

The BBC's complete collection of Shakespeare's Plays

The number one selling video series for libraries and literature classes in this country.

This collection has revolutionized the teaching of Shakespeare. As the preeminent production of every Shakespeare play written, performances featured in these productions would otherwise be seen only by the theater elite, in London or New York.

When the BBC first undertook this six-year project, it became the most ambitious undertaking ever attempted on film. This was the first time in the 400 years since they were written that all 37 plays would be preserved on tape. Produced by Cedric Messina and Dr. Jonathan Miller, it includes performances by Britain's most distinguished theatrical talent: John Gielgud, Ben Kingsley, Claire Bloom, Anthony Hopkins, Michael York, Derek Jacobi.

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

An extraordinary production of an enduring comedy. The strong cast features Helen Mirren and Peter McEnery. *112 minutes*

ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL

Here Shakespeare uses one of his favorite devices--trickery. The young countess resorts to chicanery to win her husband's respect. *141 minutes*

ANTONY AND CLEOPATRA

The star, Jane Lapotaire, not only looks similar to the historical Queen of Egypt, but has the range to capture her many facets. *171 minutes*

AS YOU LIKE IT

Is there a "natural difference" between a duke's daughter and a commoner? Are men really stronger than women? Or is it just society's role? Stars Helen Mirren and Richard Pasco. *150 minutes*

THE COMEDY OF ERRORS

Roger Daltrey, lead singer of the band "The Who," stars in Shakespeare's shortest play. *109 minutes*

LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST

A splendid satire -- some of Shakespeare's best early poetry. *120 minutes*

MACBETH

This savage tragedy is one of Shakespeare's most enduringly popular. Starring Nicol Williamson and Jane Lapotaire. *148 minutes*

MEASURE FOR MEASURE

The trickiest sort of play -- a comedy with tragic relief. The New York Times says "Kate Nelligan is the image idealized faultlessness." *145 minutes*

MERCHANT OF VENICE

This play presents contrasts in the character Shylock. Is he villain, buffoon or tragic hero? Starring Warren Mitchell, Gemma Jones. *157 minutes*

THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR

Queen Elizabeth herself is said to have requested the return of Falstaff. Here he tries to seduce two respectable wives. Stars Ben Kingsley. *167 minutes*

CORIOLANUS

In his last tragedy, Shakespeare studies the character of a soldier. Stars Alan Howard. *145 minutes*

CYMBELINE

King Cymbeline's evil second queen tries to force Princess Imogen to marry her own son. Starring Claire Bloom and Helen Mirren. *174 minutes*

HAMLET

In this richly costumed production, the greatest tragedy ever written maintains all the tension of a murder mystery. Derek Jacobi is a superb choice as Hamlet. *222 minutes*

HENRY IV, PART I

The boisterous Falstaff leads Prince Hal, the heir to the throne, through London's lowlife taverns. Starring Jon Finch, Anthony Quayle. *147 minutes*

HENRY IV, PART II

The death of Henry IV, banishment of Falstaff and coronation of Hal as Henry V. Stars Jon Finch, Anthony Quayle, David Gwillim. *151 minutes*

HENRY V

England's most admired national hero, Henry V unites his people, invades France, deals with traitors and cements the peace. *163 minutes*

HENRY VI, PART I

First of a trilogy, recreating King Henry's early days. Starring Peter Benson, Trevor Peacock. *185 minutes*

HENRY VI, PART II

Henry marries Lady Margaret, but she despises his meekness and takes Suffolk as a lover. *212 minutes*

HENRY VI, PART III

York wins the War of Roses and forces Henry to give him succession. *210 minutes*

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING

The sparring wit of the confirmed bachelor, Benedick, and the haughty lady Beatrice seems to delight audiences more every year. *120 minutes*

OTHELLO

Perhaps his greatest triumph as a stage play. Evil Iago plants doubt in Othello's mind about Desdemona, and audiences are spellbound. Stars Anthony Hopkins, Bob Hoskins as Iago. *208 minutes*

PERICLES

The Prince of Tyre, who flees upon discovering his King in an incestuous relationship. Starring Mike Gwilym and Amanda Redman. *177 minutes*

RICHARD II

A stellar cast includes Derek Jacobi, Sir John Gielgud, and Dame Wendy Hiller. *157 minutes*

RICHARD III

A huge success in its day, this play portrays an intricate period in English history. *228 minutes*

ROMEO AND JULIET

A "hit" for over 400 years. It expresses love in its infinite variety more than any other work in the English language. Stars Sir John Gielgud. *167 minutes*

THE TAMING OF THE SHREW

John Cleese, of Monty Python, portrays Petruchio to unanimous acclaim: "an object lesson in serving Shakespeare to a present-day audience." *127 minutes*

THE TEMPEST

A timeless stage on an enchanted island. An exiled Duke and two lovers encounter the occult. *150 minutes*

TIMON OF ATHENS

Choice says "recommended version of

HENRY VIII

Filmed at Henry's favorite place, Leeds Castle, enacted in the very rooms the King inhabited, 500 years ago. Stars Claire Bloom, John Stride. *165 minutes*

JULIUS CAESAR

Breaking dramatic conventions, Shakespeare creates neither a clear-cut hero nor a villain. Starring Charles Gray as Caesar. *161 minutes*

KING JOHN

Here Shakespeare rewrote another's work, the only time he uses such a source instead of the chronicles themselves. Stars Claire Bloom. *120 minutes*

KING LEAR

Crisply paced, with an exemplary cast. Starring Michael Hordern, Anton Lesser. *185 minutes*

a difficult yet interesting play." His most cynical work. *128 minutes*

TITUS ANDRONICUS

This tragedy draws on brutal Roman mythology. Stars Eileen Atkins, Trevor Peacock. *120 minutes*

TROILUS AND CRESSIDA

Says Choice, "This video is simply excellent, valuable to anyone teaching the play." Stars Anton Lesser, Suzanne Burden. *190 minutes*

TWELFTH NIGHT

This is the most subtle of Shakespeare's comedies. Starring Alec McCowen, Trevor Peacock. *124 minutes*

TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA

Shakespeare's earliest attempt at romantic comedy, two friends fall in love with Silvia. *137 minutes*

THE WINTER'S TALE

A theme that occupied Shakespeare later in life: reconciliation. Wrongs committed by one generation are made right by the next. *173 minutes*