The Comedy of Errors

line references: Arden edn.

Key:					
	ente	er from within	-	enter from without	
		exit inwards		/ exit outwards	
Act/s c	DR	Characters	DL	Space-time indication	Commentary
[.i	7	Duke, Egeon, Jailor, Attendants		EGEON. Proceed, Solinus, to procure my fall(1)	Court scene: Duke enters from in- wards already in discussion over the fate of Egeon.
	5	Duke, Attendants		DUKEtry all the friends thou hast in EphesusJailor, take him to thy custody. (152, 155) EGEON. Hopeless and helpless doth	Duke etc. return inwards, sending Egeon and Jailor out to make up the ransom. Split exits serve to separate this scene
		Egeon, Jailor	7	Egeon wend, But to procrastinate his lifeless end. (156-7)	as a virtual prologue and prelude to the play's central action, which begins in I.ii after a time-lapse.
.ii	Z	Syr. Ant, Merchant, Syr. Dromio		FIRST MER. Therefore give out your are of EpidamnumThis very day a Syracusian merchant Is appre- hendedThere is your money that I	MINIMAL congestion at inwards door due to staggering of previous exit. They enter from the merchant's house (where the money was stored), he
		Syr. Dromio	7	had to keep. (1, 4, 8) SYR. ANT. Go, bear it to the Centaur, where we host, And stay there, Dromio, till I come to thee; Within this hour it will be dinner time(8-11) SYR. ANTWhat, will you walk with	telling them of the day's earlier event. Dromio exits outwards towards the inn nominated by Antipholus.
				me about the town, And then go to my inn and dine with me? FIRST MER. I am invited, sir, to certain merchants, Of whom I hope to make much benefit. I crave your pardon; soon at five o'clock, Please you, I'll meet with you upon the mart, And afterward consort you till bed-time;	
		Merchant	7	my present business calls me from you now. SYR. ANT. Farewell till then: I will go lose myself, And wander up and	Merchant, refusing Antipholus' offer of company, leaves to meet with his merchant colleagues. Antipholus announces his intention of
		Eph. Dromio	2	down to view the city. (22-31) SYR. ANT. What now? How chance thou art return'd so soon? EPH. DRO. Return'd so soon? rather approach'd too late The meat is cold because you come not home. (42-3, 48)	doing some sightseeing. The local Dromio now enters from outwards (searching the streets for his master). He must enter from where Syr. Dromio last exited for the 'return' references to make any sense.
		Eph. Dromio	7	EPH. DRO. My charge was to fetch you from the mart Home to your house, the Phoenix, sir, to dinner; My mistress and her sister stays for you. I'll take my heels. (74-6, 94)	Having unsuccessfully delivered the message from his mistress, the local Dromio returns whence he came, going back to report Antipholus' behaviour.
		Syr. Ant	7	SYR. ANT. I'll to the Centaur to go seek this slave; I greatly fear my money is not safe. (104-5)	Suspicious of Dromio's behaviour, Antipholus then decides to go find him at the Centaur, where he sent him previously.
.i	7	Adriana, Luciana		ADR. Neither my husband nor the slave return'd(1)	Waiting for Antipholus to arrive home for dinner, or for Dromio to arrive with news of him.
		Eph. Dromio	2	ADR. Say, is your tardy master now at hand? (44)	Dromio arrives from outwards with news of Antipholus.

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II.ii	Eph. Dromio Adriana, Luciana Syr. Ant		 ADR. hence, prating peasant, fetch thy master home. EPH. DRO. Am I so round with you, as you with me, That like a football you do spurn me thus? You spurn me hence, and he will spurn me hither (81-4) ADRSince that my beauty cannot please his eye, I'll weep what's left away, and weeping die. (114-5) SYR. ANT. The gold I gave to Dromio is laid up Safe at the Centaur, and the heedful slave Is wander'd forth in care to seek me out by computation and mine host's report. I could not speak with Dromio since at first I sent him from the mart; see, here he 	Disbelieving Dromio's account, she sends him back again whence he came. The repeated entrance-exit patterns for Dromio at the outwards door are referred to in his speech: he is like a football being kicked back and forth repeatedly. The ladies now return inwards, Adriana to lament her husband's change of temperament. Now returns, having gone (as announced) to the Centaur but not found Dromio there.
	Syr. Dromio Adriana, Luciana Adriana, Luciana, Syr. Ant, Syr. Dromio	2	 comes. (1-6) SYR. DRO. I did not see you since you sent me hence, Home to the Centaur with the gold you gave me. (15-16) ADR. Come, sir, to dinner; Dromio, keep the gate. Husband, I'll dine above with you to-day(206-7) SYR. DRO. Master, shall I be porter at the gate? ADR. Ay, and let none enter, lest I break your pate. LUC. Come, come, Antipholus, we dine too late. (217-9) 	They each establish for the audience that this is the foreign Dromio, back with his master. They return from inwards, now coming out of the house (since its 'gate' is specified). They go into the house, Dromio being given the function of gatekeeper at the inwards door.
III.i	Eph. Ant, Eph. Dromio, Angelo, Balthasar	2	EPH. ANT. Good signior Angelo, you must excuse us all, My wife is shrewish when I keep not hours; Say that I linger'd with you at your shop(1-3)But soft, my door is lock'd; go bid them let us in(30) SYR. DROEither get thee from the door or sit down at the hatch(33)	The locals now arrive back. Antipholus has been in the town with the merchants, and is now returning home late for dinner. The gatekeeper behind the door, Syr. Dromio within, refuses them entry. The 'hatch' may have been a wicker- covered opening in the door to enable offstage characters to be heard and to enable the book-holder and actors
	Luce G Adriana G Luce, Adriana S G		 EPH. DRO. Let my master in, Luce. LUCE. Faith, no, he comes too late(2) EPH. DRO. Master, knock the door hard. LUCE. Let him knock it till it ache. (58) ADR. Who is that at the door that keeps all this noise? (61) EPH. ANT. Are you there, wife? you might have come before. ADR. Your wife, sir knave? get you from the door. (63-4) 	backstage to monitor the stage action. It can only be assumed that Luce in the gallery above the door cannot see those on the stage directly below her, an easy effect to achieve if the actor refrains from leaning over the rail. Adriana now joins Luce in the gallery (in the previous scene she promised to dine 'above' with Antipholus). They then go back inside.
	Bal, Angelo, Eph. Ant, Eph. Dromio	7	 BALBe rul'd by me, depart in patience, And let us to the Tiger all to dinner, And about evening, come yourself alone. (85, 94-6) EPH. ANT. You have prevail'd, I will depart in quiet I know a wench of excellent discourse There will we dineTo her will we to dinner; get you home And fetch the chain by this I know 'tis made; bring it, I pray you, to the Porpentine, For there's the house(107-11, 114-17) ANG. I'll meet you at that place some 	 Bal. proposes eating at the Tiger, but Antipholus suggests instead the Porpentine, asking Angelo to bring the chain to him there. Even though they are going to separate fictional locations, they exit together via the outwards door which

				hour hence.	is less specific than the inwards door,
				EPH. ANT. Do so; this jest shall cost me some expense. (141-2)	and is often used as an exit to various locations.
III.ii		Luciana, Syr. Ant.		LUC. And may it be that you have quite forgot A husband's office? (1-2)	The dinner 'above' with Adriana has not gone well, and foreign Antipholus
		591.11110		SYR. ANT. Thee will I love, and with thee lead my life(67)	has fallen instead for Luciana. They enter from inwards.
	ĸ	Ŧ.		LUC. O soft, sir, hold you still; I'll fetch	Luciana goes back inwards to get her
		Luciana		my sister to get her good will. (69-70)	sister.
		Syr. Dromio		SYR. ANT. Why, how now Dromio, where run's thou so fast? (71)	Crossover with Dromio running from the house to escape the advances of
				SYR. ANT. Go, hie thee presently, post to the road; And if the wind blow any	Nell. Antipholus sends him outwards to the
				way from shore I will not harbour in this town to-night. If any bark put	town/port to check for departing ships arranging to meet him subsequently at
				forth, come to the mart, Where I will walk till thou return to me; If every-	the market (foreshadowing his own subsequent exit outwards).
				one knows us and we know none, 'Tis time i think to trudge, pack and	
				be gone. SYR. DRO. As from a bear a man would	
		Syr. Dromio	-	run for life, So fly I from her that would be my wife.	
			7	SYR. ANT. There's none but witches do	His speech after Dromio's exit makes
				inhabit here, And therefore 'tis high time that I were hence(146-56)	it explicit he is leaving the house.
		Angelo (with the chain)	\checkmark	SYR. ANT. Made it for me, sir? I bespoke it not.	Angelo now returns from outwards with the chain the local Antipholus
				ANGELO. Not once, nor twice, but twenty times you have. Go home	has asked him to make for Adriana.
		Angelo		with it, and please your wife withal, And soon at supper-time I'll visit	Angelo exits back outwards, promis-
		Syr Ant	7	you, And then receive my money for the chain. (170-4)	ing to return at supper-time.
		Syl Ant	7	SYR. ANT. I'll to the mart, and there for	Then, as foreshadowed, Antipholus
				Dromio stay; If any ship put out, then straight, away. (183-4)	exits to meet Dromio at the market.
IV.i	Γ	Merchant, Angelo,		MER. You know since Pentecost the sum is due(1)	They enter, having been doing business in Angelo's house. The
		Officer		ANG. Even just the sum that I do owe to you Is growing to me by Antipholus,	Merchant has come there with an Officer over money owed him by
				And in the instant that I met with you he had of me a chain; at five o'clock I	Angelo. Angelo proposes they go to
				shall receive the money for the same. Pleaseth you walk with me down to	Antipholus' house for the money this latter owes Angelo.
				his house, I will discharge my bond,	latter owes Aligero.
		Eph. Ant,	2	and thank you too. (6-13) OFFIC. That labour may you save; see	The local Antipholus and his servant
		Eph. Dromio		where he comes. EPH. ANT. While I go to the	arrive deep in conversation. He is bound for the goldsmith's house (see
				Goldsmith's house, go thou and buy a rope's end; that will I bestow Among my wife and her confederates For	V.i. 224-5 for his recapitulation of the movement patterns in this scene).
				locking me out of my doors by day-	Seeing the goldsmith he conde
				But soft, I see the goldsmith; get thee gone, Buy thou a rope and bring it	Seeing the goldsmith, he sends Dromio off to buy a rope, instructing
		Eph. Dromio	7	home to me. (14-20) EPH. DRO. I buy a thousand pound a	him to bring it home to him. Dromio exits outwards to the town,
			-	year, I buy a rope! (21) EPH. ANT. I am not furnish'd with the	and Antipholus enters into dispute with Angelo over the chain (which ha
				present money; Besides, I have some business in the town; Good signior,	been given to the other Antipholus). He suggests Angelo and the merchant
				take the stranger to my house, And	go to his house to get the money from
	II			with you take the chain, and bid my	Adriana, saying he has business in the

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				wife Disburse the sum on the receipt thereof; Perchance I will be there as soon as you. (34-39)	town and may even arrive at the house before them.
		Syr. Dromio	2	 OFFIC. I do arrest you, sir; you hear the suit. EPH. ANT. I do obey thee, till I give thee bail. SYR. DRO. Master, there's a bark of Epidamnum That stays but till her owner comes aboard, And then she bears away. Our fraughtage, sir, I 	They argue over the chain, and Antipholus is arrested by the Officer. He proposes to find bail, At this point Syr. Dromio arrives, having last been sent to the port by his master to check the shipping news.
		Eph. Ant, Angelo, Merchant,		have convey'd aboard(86-89) EPH. ANTTo Adriana, villain, hie thee straight: Give her this key, and tell her in the desk That's cover'd o'er with Turkish tapestry, There is a purse of ducats; let her send it. Tell her I am arrested in the street, And that shall bail me; hie thee slave, be	Confusing the foreign Dromio with his own servant, Antipholus sends him to Adriana to get the bail money.
		Officer	7	gone; On, officer, to prison, till it come. (103-9)	Antipholus is taken off to prison.
		Syr. Dromio	7	SYR. DRO. To Adriana,—that is where we din'dThither I must, although against my will; For servants must their masters' minds fulfil. (110, 113- 14)	Dromio too exits outwards, off in the direction of the house which re remembers he dined at.
IV.ii		Adriana,	/	ADR. Ah, Luciana, did he tempt thee so?	They enter talking intimately about
	L	Luciana Syr. Dromio	2	 (1) SYR. DRO. I know not at whose suit he is arrested well; But is in a suit of buff which 'rested him, that can I tell: Will you send him, mistress, redemp- 	Antipholus' overtures to Luciana The foreign Dromio now arrives to get the bail money for Antipholus.
	$\overline{\}$	Luciana		tion, the money in his desk? (44-7) ADR. Go, fetch it, sister(48)	Luciana goes inwards to find the purse
	7	Luciana Syr. Dromio	7	ADR. Go, Dromio, there's the money, bear it straight, And bring thy master home immediately. (63-4)	and returns shortly afterwards with it. Dromio is sent back outwards to bail out Antipholus.
	5	Adriana, Luciana		ADRCome, sister, I am press'd down with conceit; Conceit, my comfort and my injury. (65-6)	The two women return inwards.
IV.iii		Syr. Ant Syr. Dromio		SYR. ANT. There's not a man I meet but doth salute me(1)SYR. DRO. Master, there's the gold you sent me for(12)	The foreign Antipholus enters, marvelling at the strange treatment he is receiving from the locals. His servant enters, mistaking him for the Antipholus who told him to get the money.
	7	Courtesan		COUR: Well met, well met, master Antipholus; I see, sir you have found the goldsmith now; Is that the chain you promis'd me to-day? (43-5)	The courtesan comes out of her house.
		Syr. Ant Syr. Dromio	7	SYR. ANT. Avaunt, thou witch. Come, Dromio, let us go. (76)	Misunderstanding her references to the chain, they take her for a witch and exit outwards.
		Courtesan	7	COURMy way is now to hie home to his house, And tell his wife that, being lunatic, He rush'd into my house and took perforce My ring away. (89-92)	She too exits outwards, to Antipholus' house to speak to Adriana.
IV.iv		Eph. Ant, Officer	2	EPH. ANT. Fear me not, man, I will not break away. I'll give thee ere I leave thee so much money To warrant thee as I am 'rested for. (1-3)	MINIMAL congestion at outwards door with only one exiting character. They enter, presumably on the way to prison.
		Eph. Dromio	2	EPH. ANTHere comes my man, I think he brings the money. How now,	The local Dromio enters from outwards, and is mistaken for the

				5
			sir? have you that I sent you for? (8-9)	Dromio who was bringing the money.
	Adriana, Luciana, Courtesan, Pinch		EPH. ANT. Come, go along, my wife is coming yonder. (38)	Adriana, Luciana and the Courtesan etc. now arrive to find Antipholus beating Dromio. They believe he is mad.
	Assistants	\checkmark	ADR. O bind him, bind him(104)	Reinforcements arrive to help restrain Antipholus.
	Pinch, Assistants, Eph. Ant, Eph. Dromio	7	ADR. I will discharge thee ere I go from thee; Bear me forthwith unto his creditor, And knowing how the debt grows, I will pay it. Good master doctor, see him safe convey'd Home to my house(117-21) Go, bear him hence; sister, go you with me. (127)	They carry off the local Antipholus and Dromio towards his house.
	Syr. Ant, Syr. Dromio	2	LUC. God for thy mercy, they are loose again! ADR. And come with naked swords; let's call more help To have them bound again. (142-4)	The foreign pair now arrive, and are mistaken for those who've just been carried off. At this point (as distinct from Act V) they re-appear from the same direction as the others' previous exit.
	Adriana, Luciana, Officer	7	OFFIC. Away, they'll kill us! (144)	The others 'run all out, as fast as may be, frighted.' (s.d. 144)
	Syr. Ant, Syr. Dromio	7	SYR. ANT. Come to the Centaur, fetch our stuff from thenceTherefore away, to get our stuff aboard. (147, 156)	And the two foreigners exit outwards towards the Centaur to fetch their stuff aboard.
V.i	Merchant, Angelo		ANG. I am sorry, sir, that I have hinder'd you, But I protest he had the chain of me, Though most dishonestly he doth deny it. (1-3)	MARKED congestion at outwards door. They could conceivably be coming out of Angelo's house as in IV.i, but more likely they re-enter from outwards, returning from having taken Antipholus to prison. A brief pause in performance prior to the climactic finale, change of location to the street outside the priory.
	Syr. Ant, Syr. Dromio Adriana,	∠ ∠	MER. Speak softly; yonder, as I think, he walks.(9) ADR. Hold, hurt him not for God's sake,	They re-enter from outwards. In pursuit of the local Antipholus and
	Luciana, Courtesan etc		he is mad. Some get within him, take his sword away; Bind Dromio too, and bear them to my house.(33-5)	Dromio, they arrive to find swords drawn.
	Syr. Ant, Syr. Dromio		SYR. DRO. Run master, run, for God's sake take a house; This is some priory; in, or we are spoil'd. (36-7)	Besieged, they take refuge in the priory.
	Abbess A		ABBESS. Be quiet, people; wherefore throng you hither? (38)	Mid-scene crossover at inwards door covered by onstage sound effects of the throng which forms at the door and is confronted by the Abbess (not in gallery: 'shuts the gates on us' 156)
	K Abbess		ABBESS. Be quiet and depart, thou shalt not have him. (112)	She refuses to hand over those who have taken refuge, and exits.
	Duke, Egeon, Headsman, Officers	, 2	 MER. By this I think the dial points at five; Anon I'm sure the Duke himself in person Comes this way to the melancholy vale, The place of death and sorry execution Behind the ditches of the abbey here. (118-122) ANG. See where they come; we will behold his death. LUC. Kneel to the Duke before he pass the abbey. (128-9) 	From the street, on the way to Egeon's execution.
	Messenger	\checkmark	MESS. O mistress, mistress, shift and	Messenger arrives from outwards,

Eph. Ant, 🖌	save yourself; My master and his man are both broke loose, Beaten the maids a-row, and bound the doctor(168-70) ADR. Ay me, it is my husband; witness you That he is borne about invisible; Even now we hous'd him in he abbey here, And now he's there, past thought of human reason. (186-9)	with news of the havoc being wreaked by the Local Antipholus and Dromio. They now arrive from outwards, to the surprise of all, who believed them inwards in the priory. The binary opposition between the two fictional offstage places signified by the two doors is very clearly articulated.
Attendant	DUKE. Why this is strange: go, call the	An attendant is sent into the priory to
	abbess hither. (281)	call the Abbess.
Abbess,	ABBESS. Most might duke, behold a	She comes out shortly afterwards with
Syr. Ant, Syr. Dromio	man much wrong'd. (330)	the foreign Antipholus and Dromio
Duke, Abbess,	ABBESS. Renowned duke, vouchsafe to	They begin the exit procession into the
Egeon, Luciana, Adriana etc.	ABBESS. Renowned duke, vouchsafe to take the pains To go with us into the abbey here, And hear at large discoursed all our fortunes; And all that are assembled in this place, That by this sympathised one day's error Have suffer'd wrong, go, keep us company. (393-8) DUKE. With all my heart, I'll gossip at this feast. (407)	abbey to celebrate and feast.
Syr. Ant,	SYR. ANTcome, go with us, we'll	They go into the abbey together.
Eph. Ant	look to that anon(412)	
Syr. Dromio	SYR. DRO. We'll draw cuts for the	They too go into the abbey together:
Eph. Dromio	senior; till then, lead thou first.	the dialogue clearly suggests that they
	EPH. DRO. Nay then, thus: We came	leave the stage side-by-side, which
	into the world like brother and	would require a wide (i.e. double)
	brother, And now let's go hand in hand, not one before another. (422-6)	door.