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978-0-521-10721-1 - Casting Shakespeare's Plays: London Actors and their Roles, 1590-1642

T. J. King

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Invaluable source material for professional theatre directors and for students of English dramatic literature is provided by this detailed examination of playhouse procedures for Shakespeare's own acting company. In careful analysis, T. J. King reveals how the size and composition of the casts of characters for Shakespeare's plays were determined by common theatrical practices at London playhouses between 1590 and 1642. King closely examines manuscripts, contemporary playbooks, and authoritative texts of Shakespeare to determine the numbers of actors required and the procedures for actors doubling roles. The volume contains numerous illustrations of playhouse documents as well as tables and lists of actors, plays, and roles.

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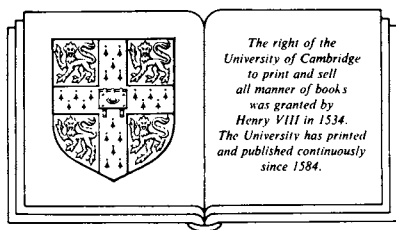
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Casting Shakespeare's plays

London actors and their roles, 1590 – 1642

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City University of New York*



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For Emily

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Abbreviations

1 Shakespeare's plays

<i>Ado</i>	<i>Much Ado about Nothing</i>
<i>Ant.</i>	<i>Antony and Cleopatra</i>
<i>AWW</i>	<i>All's Well that Ends Well</i>
<i>AYLI</i>	<i>As You Like It</i>
<i>Cor.</i>	<i>Coriolanus</i>
<i>Cym.</i>	<i>Cymbeline</i>
<i>Err.</i>	<i>The Comedy of Errors</i>
<i>Ham.</i>	<i>Hamlet</i>
<i>1H4</i>	<i>The First Part of King Henry the Fourth</i>
<i>2H4</i>	<i>The Second Part of King Henry the Fourth</i>
<i>H5</i>	<i>King Henry the Fifth</i>
<i>1H6</i>	<i>The First Part of King Henry the Sixth</i>
<i>2H6</i>	<i>The Second Part of King Henry the Sixth</i>
<i>3H6</i>	<i>The Third Part of King Henry the Sixth</i>
<i>H8</i>	<i>King Henry the Eighth</i>
<i>JC</i>	<i>Julius Caesar</i>
<i>John</i>	<i>King John</i>
<i>LLL</i>	<i>Love's Labour's Lost</i>
<i>Lear</i>	<i>King Lear</i>
<i>Mac.</i>	<i>Macbeth</i>
<i>MM</i>	<i>Measure for Measure</i>
<i>MND</i>	<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>
<i>MV</i>	<i>The Merchant of Venice</i>
<i>Oth.</i>	<i>Othello</i>
<i>Per.</i>	<i>Pericles</i>
<i>R2</i>	<i>King Richard the Second</i>
<i>R3</i>	<i>King Richard the Third</i>
<i>Rom.</i>	<i>Romeo and Juliet</i>
<i>Shr.</i>	<i>The Taming of the Shrew</i>
<i>Temp.</i>	<i>The Tempest</i>
<i>TGV</i>	<i>The Two Gentlemen of Verona</i>
<i>Tim.</i>	<i>Timon of Athens</i>
<i>Tit.</i>	<i>Titus Andronicus</i>
<i>TN</i>	<i>Twelfth Night</i>

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<i>TNK</i>	<i>The Two Noble Kinsmen</i>
<i>Tro.</i>	<i>Troilus and Cressida</i>
<i>Wiv.</i>	<i>The Merry Wives of Windsor</i>
<i>WT</i>	<i>The Winter's Tale</i>

2 Other plays

<i>BA</i>	<i>The Battle of Alcazar</i> (Plot and Q-1594)
<i>Barn.</i>	<i>Sir John van Olden Barnavelte</i> (MS.)
<i>BAYL</i>	<i>Believe as you List</i> (MS.)
<i>DF</i>	<i>The Deserving Favorite</i> (1629)
<i>DM</i>	<i>The Duchess of Malfi</i> (1623)
<i>DMF</i>	<i>The Dead Man's Fortune</i> (Plot)
<i>1FMW</i>	<i>The First Part of the Fair Maid of the West</i> (1631)
<i>2FMW</i>	<i>The Second Part of the Fair Maid of the West</i> (1631)
<i>Fred.</i>	<i>Frederick and Basilea</i> (Plot)
<i>Han.</i>	<i>Hannibal and Scipio</i> (1637)
<i>HL</i>	<i>Holland's Leaguer</i> (1632)
<i>HMF</i>	<i>The Honest Man's Fortune</i> (MS.)
<i>2HR</i>	<i>The Second Part of Henry Richmond</i> (Plot)
<i>KJM</i>	<i>King John and Matilda</i> (1655)
<i>Mess.</i>	<i>The Tragedy of Messalina</i> (1640)
<i>Pict.</i>	<i>The Picture</i> (1630)
<i>RA</i>	<i>The Roman Actor</i> (1629)
<i>Ren.</i>	<i>The Renegado</i> (1630)
<i>SMT</i>	<i>The Second Maiden's Tragedy</i> (MS.)
<i>2SDS</i>	<i>The Second Part of the Seven Deadly Sins</i> (Plot)
<i>SC</i>	<i>The Soddered Citizen</i> (MS.)
<i>Swis.</i>	<i>The Swisser</i> (MS.)
<i>1TC</i>	<i>The First Part of Tamar Cam</i> (Plot)
<i>Wed.</i>	<i>The Wedding</i> (1629)
<i>WGC</i>	<i>The Wild Goose Chase</i> (1652)

3 Other abbreviations and short titles

<i>Bentley</i>	Gerald Eades Bentley, <i>The Profession of Player in Shakespeare's Time</i> (Princeton 1984)
<i>C</i>	Chorus
<i>DS</i>	Dumbshow
<i>Diary</i>	R. A. Foakes and R. T. Rickert (eds.), <i>Henslowe's Diary</i> (Cambridge 1961)
<i>Documents</i>	W. W. Greg (ed.), <i>Dramatic Documents from the Elizabethan Playhouses</i> (2 vols., Oxford 1931). Volume I contains commentary, volume II reproductions and transcripts.

Abbreviations

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E	Epilogue
ES	E. K. Chambers, <i>The Elizabethan Stage</i> (4 vols., Oxford 1923)
F	Folio
<i>Folio</i>	W. W. Greg, <i>The Shakespeare First Folio</i> (Oxford 1955)
<i>Herbert</i>	J. Q. Adams (ed.), <i>The Dramatic Records of Sir Henry Herbert</i> (New Haven 1917)
<i>HLQ</i>	<i>Huntington Library Quarterly</i>
Ind.	Induction
<i>JCS</i>	G. E. Bentley, <i>The Jacobean and Caroline Stage</i> (7 vols., Oxford 1941–68)
Meres	Francis Meres, <i>Palladis Tamia: Wits Treasury</i> (1598), as cited by <i>WS</i> II, 193–4
<i>MP</i>	<i>Modern Philology</i>
<i>MRDE</i>	<i>Medieval and Renaissance Drama in England</i>
<i>MSC</i>	<i>Malone Society Collections</i>
<i>MSR</i>	<i>Malone Society Reprints</i>
<i>N&Q</i>	<i>Notes and Queries</i>
Nunzezer	E. Nunzezer, <i>A Dictionary of Actors and of Other Persons Associated with the Public Representation of Plays in England before 1642</i> (New Haven 1929)
O	Octavo
<i>OED</i>	<i>Oxford English Dictionary</i>
P	Prologue
<i>Papers</i>	W. W. Greg (ed.), <i>The Henslowe Papers</i> (London 1907)
<i>PBSA</i>	<i>Papers of the Bibliographical Society of America</i>
Pr	Presenter
Q	Quarto
<i>RES</i>	<i>Review of English Studies</i>
<i>SB</i>	<i>Studies in Bibliography</i>
<i>SP</i>	<i>Studies in Philology</i>
<i>SQ</i>	<i>Shakespeare Quarterly</i>
<i>SR</i>	Edward Arber (ed.), <i>A Transcript of the Registers of the Company of Stationers of London: 1554–1640 A.D.</i> (5 vols., London and Birmingham 1875–94)
<i>ShS</i>	<i>Shakespeare Survey</i>
<i>WS</i>	E. K. Chambers, <i>William Shakespeare</i> (2 vols., Oxford 1930)
<i>W&T</i>	Stanley Wells and Gary Taylor with John Jowett and William Montgomery, <i>William Shakespeare: A Textual Companion</i> (Oxford 1987)

NOTES ON CONVENTIONS

All citations to Shakespeare's plays are to *The First Folio of Shakespeare*, the Norton facsimile, prepared by Charlton Hinman (New York 1968) – referred to in my text as

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F – or to M. J. B. Allen and K. Muir (eds.), *Shakespeare's Plays in Quarto* (Berkeley 1981). The abbreviated titles of Shakespeare's plays have been modified from those used in the *Harvard Concordance to Shakespeare*. All act, scene, and line references to his plays are to the New Arden editions.

Citations to other early texts are to microfilm copies of manuscript playbooks and early printed plays, and to Greg's transcriptions of the playhouse plots, which my Appendix A reprints from *Documents*. In early documents, some dates are entered according to the Old Style calendar, in which the year ended on 25 March. I have silently emended these dates to conform with the modern calendar. I have retained original spellings in quotations except that I have silently emended the Elizabethan typographical conventions of i for j, initial v and medial u to conform with modern usage. In my tables of parts, the spellings of actors' names are retained as they first appear in the original documents, but in my text the spellings of actors' names are standardized according to the first listing in Nungezer.