

NPAT RSC Character Information - Theseus

Theseus is the Duke of Athens. At the start of the play we find him talking to Hippolyta, his fiancée, about their upcoming marriage. He is soon interrupted by Egeus and must make a judgement about Hermia's behaviour. At the end of the play he overrules Egeus and allows the lovers to get married at the same time as him and Hippolyta.

Facts we learn about Theseus at the start of the play:

- He has conquered Hippolyta's Army and she is the 'prize' for the defeat.
- He wishes to make up for the injuries he has inflicted upon her.
- He has a constitutional role to play when upholding the law and must weigh this up against his own feelings when making the judgement of Hermia.

THINGS THEY SAY

'Hippolyta, I wooed thee with my sword, And won thy love doing thee injuries.' (Theseus, 1: 1)

Theseus won Hippolyta's hand in marriage through fighting against her people.

THINGS OTHERS SAY ABOUT THEM

'Happy be Theseus, our renowned Duke!' (Egeus, 1:1)

Theseus is well respected by his people.