the Cast

Samuel De La O (Joane) is an Information Technology major at BYU. He is from Mexico city and is very passionate about technology and the outdoors.

Joshua Doan (Fidalgo) grew up in Douglasville, Georgia and this is his very first play. He will graduate in April with a degree in Portuguese and International Business. He learned Portuguese while serving a mission in Londrina, Brazil. He has been married for almost two years and works in Asset Management.

Carson Henrie (Diabo) is the best looking short bald man to ever come out of Grand Blanc, Michigan. He loves to play games, eat chips, and snuggle. He is the proud father of a beautiful four-month-old moustache and the faithful owner of a moderately scratched Chevy Malibu named Bruce.

Zack Heward (Companheiro) is from Centerville, Utah. He is a Senior studying Portuguese and Business Management. He served a mission in Teresina, Brazil. He is pursuing a career in Marketing and loves soccer and basketball. He has been married for over a year and this is the first play he has ever performed in.

Marissa Jensen (Brísida Vaz) is a first-year Portuguese MA student with an emphasis in literature. She loves reading and all things Star Wars. She has acted before in high school and church productions, but never in Portuguese.

Max Jensen (Frade) is studying Portuguese and Communications at BYU and will be graduating at the end of this month! He loves sports and the fact that he won't have to do homework anymore.

Daniel Montoya (Onzeneiro) is a Senior in the Supply Chain Program. He is from Quito, Ecuador and loves soccer in all its forms.

Tyler Prince (Cavaleiro) is from Bentonville, Arkansas. She is studying French and Portuguese, which she learned as a missionary in Rio de Janeiro. She loves to read, watch movies, and travel.

Scott Raines (Anjo) is a graduate student in Spanish at BYU with other interests in Luso-Brazilian Studies. He loves art, music, and literature (not necessarily in that order) and is a proud husband and the father of a beautiful one-year-old baby girl.

Sheridan Richmond (Florença/Cavaleiro) is from Laguna Niguel, California and she's a Senior studying Portuguese at BYU. She served a mission in Recife, Brazil where she came to love the Portuguese language and Brazilian culture. She loves cooking, art, and spending time with her husband.

Auto da Barca do Inferno por Gil Vicente

