

Dr Kevin De Ornellas
Ulster University
PETER HALL, 1930-2017



1955: directed the British premiere of *Waiting for Godot*.

1960: founded the Royal Shakespeare Company (aged 29!)

1973-1988: directed the National Theatre Company

1988: founded the Peter Hall Company

2002: named as founder director of the Rose Theatre

Meanwhile: directed dozens of plays, films and operas; acted (in German); made factual television; wrote non-fictional prose prolifically.

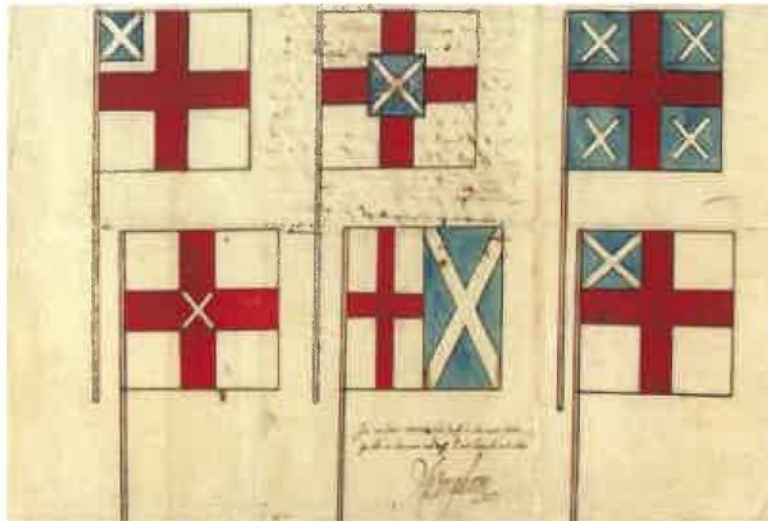
“IAMBIC FUNDAMENTALISM”

Excessively rigid adherence to iambic pentameter and regular rhythm?

See Doctor Faustus' blasphemous(?) adoration of Helen of Troy:

Was this the face that launched a thousand ships?
And burnt the topless towers of Ilium?
Sweet Helen, make me immortal with a kiss.
Her lips suck forth my soul, see where it flies!
Come, Helen, come, give me my soul again.
Here will I dwell, for heaven be in these lips.

BEN JONSON: "ON THE UNION", 1603:



When was there contract better driven by fate,
Or celebrated with more truth of state?
The world the temple was, the priest a king,
The spoused pair two realms, the sea the ring.