



PRESS RELEASE
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The Rough Guide to Shakespeare: updated edition The plays • The poems • The life

From the newly discovered remains of his first Shoreditch theatre to a possible new portrait of the Bard himself, Shakespeare continues to entertain, inspire and challenge readers all over the world. The eagerly anticipated new edition of the bestselling **Rough Guide to Shakespeare** is not just a comprehensive reference tool, but a celebration of all things Shakespearian.

This updated, expanded edition incorporates new features such as **My Shakespeare**, first-hand accounts by leading actors and directors, including Ian McKellen and Adrian Lester, on what Shakespeare means to them. Did you know, for instance, that Zoë Wanamaker wishes she could have played Juliet, or that RSC director Michael Boyd's earliest Shakespearian memory is a comic-strip version of *Hamlet*?

What else is new? As well as My Shakespeare, this edition also adds ...

- Up-to-date coverage of **downloads, websites and blogs**
- Updated **DVD and CD listings**, with reviews of the best movies and audio recordings
- Tips on how to get **kids into Shakespeare** – both books and films
- The **latest scholarship**, including a new chapter on the recently accepted *Edward III*
- New contextual insight into Shakespeare's **colleagues and rivals**, from Marlowe to Jonson
- Expanded and updated **stage histories** featuring the best recent productions

With full coverage of 39 plays spread over nearly 600 pages – including synopsis, character list, stage history and critical essay for each – Andrew Dickson takes a refreshing approach to Shakespeare, one that's both detailed and concise. The Rough Guide is the ultimate companion for students, scholars and anyone intrigued by the cultural phenomenon that is Shakespeare.

Shakespeare for kids: a taster

Shakespeare doesn't have to be dusty tomes or archaic language – plug kids in to some Rough Guide film and book recommendations instead!

- **Shakespeare: The Animated Tales** – This series of twelve half-hour animated Shakespeare films, cleverly abridged by Leon Garfield, has rightly achieved classic status.
- **Macbeth: The Graphic Novel** – Jon Haward brings the play to life in a dynamic comic-book style. Cinematic viewpoints enhance the drama, while Macbeth is a musclebound Hollywood hero.
- **King of Shadows by Susan Cooper** – A young actor is transported back to 1599 and finds himself playing Puck alongside Shakespeare himself. A brilliantly sustained novel, it evokes the period while wearing its historical knowledge lightly.
- **Manga Shakespeare: Hamlet** – Edgy and bold, this series will jump out to anyone familiar with Japanese comic books read by millions worldwide. Great at getting where it matters: right inside its hero's head.

Praise for the Rough Guide to Shakespeare

"Awesomely assured" – Boyd Tonkin, *The Independent*

"You couldn't wish for a more user-friendly, reliable guidebook" – Anthony Holden, *Daily Mail*

"An amazing achievement" – Michael Billington, theatre critic, *The Guardian*



The author

One of Britain's most exciting young critics, **Andrew Dickson** holds an MPhil in Renaissance Literature from Cambridge and reviews regularly for BBC Radios 3 and 4. He is currently the *Guardian's* online arts editor.

The Rough Guide to Shakespeare, second edition

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