



Shakespeare, The Movie: Popularizing the Plays on Film, TV and Video

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Shakespeare, The Movie brings together an impressive line-up of contributors to consider how Shakespeare has been adapted on film, TV, and video, and explores the impact of this popularization on the canonical status of Shakespeare.

Taking a fresh look at the Bard and his place in the movies, *Shakespeare, The Movie* includes a selection of what is presently available in filmic format to the Shakespeare student or scholar, ranging across BBC television productions, filmed theatre productions, and full screen adaptations by Kenneth Branagh and Franco Zeffirelli. Films discussed include:

- * Amy Heckerling's *Clueless*
- * Gus van Sant's *My Own Private Idaho*
- * Branagh's *Henry V*
- * Baz Luhrman's *William Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet*
- * John McTiernan's *Last Action Hero*
- * Peter Greenaway's *Prospero's Books*
- * Zeffirelli's *Hamlet*.

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Shakespeare, The Movie: Popularizing the Plays on Film, TV and Video From Routledge Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #3270164 in Books
- Published on: 1997-11-06
- Released on: 1997-10-09
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 11.00" h x .65" w x 8.50" l, 1.08 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 288 pages

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Editorial Review

From Kirkus Reviews

Something is rotten in this collection of essays on film treatments of Shakespeare's plays. Various circumstances--only glanced at here--have created a recent, sizable, and profitable multimedia Shakespearean revival in our midst: from Kenneth Branagh's glamorous epic efforts to cartoons to such maverick adaptations as *My Own Private Idaho* and *Prospero's Books*. Trying to grapple loosely with this trend, editors Boose and Burt, English professors at Dartmouth and the University of Massachusetts, respectively, present a wide cross-section of Anglo-American essays (including their own unremarkable contributions) drawn from all corners of current critical theory, from deconstructionism to feminist and queer theory. But whatever their ideological and critical underpinnings or their ostensible subjects, most of these essays are about nothing so much as ourselves. Perhaps it is a testament to his genius that every generation can find itself reflected perfectly in Shakespeare. And so, we have Barbara Hodgdon comparing Othello with the O.J. Simpson case in raising issues of race and gender; Katherine Eggert reading *Bugsy* as a remake of *Antony and Cleopatra*; Donald Hedrick detecting imperialist impulses in Branagh's *Henry V*; and so on. Most of the essayists are professors of English, yet their mastery of Shakespeare is usually not matched by their understanding of film and film theory. And despite a few game attempts at delineating the effects of Shakespeare's current filmic popularizations on his plays--most notably, Robert Hapgood's thoughts on Zeffirelli and Tony Howard's on *King Lear*--most of the contributors here prefer to pace endlessly about in the academic prisons of their thoughts. Some bright, particular stars can be found, but as Hotspur might proclaim: "Such a deal of skimble-skamble stuff." -- *Copyright ©1998, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.*

Review

"[T]hese essays help us understand how Shakespeare continues to live in the twentieth century, and they do it in a manner incomparably more interesting than the articles in the popular media that appear with nauseating regularity and ubiquity at the release of every new adaptation. Hodgdon's piece, like so many of the essays in this collection at their best, combines deftly detailed observation of the filmtexts and an abundance of research into contemporary mass and popular culture (audience responses, interviews, press clippings) with keen readings of the plays and sophisticated reflection on the rhetoric of political discourses. [S]ome of the contributions to the volume simply offer a variety of well-researched cultural histories and thoughtful close readings of the filmtexts from which one can learn a great deal."

-*"Medieval and Renaissance Drama in England*

"Lynda Boose and Richard Burt have collected quality essays that examine filmed Shakespeare from a variety of perspectives. Many of the essays do excellent work in viewing filmed Shakespeare within the context of Hollywood and/or international film, demonstrating how Hollywood colors Shakespeare and how Shakespeare colors Hollywood."

-*"Popular Culture and American Culture Associations, 1998*

About the Author

Richard Burt is Associate Professor of English at the University of Massachusetts. Lynda Boose is Professor of English and Women's Studies at Dartmouth College.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Marie Aultman:

Information is provisions for anyone to get better life, information nowadays can get by anyone on everywhere. The information can be a understanding or any news even an issue. What people must be consider any time those information which is inside former life are hard to be find than now is taking seriously which one is appropriate to believe or which one the particular resource are convinced. If you find the unstable resource then you get it as your main information you will have huge disadvantage for you. All those possibilities will not happen with you if you take Shakespeare, The Movie: Popularizing the Plays on Film, TV and Video as your daily resource information.

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Andrew Comer:

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