

SHAKESPEARE & FLORIO: GUIDE TO ITALY

"This video explains the relationship between Shakespeare and Commedia dell'arte and the influence of Ruzzante in Shakespeare's plays.

The influences of Commedia dell'arte in Shakespeare and *The Chamberlain's men* are unquestionable.

The first recorded performance of Commedia dell'arte took place in Padua in 1545, performing troupes included the Gelosi, Uniti, and Confidenti.

One cannot deny the close resemblance of the characters Launce (*Two Gentlemen's*) and Launcelot (*Merchant of Venice*) with their original source: Ruzzante, Angelo Beolco."

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