

Play: The Revenger's Tragedy

Author: Tourneur/Middleton?

Text used: Methuen ed. R.A.Foakes 1966/1975 Library ref: _____

Key:	enter from within	↘	↙	enter from without
	exit inwards	↖	↗	Exit outwards

act/sc	door IN	Entering characters	door OUT	Space-time indication	Commentary and notes	
I.i	↘	Vindice	↙	<i>Enter Vindice. The Duke, Duchess, Lussurioso his son, Spurio the bastard, with a train, pass over the stage with torch-light.</i>	Vindice, onstage observer, probably enters from outwards door to watch the royal procession enter from inwards...	
		Duke Duchess Spurio Lussurioso				...and return inwards to court.
	↖	Duke Duchess Spurio Lussurioso	↙	VIN. Duke; royal lecher; go, grey-hair'd adultery. (1)		
		Hippolito		VIN. Brother, welcome; What comfort bring'st thou? how go things at court? (50-51)	From the court.	
	↘	Gratiana Castiza	↙	GRAT. What news from court, son Carlo? (108)	From outwards since they are seeking news from court.	
		Gratiana Castiza Hippolito Vindice		↗	VIN. Mother, I must take leave of you... I intend speedy travel...Come, mother, sister; you'll bring me onward brother? (116, 118, 133)	All exit outwards to prepare for Vindice's "departure".
	I.ii	↘	Duke Duchess Lussurioso Spurio Ambitioso Supervacuo	↙	<i>Enter the old Duke, Lussurioso his son, the Duchess, the bastard, the Duchess's two sons Ambitioso and Supervacuo, the third, her youngest brought out with Officers for the rape; two Judges.</i>	Junior, officers and Judges may enter from outwards, but at least the bulk of the entry is from the inwards door.
			Junior Officers Judges			
		↖	Duke Lussurioso Spurio Ambitioso Supervacuo	↙	DUKE. About it then, my lords, with your best powers; More serious business calls upon our hours. (92-3)	Court returns inwards.
			Spurio		DUCH. And here comes he whom my heart points unto. (110)	Spurio returns.
↖		Duchess	↙	DUCH. Faith now, old Duke, my vengeance shall reach high; I'll arm thy brow with woman's heraldry. (176-7)	Presumably she returns inwards to the court.	
		Spurio		SPU. Duke, on thy brow I will draw my bastardy. For indeed a bastard by nature should make cuckolds, because he is the son of a cuckold-maker. (202-4)	Echoing the Duchess's sentiments, he too returns to court.	
I.iii		↘	Vindice Hippolito	↙	VIN. What, brother? Am I far enough from myself? (1)	Calling attention to his disguise, Vindice now arrives at the court.
			Lussurioso		HIPP. 'Sfoot, the Duke's son; Settle your looks. (18-19)	From the court.
		Hippolito	↗	LUSS. So, give us leave. (31)	Hippolito is dismissed outwards.	

	↖ Lussurioso Vindice ↗	LUSS. Attend me. (167) LUSS. Attend me... All my desires Are levell'd at a virgin not far from court...Go thou, and with a smooth enchanting tongue, Bewitch her ears and couzen her with all grace...It is the only daughter to Madam Gratiana. (88, 89-90, 111-12, 124)	Vindice goes outwards to carry out Lussurioso's wishes.
I.iv	Antonio ↖ Piero Lords Hippolito ↖ Wife ↗ Wife Antonio ↗ Piero Lords Hippolito	<i>Enter the discontented Lord Antonio, whose wife the Duchess's youngest son ravished; he discovering the body of her dead to certain Lords, and Hippolito.</i>	Discovery at inwards door. MINIMAL congestion at outwards door with more than twenty lines since Lussurioso's exit to set discovery. No stage direction indicated for withdrawing discovery, but it need not remain visible to end of scene. Presumably they return whence they came.
II.i	↖ Castiza Dondolo ↖ Dondolo ↗ Vindice ↖ Castiza ↗ ↖ Gratiana ↖ Castiza ↗ Castiza ↗ Gratiana Vindice ↗	CAST. How now, Dondolo? DON. Madonna, there is one...that would very desirously mouth to mouth with you. (9, 10, 12) CAST. Go, direct him hither. (24) CAST. Here he comes. (27) CAST. Farewell; commend me to him in my hate. (40) VIN. I will lay Hard siege unto my mother...Mass, fitly here she comes. (51-2, 54) GRAT. Daughter Castiza. (137) GRAT. Return this answer: My lord shall be most welcome... I will sway mine own; Women with women can work best alone. (247-8, 249-50)	Domestic scene, from inwards. Enters from outwards with the news of Vindice's arrival. Vindice arrives, disguised. She returns inwards. Castiza now returns at Gratiana's command... ...and returns inwards, refusing to take part. She follows Castiza inwards to work on her. Vindice returns outwards.
II.ii	↖ Lussurioso Hippolito Vindice ↖ Hippolito ↗ ↖ Lussurioso Hippolito ↖	LUSS. I much applaud Thy judgement; thou art well-read in a fellow. (1-2) LUSS. Mass, here he comes. (12) HIPP. And now shall I have free leave to depart. LUSS. Your absence; leave us. HIPP. Are not my thoughts true? I must remove, but brother, you may stay. (12-15) LUSS. Well, this night I'll visit her, and 'tis till then A year in my desires; farewell -- attend; Trust me with thy preferment. (86-9) HIPP. Brother, how goes the world? I would know news Of you, but I have news to tell you...This vicious old Duke's worthily abus'd The pen of his bastard writes him cuckold...He and the Duchess By night meet in their linen. They have been seen By stair-foot panders. (106-7, 109-10, 111-13)	At the court. Vindice enters from outwards. Hippolito's exchange with Vindice a clear indicator of a mid-scene crossover at outwards door. As at I.iii. 31, Lussurioso's dismissal of the courtier implies outwards exit. He returns inwards to the court, not outwards towards Castiza-- specific time reference indicates a later assignation.. Hippolito has gathered interesting intelligence from the other courtiers.

	<p>↘ Spurio 2 Servants</p>		<p>VIN. See, see, here comes the Spurio... Unbrac'd; two of his valiant bawds with him...Stay, let's observe his passage. (114, 116, 118)</p>	<p>Spurio has been with the Duchess (‘unbrac’d’).</p>
	<p>↗ Spurio 2 Servants</p>		<p>1 SERV. 'Twas spoke by one That is most inward with the Duke's son's lust: That he intends within this hour to steal You unto Hippolito's sister... SPU. Faith then, brother, ...I'll damn you at your pleasure-- precious deed! After your lust, O, 'twill be fine to bleed. Come, let our passing out be soft and wary.</p>	<p>They exit outwards, intent on interrupting Lussurioso's assignation with Castiza (punctuation of Vindice' speech indicates Spurio's outward passage).</p>
	<p>↘ Lussurioso</p>		<p>VIN. Who's this comes? The Duke's son up so late? - Brother, fall back And you shall learn some mischief. (150-152)</p>	<p>Vindice now proposes to incite Lussurioso against his brother by a false report that Spurio has last been seen exiting in the direction of the Duchess's bedroom.</p>
	<p>↖ Lussurioso Vindice</p>		<p>VIN. The bastard!...This minute, now-- Shadows the Duchess-- And, like strong poison, eats into the Duke your father's forehead...He makes horn- royal...That passage he trod warily...And hush'd his villains every step he took.</p>	<p>Vindice's detailed description of Spurio's exit inwards is imbued with dramatic irony, as the audience has just seen Spurio hushing his villains as he exited the chamber and went outwards in the belief that Lussurioso was with Castiza.</p>
	<p>↖ Hippolito</p>		<p>LUSS. The duchess' chamber-door shall not control me. (160, 161, 162-3, 164, 166, 167, 170) HIPPO. I'll follow the event. (174)</p>	<p>He too goes inwards towards the Duchess' chamber.</p>
II.iii	<p>↘ Lussurioso Vindice Duke Duchess</p>	↖	<p>LUSS. Where is that villain? VIN. Softly, my lord and you may take 'em twisted. LUS. I care not how. VIN. O, 'twill be glorious to kill'em doubled, when they're heap'd. (1-4)</p>	<p>Carousel move with time for backstage cross covered by Hippolito's delayed exit (four lines). They enter the chamber and after eight lines open the curtains. This provides some time to set the discovery at the inwards door after Hippolito's exit. The guard rushes in.</p>
	<p>Guard Hippolito Nobles Ambitioso Supervacuo</p>	↖	<p>DUKE. Guard! (18)</p>	
	<p>Hippolito Vindice</p>	↗	<p><i>Dissemble a flight.</i></p>	<p>Presumably Hippolito and Vindice are being referred to here as stealing away.</p>
	<p>↖ Duchess</p>			<p>No exit marked for Duchess, but she could exit inwards here assuming that the bed has been cleared from the inwards door in the meantime.</p>
	<p>Spurio 2 Servants</p>	↖		<p>Spurio and his servants now return from outwards.</p>
	<p>Lussurioso Guard Nobles Spurio</p>	↗	<p>SPU. He's gone; I'll after him, And know his trespass; seem to bear a part</p>	<p>Lussurioso is taken off under guard.</p>
		↗		<p>He follows Lussurioso outwards.</p>

		Ambitioso Supervacuo ↗	In all his ills. (58-60) DUKE. Here then, receive this signet, doom shall pass; Direct it to the judges, he shall die E'er many days. Make haste. (99-101)	The two stepbrothers have used reverse psychology on the Duke by pretending to sue for Lussurioso's freedom, but the Duke realises their intent and sends them outwards towards Lussurioso's site of imprisonment with the signet ring to ensure L's death..
		Nobles ↙	DUKE. Here's envy with a poor thin cover o'er 't... He shall be releas'd suddenly. 2. NOBLE. Our knees shall take Away the office of our feet for ever, Unless your grace bestow a father's eye Upon the clouded fortunes of your son, And in compassionate virtue grant him...liberty.	However, the Duke's real intent is to pardon Lussurioso and the two nobles' entreaties are a pretext for his change of heart.
		Nobles ↗ Duke ↖	DUKE. Your knees sign his release. We freely pardon him. (104, 111, 113-117, 118, 121-2)	They exit outwards. Duke returns inwards.
III.i		Ambitioso ↙ Supervacuo ↗ Ambitioso ↗	SUPER. If the signet come Unto the judges' hands, why then his doom Will be deferr'd till sittings and court-days... Then let's set by the judges, And fall to the officers... And have him die i' th' morning. (3-5, 8-9, 12) AMB. Come, let's not linger; I'll to the officers; go you before, And set an edge upon the executioner. SUPER. Let me alone to grind him. AMB. Meet! Farewell. I am next now; I rise just in that place, where thou'rt cut off, --upon thy neck, kind brother. The falling of one head lifts up another. (22-28)	The brothers enter, proposing to hasten Lussurioso's death by not passing the Duke's signet to the judges. Fork in the road. Different destinations established in dialogue and reinforced by Ambitioso's delayed exit.
III.ii		Lussurioso ↙ Nobles ↗	<i>Enter with the nobles, Lussurioso, from prison.</i> LUSS. O Liberty, thou sweet and heavenly Dame! (6)	Meanwhile the nobles have overtaken them, arrived at the prison and liberated Lussurioso. They exit outwards.
III.iii		Ambitioso ↙ Supervacuo ↗ Officers ↖ Ambitioso ↗ Supervacuo ↗	AMB. Officers, Here's the Duke's signet, your firm warrant, brings The command of present death along with it Unto our brother, the Duke's son...The executioner Stands ready to put forth his cowardly valour. (1-4, 11-12) 1. OFFIC. We'll weep, and do your commendations. (28) AMB. So happily; come, brother. (30)	MARKED congestion at outwards door, possibly indicating a fictional close shave between the just-released Lussurioso and his two stepbrothers arriving with the officers to enforce the spurious death warrant (the signet ring intended by the Duke to signify Lussurioso's delayed death is now an immediate death warrant). Officers go inwards to carry out the death sentence... ...and brothers exit outwards.
III.iv		Junior ↙	<i>Enter in prison...</i>	Prison scene. Junior calls his keeper...

	Keeper ↙	JUN. No news lately from our brothers? KEEP. My lord, a messenger came newly in, and brought this from 'em. (4-6)	...and keeper enters with a letter for Junior.
	Keeper ↗ Keeper ↙	JUN. How now, what news? KEEP. Bad news, my lord; I am discharg'd of you... Here come the officers Into whose hands I must commit you. (21-22, 24-5)	Keeper re-enters with more news.
	Officers ↙	1. OFF. You must pardon us, my lord; Our office must be sound. Here is our warrant, The signet from the Duke. You must straight suffer. (26-8)	Carousel move for the officers.
	Junior ↗ Keeper ↗ Officers ↗	1. OFF. The headsman waits, lift up your eyes to heaven. (70)	Exit outwards to execution, despite III.iii.20 where Ambitioso enjoins officers to 'let him die as private as he may'--which might seem to indicate inwards execution.
III.v	Vindice ↙ Hippolito ↙	VIN. The old Duke... Hires me by price to greet him with a lady In some fit place, veil'd from the eyes o' th' court... To which I easily...Consented, and did wish his impudent grace To meet her here in this unsunned lodge...and here... The bastard and the Duchess have appointed Their meeting too in this luxurious circle. (8, 12-13, 16, 17-18, 19, 21-2)	MARKED congestion: rhyming couplet, switch to other plot. The two brothers arrive at the dark lodge where Vindice has arranged to meet the Duke (to kill him after he has witnessed his wife's infidelity).
	↖ Vindice	<i>Enter Vindice, with the skull of his love dressed up in tires.</i>	Vindice goes inwards to get the skull... ...and returns with it.
	↘ Vindice		
	Duke ↙ Gentlemen ↙	DUKE. You shall have leave to leave us, with this charge, Upon your lives: if we be miss'd by th' Duchess, Or any of the nobles, to give out Where privately rid forth...with some few honourable gentlemen, you may say; You may name those that are away from court. (124-7, 128-9)	The Duke dismisses his retinue with an elaborate alibi to cover his assignation. The location is clearly established as being away from the court.
	Gentlemen ↗ Spurio ↗ Duchess ↙ Attendants ↙	VIND. Their meeting too in this luxurious circle... (22) Here in this lodge they meet for damned clips. (184)	They return outwards. SD <i>Enter the Bastard meeting the Duchess</i> does not indicate separate-door 'meeting' entrances; rather it indicates the fictional 'meeting' they have arranged.
	↖ Spurio Duchess Attendants	DUCH. Why, now thou'rt sociable; let's in, and feast. (220)	They go inwards to feast.
	Vindice ↗ Hippolito ↗ Duke ↗		The brothers kill the Duke, and presumably carry off the body.
III.vi	↘ Ambitioso Supervacuo ↘		The two brothers enter bickering over who was responsible for successfully causing Lussurioso's death.
	Officer ↙	AMB. How now, my friend? OFFIC. My lords, Under your pardon, I am allotted To that desertless office, to present you With the yet bleeding head. (32-4)	Arrives from outwards with news and evidence of Junior's execution.
	Lussurioso ↙	LUSS. Why do you shun me, brothers?	Lussurioso now arrives having been

	<p>↖ Lussurioso</p> <p>↖ Officer Ambitioso Supervacuo ↗</p>	<p>You may Come nearer now; The saver of the prison has forsook me. I thank such kind lords as yourselves, I am free. (55-8)</p> <p>AMB. Come, throw off clouds now, brother, think of vengeance, And deeper settled hate; sirrah, sit fast, We'll pull down all, but thou shalt down at last. (91-4)</p>	<p>freed from prison...</p> <p>...and exits inwards towards the court.</p> <p>Officer returns outwards.</p> <p>They exit inwards to exact their revenge.</p>
IV.i	<p>↘ Lussurioso Hippolito ↙</p> <p>Vindice ↙</p> <p>Vindice ↗</p> <p>Hippolito ↗</p> <p>↘ 2 Nobles</p> <p>2 other Nobles ↙</p> <p>↗ Lussurioso 2+2 Nobles</p>	<p>LUSS. Hippolito.</p> <p>HIPP. My lord, has your good lordship aught To command me in?</p> <p>LUSS. I prithee leave us.</p> <p>HIPP. How's this? Come, and leave us? (1-3)</p> <p>VIN. My honoured lord.</p> <p>LUSS. Away, prithee forsake us; hereafter we'll not know thee. (28-9)</p> <p>VIN. Now 'tis my brother's turn to stay, mine to go out. (38)</p> <p>LUSS. 'Twas told me lately, I know not whether falsely that you'd a brother.</p> <p>HIPP. Who, I? Yes, my good lord, I have a brother.</p> <p>LUSS. Why, the better. Bring him to court.</p> <p>HIPP. With willingness, and speed. (40-42, 55-56)</p> <p>2. NOB. Saw you my lord the Duke?</p> <p>LUSS. My lord and father? is he from court?</p> <p>1. NOB. He's sure from court; but where, which way his pleasure took, we know not, nor can we hear on't. (73-7)</p> <p>LUSS. Here come those should tell. Saw you my lord and father?</p> <p>3. NOB. Not since two hours before noon, my lord; and then he privately rid forth.</p> <p>LUSS. O, he's rode forth.</p> <p>1. NOB. 'Twas wondrous privately. (78-82)</p>	<p>MARKED congestion at inwards door (rhyming couplet concludes previous scene). Dialogue seems to suggest that Hippolito is being called into L's presence only to be dismissed immediately.</p> <p>He too seems to enter from inwards and threatened with being sent back outwards.</p> <p>The explicit recall of two previous scenes in which Hippolito has been dismissed (I.iii, II.ii) is the clearest possible indication of a standard spatial system being played upon.</p> <p>Exits outwards to bring his supposed brother to the court.</p> <p>From the court.</p> <p>Lussurioso's first statement may suggest an entrance from outwards.</p> <p>They return inwards to the court.</p>
IV.ii	<p>Vindice ↙</p> <p>↘ Hippolito ↗</p> <p>↗ Lussurioso ↘</p> <p>↗ Hippolito ↘</p> <p>↘ Hippolito ↗</p> <p>↗ Lussurioso ↘</p> <p>↗ Vindice ↘</p> <p>↗ Hippolito ↘</p>	<p>HIPP. So, so, all's as it should be, y'are yourself. (1)</p> <p>HIPP. 'Sfoot, here he comes. (33)</p> <p>LUSS. He's about the palace. Hippolito, entice him this way that thy brother may take full mark of him. (162-4)</p> <p>LUSS. Now, Hippolito, where's the slave-pander? (179-80)</p> <p>VIN. But by the way, too, now I think on't, brother, Let's conjure that base</p>	<p>Hippolito now returns with his brother undisguised.</p> <p>Returning from inwards.</p> <p>Hippolito sent inwards to search within palace for Vindice (disguised), whom L assumes to be already there (see also line 172).</p> <p>Returns only 6 lines later.</p> <p>Goes back into the palace.</p> <p>They go outwards to Gratiana's house.</p>

			devil out of our mother. (225-6)	
IV.iii	↘	Duchess Spurio Supervacuo Ambitioso	<i>Enter the Duchess, arm in arm with the Bastard; he seemeth lasciviously to her. After them, enter Supervacuo, running with a rapier; his brother stops him.</i>	
		Duchess ↗ Spurio ↗ Supervacuo ↗ Ambitioso ↗	SUPER. Come, stay not here; let's after, and prevent; Or else they'll sin faster than we'll repent. (17-18)	Back outwards to the lodge for another meeting. They follow.
IV.iv	↘	Vindice Hippolito Gratiana	<i>...bringing out their mother...</i>	The brothers have arrived at home and drag forth Gratiana.
	↗	Vindice ↗ Hippolito ↗ Castiza ↗ Gratiana ↗ Castiza ↗	HIPP. Commend us in all virtue to our sister. (90) GRAT. And here she comes. (97) GRAT. 'Mongst thousand daughters, happiest of all others, Be thou a glass for maids, and I for mothers. (156-7)	They go back to the palace. From within the house. They return inwards, closing the scene.
V.i	↘	Vindice ↘ Hippolito ↘ Duke ↘ Lussurioso ↘	VIN. So, so, he leans well; take heed you wake him not, brother. (1) HIPP. Come, now to avoid all suspicion, let's forsake this room, and be going to meet the Duke's son. VIN. Content; I'm for any weather. Heart! step close, here he comes. HIPP. Came your honour private? LUSS. Only a few Attend my coming out. (25-7, 34-6)	They drag in the Duke's body and set it up in or near the inwards door. They prepare to leave the room outwards, but are forestalled as Lussurioso arrives from outwards (the court is remote).
	↘	Sordido ↘ Nencio ↘	LUSS. I'll forthwith send to court... VIN. That will be the best way, my lord to clear us all; let's cast about to be cleared. LUSS. Ho, Nencio, Sordido, and the rest. (78, 82-4)	These are the 'few' who have attended Lussurioso's coming here.
	↗	Nencio ↗	LUSS. Choosing for private conference that sad room, We found the duke my father geal'd in blood. SORD. My lord the Duke?-- run, hie thee, Nencio, Startle the court by signifying so much. (88-91)	This confirms the polar opposition between the positioning of the dead Duke and the outwards door leading to the court.
	↘	Nobles ↘ Ambitioso ↘ Supervacuo ↘		The court now begins to arrive.
	↘	Duchess ↘ Spurio ↘ Noble ↗	LUSS. Bear him straight To execution. (127-8)	The Duchess identifies the body. First noble exits guarded, presumably by some of the other nobles.
	↗	Lussurioso ↗ Nobles ↗ Duchess ↗ Duke? ↗	3. NOB. Let us bethink the latest funeral honours Due to the Duke's cold body. (159-60)	Perhaps this is a cue for the body to be carried outwards.
	↗	Vindice ↗ Hippolito ↗ Spurio ↗ Supervacuo ↗ Ambitioso ↗		Each group leaves with a rhyming couplet. Ditto. Ditto. Ditto.
V.ii	↘	Vindice Hippolito Piero		Re-entrance from other door signifies location and time change. Vindice and Hippolito have fifteen

		Nobles Vindice ↗ Hippolito Piero Nobles	VIN. Come, my lords, Prepare for deeds, let other times have words. (30-31)	lines to cross backstage. Exit outwards to prepare their irruption into the banquet.
V.iii	↘	Lussurioso Nobles	<i>In a dumb show, the possessing of the young Duke with all his Nobles; then sounding music.</i>	Dumb show, probably circular move from and to inwards door.
	↗	Lussurioso Nobles Table ↙	<i>A furnished table is brought forth;</i>	Table from outwards door (servants, stage-hands).
	↘	Lussurioso Nobles Vindice ↙ Hippolito ↙ 2 Lords	<i>then enters the Duke and his Nobles to the banquet. A blazing star appeareth. Enter the masque of revengers, the two brothers, and two Lords more.</i>	They now re-enter from the inwards door. They enter from outwards and kill those at the table.
		Hippolito ↗ 2 Lords ↗ Vindice ↗	VIN. Come, let's away; no ling'ring. HIPP. Follow. Go! (44-5) VIN. No power is angry when the lustful die; When thunder claps, heaven likes the tragedy. <i>Exit</i> LUSS. O, O! (46-8)	Delayed exit minimises congestion caused by mid-scene crossover at outwards door, also minimised by L's groans.. The other party now enters from outwards.
		Ambitioso ↙ Supervacuo ↙ Spurio ↙ 4 Noble ↙ Vindice ↙ Hippolito ↙ 2 Lords ↙ Antonio ↙ Guard ↙ 4 Noble ↗ Guard ↗ Vindice ↗ Hippolito ↗ Guard ↗	ANT. Let him have bitter execution. (73) ANT. Bear'em to speedy execution. (102)	They now return and call for the guard... ...which arrives promptly. Noble is led out to execution. So too are Vindice and Hippolito.
	↗	Ambitioso Supervacuo Spurio Antonio Lords Lussurioso	ANT. How subtilly was that murder clos'd! Bear up Those tragic bodies. (126-7)	They take the bodies inwards.
		backstage cross		