

# Measure for Measure

## *Cast*

<i>The Duke</i> .....	<i>Roger Allam</i>
<i>Angelo</i> .....	<i>Simon Russell Beale</i>
<i>Isabella</i> .....	<i>Stella Gonet</i>
<i>Claudio</i> .....	<i>Jonathan Firth</i>
<i>Lucio</i> .....	<i>Stephen Mangan</i>
<i>Pompey</i> .....	<i>Desmond Barrit</i>
<i>Mariana</i> .....	<i>Emily Bruni</i>
<i>Escalus</i> .....	<i>Christopher Benjamin</i>
<i>Provost</i> .....	<i>Christian Rodska</i>
<i>Mistress Overdone</i> .....	<i>Patricia Brake</i>
<i>Elbow</i> .....	<i>Lloyd Hutchinson</i>
<i>Abhorson</i> .....	<i>David Cardy</i>
<i>Friar Peter</i> .....	<i>David Killick</i>
<i>Juliet</i> .....	<i>Abigail Docherty</i>
<i>Barnardine</i> .....	<i>Ian Gelder</i>
<i>Froth</i> .....	<i>Chris Pavlo</i>
<i>Nun</i> .....	<i>Shirley Dixon</i>
<i>Friar Thomas</i> .....	<i>Robert Portal</i>

## *Play description*

### ACT I

Scene 1. Duke Vincentio prepares to leave Vienna and appoints Angelo as his deputy and Escalus as his advisor.

Scene 2. Mistress Overdone tells Lucio how Angelo has decreed that all brothels in the suburbs of Vienna be demolished. Claudio passes by on his way to prison where, within three days, he is to be executed; his fault—that he has made his lover Juliet pregnant. Having explained that he is the victim of Angelo’s reforming zeal, he asks Lucio to find his sister Isabella, and to enlist her help in appealing for mercy from the deputy.

Scene 3. The Duke reveals to Friar Thomas that he has invented a trip to Poland as an excuse for putting Angelo in power. He hopes that his righteous deputy will reform the loose morals of the populace. He plans to monitor events, disguised as a friar.

Scene 4. Lucio finds Isabella at the convent she is about to enter as a novice, and tells her of her brother’s arrest; he begs her to approach Angelo.

### ACT II

Scene 1. Despite Escalus’s appeal, Angelo is adamant that Claudio be executed the next morning. Constable Elbow complains that Froth and Pompey the tapster/bawd have abused his wife. Escalus dismisses them with a warning, but Pompey privately expresses his determination to pursue his trade.

Scene 2. Isabella begs Angelo to spare her brother. At first, he refuses, but she continues to plead and he finally instructs her to return the following day. He reveals, privately, that she has kindled an unfamiliar desire in him.

Scene 3. In the prison, the Duke/Friar learns of Claudio’s imminent execution. The repentant Juliet tells him of the love between herself and Claudio.

Scene 4. Angelo says he will pardon Claudio on condition that Isabella give herself to him. Outraged, Isabella says she will expose him, but Angelo is confident that she would never be believed. Isabella decides to tell Claudio of the demand, convinced that he will be reconciled to death, rather than see his sister dishonored.

### ACT III

Scene 1. Claudio's initial reaction to Angelo’s proposal is one of disgust; as the fear of death returns to him, however, he asks Isabella if she will not sacrifice her honor to save his life. The Duke/Friar intercepts her as she leaves in fury, and outlines a plan whereby she may save him without

compromising her honor. He explains that Angelo was once betrothed to a lady called Mariana, but abandoned her when she lost her dowry. The Duke/Friar suggests that Isabella should pretend to comply with Angelo's demands, but that Mariana should take her place for the assignation.

Scene 2. Pompey is taken off to prison. Lucio boasts to the Duke/Friar that he is an intimate of the absent Duke and that he knows him to be the very picture of debauchery. Escalus, on the other hand, describes the Duke as a man of moderation.

#### ACT IV

Scene 1. Mariana agrees to go to Angelo in Isabella's place.

Scene 2. Angelo's messenger arrives at the prison; rather than bringing Claudio's reprieve, he bears orders to carry out the execution and, furthermore, to send the young man's head to Angelo that evening. The Duke/Friar persuades the provost to delay Claudio's execution, suggesting they substitute the head of the criminal Barnadine who is also to die that day.

Scene 3. Barnadine refuses to prepare for death and it is decided that the provost send Angelo the head of Ragozine, another prisoner, recently dead of a fever. Once alone, the Duke reveals his intention to re-enter public life. When Isabella arrives the Duke/Friar tells her that Claudio has been executed; he asks her to denounce Angelo to the Duke, who, he says, is to return the next day.

Scene 4. Angelo and Escalus speak of the Duke's imminent arrival. Once alone, Angelo describes his inner turmoil.

Scene 5. The Duke sends Friar Peter to the city with messages preparing for his return.

Scene 6. Isabella tells Mariana of her unease at having to expose Angelo. Friar Peter is to lead them to a place where they can call out to the Duke as he re-enters the city.

#### ACT V

Scene 1. Angelo and Escalus greet the Duke at the city gates. Isabella accuses Angelo of adultery, deceit and murder, but the Duke pretends disbelief and orders that she be taken to prison. Mariana comes forward and supports Isabella's charges. Angelo admits that he deserted her five years before, though he says that he has not seen her since. She, however, insists that they were together last Tuesday night. Feigning belief in Angelo's

innocence, the Duke withdraws, returning a minute later in his friar's garb. Escalus accuses him of setting Mariana and Isabella against Angelo. Lucio pitches in, accusing him of slandering the Duke and pulling off his hood as he does so. All is now revealed. The Duke orders the penitent Angelo to marry Mariana immediately and, after the ceremony, condemns him to death for the same crimes for which he executed Claudio. Mariana and Isabella plead for Angelo's life, but the Duke remains obdurate. However, when Claudio is finally brought in alive, the Duke pardons Angelo and forces Lucio to marry a whore whom he has made pregnant. He then orders Claudio to wed Juliet and offers himself as a husband to Isabella.

## *Track list*

### Disc 1

Track 1	Act I	Scene i
Track 2	Act I	Scene ii
Track 3	Act I	Scene iii
Track 4	Act I	Scene iv
Track 5	Act II	Scene i
Track 6	Act II	Scene ii
Track 7	Act II	Scene iii
Track 8	Act II	Scene iv
Track 9	Act III	Scene i

### Disk 2

Track 1	Act III	Scene ii
Track 2	Act IV	Scene i
Track 3	Act IV	Scene ii
Track 4	Act IV	Scene iii
Track 5	Act IV	Scene iv
Track 6	Act IV	Scene v
Track 7	Act IV	Scene vi
Track 8	Act V	Scene i