

Court in the Act

Welcome to the Court of St James's Palace, London, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth I. All present have but lately arrived from the Royal premier of Master Shakespeare's latest rib-tickling comedy, *Two Ladies of Venice*.

Now, the Queen makes merry and entertains her courtiers, guests, would-be husbands and envoys from foreign powers with a sumptuous banquet. But while all prepare to feast and frolic, dark clouds gather, the sound of war-drums is heard in the distance – and that dear old man the Archbishop of Canterbury, who surely had never an enemy in the world, is found brutally murdered...

In *Court in the Act*, the Court revels will be played out over the course of a single evening. As well as the Queen and her courtiers, guests include French, Italian and Spanish envoys, playwrights Shakespeare and Marlowe, gallants Drake and Raleigh, the exiled Mary Queen of Scots, and many more – including, of course, the humble servants whose labors allow the Court to run smoothly. However, not everyone is as they seem. Some (well, all) of those attending have mysterious secrets and will do anything to prevent them from being revealed.

May the Revels Begin!

What do you get with *Court in the Act*?

- A step-by-step guide on how to run the game.
- Character booklets for each guest, including background, goals and objectives, rules, and special abilities.
- Item cards for each guest.
- Handouts, nametags, and other essential items.

How many people are needed?

Court in the Act is for 13 to 21 guests—plus one host (the game coordinator who plays the Chamberlain). The step-by-step guide explains which characters to omit if you have fewer than 21 guests (you need at least 13, however).

Court in the Act has 14 male and 7 female characters (the court of Elizabeth I was not a very inclusive place). But in this game, players of any gender can play characters of any gender. This is inspired by Shakespeare's plays, which are full of mistaken identities and cross-dressing.

And if you have even more guests, we include an extra character for *Court in the Act*.

How does *Court in the Act* work?

Court in the Act runs for three or four hours and suits a buffet meal. The host acts as organizer, responsible for making sure everything runs smoothly. The host does not count toward the maximum or minimum number of players.

The guests are all present at the Court of St James's Palace. They each have their own goals, and how they achieve these goals is up to them. *Court in the Act* is an evening of intrigue and secrets!

What age is *Court in the Act* suitable for?

We suggest *Court in the Act* is suitable for ages 15+ as it contains plotlines around extra-marital affairs, an illegitimate child, and references to belief in the occult and demonic power.

Where can I purchase *Court in the Act*?

Court in the Act is available from <https://www.freeformgames.com/>. We accept all major credit cards and PayPal.

When you buy the game, you'll be taken to a page where you can download it immediately.

We will also email you a download link and password, so you can collect your game later if that's more convenient.

What if I don't like *Court in the Act*?

We offer a cast-iron, no-quibble guarantee. If you're not completely satisfied with *Court in the Act*, let us know within 30 days and we will refund you.

Photos and stories from Court in the Act



“I hosted *Court in the Act* (my 6th Freeform Game) for my birthday last summer, to riotous success. Many members of our cast of 18 had not played one of your games before—though a few were veterans—and most had not even met before that night! Nevertheless, everybody got right into the game and had a lot of fun.”

John Jennette, United States

“I just ran *Court in the Act* for my 21st birthday, and it was a huge success!”

**Kellie Vickers-Willis,
Australia**



“We’ve played roughly 10 of your games, and *Court in the Act* was one of the best. We like it when there’s something unique and memorable about the game, like resolving the Spanish invasion at the end. And plenty of opportunities for dressing up!”

Petter Olsen, Norway

Click here for more stories and photos:

https://www.freeformgames.com/blog/project_category/court-in-the-act-stories/

Cast list

- **Elizabeth**, named Gloriana, a Queene
- **Mary**, Queen of Scots, a Dethroned Monarch
- **Philippe of France**, a Junior Prince
- **His Eminence Diego Menendez de Aviles**, Cardinal of Seville
- **His Grace Andrew Prim**, Archbishop of York
- **Robert Deveraux**, Earl of Essex, a Gallant and Peer of the Realm
- **Señor Juan Futin da Greve**, Ambassador of the King of Spain
- **Sir Francis Walsingham**, close adviser to ye Queene
- **Sir Walter Raleigh**, an Explorer
- **Sir Francis Drake**, a most Daring sailor and Champion Bowler
- **Lady Catherine Northwood**, lady-in-waiting upon Her Majesty
- **Lord Canning**, military counselor to ye Queene
- **General FitzBacon**, a commander of Irish mercenaryes and moss-troopers
- **Signor Pico della Mirandola**, a Philosopher of Venice
- **Doctor John Dee**, Adept and Magus
- **Master Chris. Marlowe**, an established play-writer
- **Master Wm. Shakespeare**, an Actor of some new-found fame
- **Master Edward Kelley**, an Associate of Doctor Dee
- **Mistress Jane Dee**, Wife to Doctor Dee
- **Mistress Nagel**, a serving wench
- **Hobbs**, a servant

