

Shakespeare spotlight

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Associate editor



IT IS A mark of Shakespeare's greatness that 400 years after his death, a veritable feast of titles is being published to mark the anniversary. Miguel de Cervantes must be kicking himself that he contrived to die on the very same day.

Faced with the vast canon of Bard-themed publishing that exists in the UK, I have majored on new titles in this preview. However, I have included a reminder of a few eye-catching back-

list titles and of some key editions of the plays.

I am particularly impressed by the number and variety of titles on offer for children. Shakespeare's work is not the easiest literature to introduce to young 21st-Century readers, and yet authors and publishers have applied themselves with great ingenuity and aplomb to the challenge, from the irreverent and winning take of Pamela Butchart in *To Wee or Not to Wee!*, to the creatively inspiring approach of Deborah Patterson in *My Book of Stories: Write Your Own Shakespeare Tales*.

Shakespeare's enduring genius is also amply demonstrated by the way in which his work

continues to give rise to a wealth of literary interpretations, both traditional and outlandish. Mash-ups such as *Monstruous Little Voices: New Tales from Shakespeare's Fantasy World* and *Shakespeare vs Cthulhu* show how his greatness still inspires many. Should you need further proof, the curtain at this year's London Book Fair will rise on a host of events—a veritable “Shakesperience”—honouring his influence on the global publishing industry and wider creative arts. And then, roll on Shakespeare Saturday. The Bard is most definitely My Bag.

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Tony Bradman and Tom Morgan-Jones The Boy and the Globe

BARRINGTON STOKE, MARCH, PB, £6.99, 9781781125038

While Shakespeare is beset by personal and professional troubles, and suffering from writer's block too, young Toby Cuffe lives by his wits in Jacobean London. When he inadvertently stumbles into the Globe Theatre, Toby's energy and enthusiasm reminds Will of the magic that first inspired his love of theatre; soon the pair are at work on a new play called “The Tempest”. This entertaining novel, for readers aged seven to nine, features drawings throughout by Tom Morgan-Jones which have a touch of Ronald Searle about them; it also includes a section of “Funne Activities for Boyes and Girls”. Perfect for reluctant readers and youngsters new to Shakespeare.

Susannah Carson (ed) Shakespeare and Me

ONEWORLD, MARCH, PB, £9.99, 9781780748474

Who is Shakespeare? What explains our continued fascination with his poems and plays? In this multifaceted, absorbing collection, 38 actors, directors, scholars and writers share stories of their relationship with the Bard's work. There is Ralph Fiennes on interpreting the “terrifying play” that is “Coriolanus”; James Earl Jones on the “sun god” Othello; Germaine Greer on the playwright's home life; Dame Harriet Walter on the complexity of his heroines; Sir Anthony Sher on feeling at home in the language; and Isabel Allende on her lifelong love of his work. The uniting emphasis

is on Shakespeare's works as a living legacy “to be read, seen, performed, adapted, revised, wrestled with and embraced”

Hannah Crawforth and Elizabeth Scott-Baumann On Shakespeare's Sonnets

ARDEN, OUT NOW, HB, £12.99, 9781474221580

Thirty contemporary poets—including Andrew Motion, Carol Ann Duffy, Ruth Padel, Roger McGough, Jo Shapcott and Simon Armitage—respond to the intricate form and ambitious scope of Shakespeare's sonnets with new, specially commissioned poems on themes such as sexuality, wit and memory. Each poem appears alongside the sonnet that inspired it. Published in association with the Royal Society of Literature—president Colin Thubron has written the foreword—and supported by the British Council, the anthology is at the centre of year-long international programme “Sonnets Exchange”.

Daniel Hahn and Margarita Valencia Lunatics, Lovers and the Poets

AND OTHER STORIES, APRIL, PB, £10, 9781908276780

Twelve stories by 12 contemporary authors from around the globe, commissioned to mark the 400th anniversaries of the deaths of Shakespeare and Miguel de Cervantes. In order to show the international influence of both writers, the English-speaking writers have taken inspiration from Cervantes; the Spanish-language ones from Shakespeare. Contributors include Ben Okri, Deborah Levi, Kamila Shamsie, Yuri Herrera and Valeria Luiselli. An introduction by Salman

Previewer's Picks



Rushdie explores the liberating legacy of both writers. Published in association with Hay Festivals, which will run a series of events focusing on both of the late writers in 2016.

Mary Hoffman Shakespeare's Ghost

THE GREYSTONES PRESS, APRIL, PB, £TBC, 9781911122005

From “A Midsummer's Night Dream” onwards, Shakespeare's plays are often peopled by fairies, witches, ghosts and apparitions. Such phenomena pepper this intriguing Young Adult novel—a launch title for Hoffman's publishing venture The Greystones Press—in which Shakespeare the Poet is visited by a spirit who urges him to

include paranormal events in his work. Meanwhile Ned Lambert, a young player in Shakespeare's company, is having strange experiences of his own with an otherworldly woman. The authentic language and period detail really enhance this imaginative tale of mortals and spirits, with a mythical Celtic flavour.

Edward Wilson-Lee Shakespeare in Swahililand

COLLINS, MARCH, HB, £20, 9780008146191

Striking literary début in which Cambridge Shakespeare lecturer Wilson-Lee, who was brought up in Kenya, combines travel, history, biography and satire in a radical celebration of

the Bard as global poet, telling the unexpected story of his widespread influence in East Africa. Travelling through the Swahili-speaking nations and talking to a wide cross-section of people, he shows how the Bard has inspired the devotion of decadent émigrés, railway labourers, Indian settlers and African leaders alike. In so doing, he provides fascinating insights into the region, gets to the heart of what makes Shakespeare so universal and muses on the role his writings have played in thinking about what it means to be human.

♦ Titles in the preview without a listed month of publication have already been published.

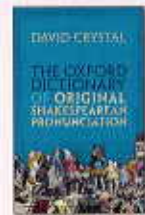
Top Sellers

Boris Johnson Shakespeare

HODDER, OCTOBER, HB, £25, 9781473625846

If Shakespeare is the greatest ever then what, exactly, does his greatness consist of? That is the question, says Johnson. He aims to get to grips with Shakespeare's genius in a simple and readable way: exploring not only its origins but also its nature. In sales and British hero terms, Hodder hopes to repeat the success of *The Churchill Factor*.

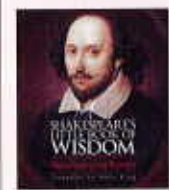
Language, Pronunciation and Quotes



David Crystal The Oxford Dictionary of Original Shakespearean Pronunciation

OUP, MARCH, HB, £22.99, 9780199668427

From the renowned language expert, the first book to offer a comprehensive description of original Shakespearean pronunciation. Publication will be accompanied by a website hosting sound files as a further aid. For example in a “Midsummer Night's Dream”, “tongue” rhymes with “wrong”; “prove” rhymes with “love”; and “wound” with “ground”.



Steve King Shakespeare's Little Book of Wisdom

COLLINS, APRIL, PB, £8.99, 9780007954858

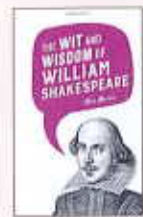
More than 250 nuggets of inspiration and wisdom, thematically arranged from Birth, through Love, Friendship, Imagination (and more) to Death.

Hannah Maktelov The Bard in Brief: Shakespeare in Quotations

BRITISH LIBRARY, APRIL, PB, £9.99, 9780712356336

From the celebrated to

the less familiar, a selection of 80 quotes from the plays, sonnets and poems, accompanied by short contextual descriptions and facsimile reproductions of the first printed edition of the work, which is in the British Library.



Max Morris The Wit and Wisdom of William Shakespeare

SUMMERSDALE, MARCH, HB, £9.99, 9781849538558

Shakespeare's wisest and wittiest quotations. The same author has also compiled *Quotable Shakespeare*, out from Summersdale in June.



Geoff Spiteri A Smidgeon of Shakespeare: Brush Up on the Bard with Lists, Facts and Fun

PORTICO, MARCH, HB, £6.99, 9781910232996

“If the mere mention of Shakespeare fills you with dread, it is time to reconsider that far from being three-hour marathons of unintelligible boring rubbish, Shakespeare's plays are in fact exciting, tragic, funny and often downright rude.” This entertaining compendium provides a wealth of facts and trivia to amuse, impress and entertain at school, in a seminar or down the pub; topics range from “The Most Inappropriate Love Scene” to “Notable Stabbings”.

The Players and the Theatre



Julian Curry (ed) Shakespeare on Stage: Volume 2

NICK HERN, SEPTEMBER, PB, £14.99, 9781848422469

Thirteen leading actors,

including Chiwetel Ejiofor, Eileen Atkins, Sir Ian McKellen, Sir Patrick Stewart and the late and much lamented Alan Rickman discuss playing 13 key Shakespearean roles.



Andrew Dickson The Globe Guide to Shakespeare: The Plays, the Productions, the Life

PROFILE, OUT NOW, PB, £19.99, 9781781256343

Compact but terrifically comprehensive guide to Shakespeare's life and work, including synopses, full character lists, stage history and a critical essay for each, providing both a quick reference and an in-depth background guide for theatregoers, students, film buffs and lovers of literature alike. It also includes reviews of the best DVDs and downloads. An earlier version, published as *The Rough Guide to Shakespeare* was acclaimed by professors Stanley Wells and Jonathan Bate.

Gordon McMullan and Zoë Wilcox Shakespeare in Ten Acts

BRITISH LIBRARY, APRIL, HB, £40, 9780712356329

Accompanying an innovative exhibition at the British Library, this focuses on 10 historical moments that changed the way we see Shakespeare, holding a mirror up to each era across 400 years of performance. Handsomely illustrated, it constitutes a genuinely fresh look at the never-ending reshaping, revising and reimagining of the canon. Also in paperback (£25, 9780712356312).

Anthony Sher Year of the Fat Knight

NICK HERN, AUGUST, PB, £10.99, 9781848425675

Paperback edition of Sher's acclaimed account of preparing for, and playing, Falstaff for the Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC). It was a BBC Radio 4 “Book of the Week”.

Iain Spragg Shakespeare's Strangest Tales

PORTICO, APRIL, PB, £7.99, 9781910232903

A playbill of bizarre true

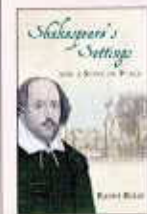
tales from Shakespearean theatre through the centuries, including actors falling off stages, fluffed lines, performances in the dark, the terrible behaviour of the groundlings, and how Dame Maggie Smith got even with Sir Laurence Olivier.

Harriet Walter Brutus and Other Heroines

NICK HERN, OCTOBER, PB, £14.99, 9781848422933

The award-winning actress explores what it takes to perform Shakespeare's most famous roles, both male and female. “An important, intimate contribution to the ongoing debate surrounding gender equality in the arts and a brilliant celebration of Shakespeare's plays.”

Readings and Interpretations



Mike Scott Shakespeare: A Complete Introduction

TEACH YOURSELF, DECEMBER, PB, £12.99, 9781473612785

Aimed at A-Level students, this provides a solid foundation in the key themes and critical concepts for those studying English Literature and is written by an academic with decades of experience teaching Shakespeare to learners of all levels. “The only available title to offer short, sharp engagement with both the genres and the individual plays.”



Jem Bloomfield Words of Power: Reading Shakespeare and the Bible

LUTTERWORTH PRESS, MAY, PB, £20, 9780718894139

Exploring the cultural reverberations of Shakespeare and the Bible, considering our modern ideas about both, and showing how our interpretations tell us much about how we live now.

Theodore Leinwand The Great William

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO



PRESS, MAY, HB, £24.50, 9780226367552

Through examining their marginalia, lectures, letters and journals, this explores how seven writers of renown—Samuel Taylor Coleridge, John Keats, Virginia Woolf, Charles Olson, John Berryman, Allen Ginsberg and Ted Hughes—wrestled with Shakespeare, from Hughes' attempts to find a “skeleton key” to all of the plays, to Berryman's tortured attempts to edit “King Lear”.

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James Shapiro (ed) Shakespeare in America: An Anthology from the Revolution to now

LIBRARY OF AMERICA, OUT NOW, HB, £15.99, 9781598534627

Edited by the brilliant author of *The Year of Lear: Shakespeare in 1606* and featuring a wide range of writers—from Herman Melville and Mark Twain, to Bill Clinton and Cynthia Ozick—this anthology documents the huge influence Shakespeare has had on American culture, through poetry, fiction, essays, songs, speeches, movie reviews and comedy routines.



Emma Smith Shakespeare's First Folio: Four Centuries

of an Iconic Book OUP, MARCH, HB, £24.50, 9780198754367

A biography not of speare himself, but book that ensured continuing fame: the collected edition of plays, printed in 1616 known as the First Folio, has not always been known as the First Folio. Ink blots, pet-paw notes in the margins, wineglass rings on the pages show the Folio has not always been the treasured tome it is today.



Angela Thirlwell Rosalind: A Biography of Shakespeare's Immortal Heroine

OBBRON, APRIL, HB, £16.99, 9781783198198

Innovative and intimate literary portrait of the character of Rosalind from “As You Like It”, featuring contributions and insights from Rosalind Wiseman, of Juliet Stevenson, Suzman, Fiona Shaw, Doran, Kenneth Branagh and Vanessa Redgrave.



Sir Brian Vickers The One King Lear

HARVARD UNIVERSITY PRESS, APRIL, HB, £16.99, 9780674504844

“King Lear” exists in different texts (the Folio and the Quarto) which scholars have argued represent two different versions of the play. In the light of this performance. Now a renowned academic regular comment on Shakespeare, argues the cuts in the Quarto were actually made by a printer who had underestimated the amount of paper he would need.

Richard Wilson Worldly Shakespeare: Theatre of Our Generation

EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY PRESS, OUT NOW, HB, £24.99, 9781474414411

Said to be the first to consider Shakespeare's plays through the