

SHAKESPEARE IN PRODUCTION

TROILUS AND CRESSIDA

This edition is the first to offer a detailed account of the theatrical treatment of *Troilus and Cressida* on the British and North American stages from its first revivals at the beginning of the twentieth century to the present. The illustrated introduction also briefly traces the play from its earliest printings and adaptation in the seventeenth century through its period of theatrical neglect in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and notes some important Continental productions. Frances A. Shirley gives an overview of the conceptions behind the important revivals, and responses to those revivals, as well as noting the critical trends that helped shape a great variety of more recent theatrical approaches.

The authoritative New Cambridge Shakespeare text, edited by Anthony B. Dawson, is accompanied by detailed commentary on stage business, actors' interpretations, specific use of settings and properties, and substantial textual alterations. The introduction also shows the close ties between theatre and the political, social and cultural contexts of productions. This edition will be useful to students of Shakespeare in performance and to those intrigued by the rise in popularity and change in reputation of what is still considered one of Shakespeare's less well-known plays.

FRANCES A. SHIRLEY is Professor of English Emerita, Wheaton College, Norton, MA. Her publications include *Shakespeare's Use of Off-Stage Sounds, Swearing and Perjury in Shakespeare's Plays*, an edition of Webster's *The Devil's Law-Case* and a collection of critical essays on *King John* and *Henry VIII*.



SHAKESPEARE IN PRODUCTION

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TROILUS AND CRESSIDA



EDITED BY FRANCES A. SHIRLEY



Professor Emerita, Wheaton College, Norton, Massachusetts, USA





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SERIES EDITORS' PREFACE

It is no longer necessary to stress that the text of a play is only its starting-point, and that only in production is its potential realized and capable of being appreciated fully. Since the coming-of-age of Theatre Studies as an academic discipline, we now understand that even Shakespeare is only one collaborator in the creation and infinite recreation of his play upon the stage. And just as we now agree that no play is complete until it is produced, so we have become interested in the way in which plays often produced – and pre-eminently the plays of the national Bard, William Shakespeare – acquire a life history of their own, after they leave the hands of their first maker.

Since the eighteenth century Shakespeare has become a cultural construct: sometimes the guarantor of nationhood, heritage, and the status quo, sometimes seized and transformed to be its critic and antidote. This latter role has been particularly evident in countries where Shakespeare has to be translated. The irony is that while his status as national icon grows in the English-speaking world, his language is both lost and renewed, so that for good or ill, Shakespeare can be made to seem more urgently 'relevant' than in England or America, and may become the one dissenting voice that the censors mistake as harmless.

'Shakespeare in Production' gives the reader, the student and the scholar a comprehensive dossier of materials – eye-witness accounts, contemporary criticism, promptbook marginalia, stage business, cuts, additions, and rewritings – from which to construct an understanding of the many meanings that the plays have carried down the ages and across the world. These materials are organized alongside the New Cambridge Shakespeare text of the play, line by line and scene by scene, while a substantial introduction in each volume offers a guide to their interpretation. One may trace an argument about, for example, the many ways of playing Queen Gertrude, or the political transmutations of the text of *Henry V*; or take a scene, an act, or a whole play, and work out how it has succeeded or failed in presentation over four hundred years.

For, despite our insistence that the plays are endlessly made and remade by history, Shakespeare is not a blank, scribbled upon by the age. Theatre history charts changes, but also registers something in spite of those changes. Some productions work and others do not. Two interpretations may be entirely different, and yet both will bring the play to life. Why? Without setting out to give absolute answers, the history of a play in the theatre can often show where the



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energy and shape of it lie, what has made it tick, through many permutations. In this way theatre history can find common ground with literary criticism. Both will find suggestive directions in the introductions to these volumes, while the commentaries provide raw material for readers to recreate the living experience of theatre, and become their own eye-witness.

J. S. Bratton Julie Hankey



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Finally, I am most appreciative of the permissions given by the copyright owners of the illustrations.



EDITOR'S NOTE

I have silently corrected occasional misprints in quotations from newspaper articles, especially some reprinted on the Internet. Where details of costumes, sets and stage business have come from three or more reviews, a promptbook or production videotape, or, in the case of many Stratford, London and North American revivals I have seen since 1956, the sort of notes Arthur Colby Sprague taught me to keep, I have not footnoted extensively, but merely mentioned the company and date, especially in the commentary to the text.

The play text used is The New Cambridge Shakespeare *Troilus and Cressida*, edited by Anthony B. Dawson, Cambridge University Press, 2003.



ABBREVIATIONS

ASF American Shakespeare Festival
BBC British Broadcasting Company
BET Boston Evening Transcript

BOV Bristol Old Vic

BR Birmingham Repertory Company

CF Cambridge Festival

CSM Christian Science Monitor

DM Daily Mail, London

DT Daily Telegraph, London

FT Financial Times, London

FTG Folger Library Theatre Group

GC Glasgow Citizens' Theatre

Gdn Guardian

HSSR Harvard Summer School Repertory

ILN Illustrated London News
 In The Independent, London
 LM London Mask Theatre
 LT The Times, London
 MS Marlowe Society

NAO National Arts Centre Ottawa

NS New Statesman

NT Royal National Theatre

NYEP New York Evening Post

NYHT New York Herald Tribune

NYS New York Sun

NYSF New York Shakespeare Festival NYTh National Youth Theatre

NYT New York Times

TV II IVEW TOTK TIMES

OA Open Air Theatre, Regent's Park

Obs Observer, London

OSF Oregon Shakespeare Festival
OX Oxford Stage Company

OV Old Vic

PI Plays International

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List of abbreviations xiii

PMLA	Publications of the Modern Language Association of America
PP	Plays and Players
RSC	Royal Shakespeare Company
RST	Royal Shakespeare Theatre
SCL	Shakespeare Centre Library
SFC	Stratford Festival Canada
SMT	Shakespeare Memorial Theatre
SQ	Shakespeare Quarterly
SR	Saturday Review of Literature
SS	Shakespeare Survey
ST	Sunday Telegraph, London
St	The Standard, London
SuT	Sunday Times, London
TA	Theatre Arts
TLS	Times Literary Supplement
TR	Trinity Repertory Company, Providence
TS	Theatre Survey
TW	Theatre World
YR	Yale Repertory Theatre

Note

Journal references appear in an abbreviated form in the text, but can be found in full in the bibliography. References to newspaper and periodical reviews are found only in footnotes and the commentary.



More Information

PRODUCTIONS

The following is a selective chronological list of productions of *Troilus and Cres*sida in English. Where amateur or semi-professional productions are noted, they were either pioneering or considered important enough for substantive reviews in major newspapers. All productions between 1679 and 1733 are of the Dryden adaptation. The first name after the title of the company is the producer or director (early producers were the equivalent of today's directors). Where principal actors are listed, 'T' stands for Troilus, 'C' for Cressida, 'P' for Pandarus, 'U' for Ulysses, 'TH' for Thersites, 'A' for Achilles, and 'H' for Hector. SMT represents The Shakespeare Memorial Theatre and its company. It became the Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC) in 1961, and RST stands for their main Stratford theatre. All locations are in Great Britain, most often in London, unless otherwise indicated by company name or the notation of a city.

A chronology that includes many Continental revivals, but omits some of the British and American productions listed below, can be found on the Theatre for a New Audience web site http://www.tfana.org/2001/troilus/ chronprt.htm as of this writing.

Theatrical productions

Date(s)	Company/Director; Principal actors	Venue(s)
1602?	Lord Chamberlain's Men?	Globe or Inns of Court?
1679	Duke's Men/Davenant; Betterton T, Leigh P, Underhill TH	Dorset Garden
1697	Betterton P, Wilks T, Quin H	Lincoln's Inn Fields
1709	Betterton TH, Wilks T, Quin H	Drury Lane
1720	Quin H, Leigh A	Lincoln's Inn Fields
1723	Quin TH, Hippisley P	Lincoln's Inn Fields
1733	Quin TH, Hippisley P, Ryan T	Covent Garden

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List of productions xv

Date(s)	Company / Director; Principal actors	Venue(s)
1907	Charles Fry TH, Lewis Casson T	Great Queen Street
1912, 1913	Elizabethan Stage Society/William Poel; Edith Evans C, Elspeth Keith TH, Robert Speaight U	King's Hall; Stratford
1916	Yale Shakespeare Association/E. M. Woolley	Hyperion, New Haven, CT
1922	Marlowe Society/Frank Birch	Cambridge; Everyman
1923	Old Vic/Robert Atkins; Ion Swinley T, D. Hay Petrie TH	Old Vic
1927	Rockford College	Rockford, IL
1928	Norwich Players/Nugent Monck	Maddermarket
1932	Cambridge Festival/Frank Birch; Anthony Quayle H	Arts Theatre
1932	Players Theatre/Henry Herbert; Otis Skinner TH, Edith Barrett C, Eugene Powers P	Moss's Broadway Theatre, NY
1934	Carnegie Institute of Technology/B. Iden Payne	Little Theatre, Pittsburgh, PA
1936	SMT/B. Iden Payne; Donald Wolfit U, Randle Ayrton P, Pamela Brown C	SMT
1936	York Settlement Community Players/Kenneth Muir	Harrogate Festival Opera House
1938	London Mask/Michael Macowan; Robert Speaight U, Max Adrian P, Robert Harris T, Ruth Lodge C	Westminster
1938	Oxford University Dramatic Society/Neville Coghill	Exeter College Garden
1940	Marlowe Society Cambridge Revels/George Rylands	Cambridge Arts Theatre
1941	Princeton Theatre Intime	Princeton, NJ



xvi List of productions

Date(s)	Company / Director; Principal actors	Venue(s)
1941	Civic Theatre/Leon Askin; Murray Sheehan P	Washington, DC
1946	Open Air Theatre/Robert Atkins	Regent's Park
1948	Marlowe Society/George Rylands	ADC Theatre, Cambridge
1948	SMT/Anthony Quayle; Paul Scofield T, Noel Willman P	SMT
1948	Norwich Players/Nugent Monck	Maddermarket
1948, 1950	Brattle Theatre Company/Jerry Kilty U, Thayer David P	Cambridge, MA
1953	Oxford University Dramatic Society/Merlin Thomas	St John's College Gardens; Paris
1953	Antioch Area Theatre/Arthur Lithgow; Elias Rabb T	Yellow Springs, OH
1954	SMT/Glen Byam Shaw; Anthony Quayle P, Laurence Harvey T, Leo McKern U, Keith Michell A	SMT
1954	University of Colorado/J. H. Crouch	Boulder, CO
1954	Marlowe Society/George Rylands	Cambridge
1955	Portsmouth Southern Shakespeare Players	St. Peter's Hall
1955	Sloane School	Sloane School
1956-7	Old Vic/Tyrone Guthrie; Paul Rogers P, John Neville T, TH, Rosemary Harris C, Jeremy Brett T	Old Vic; US tour
1956	Marlowe Society/John Barton, George Rylands	Cambridge Arts
1958	Oregon Shakespeare Festival/James Sandoe	Ashland, OR
1958	Youth Theatre/Michael Croft	Lyric, Hammersmith; Mora House, Edinburgh



List of productions xvii

Date(s)	Company / Director; Principal actors	Venue(s)
1960, 1962	SMT-RSC/Peter Hall, John Barton; Denholm Elliott T, Ian Holm T, Dorothy Tutin C, Max Adrian P, Michael Hordern P, Peter O'Toole TH, Gordon Gostelow TH	SMT; Edinburgh Lyceum; Aldwych
1961	American Shakespeare Festival/Jack Landau; Carrie Nye C, Ted van Greithuysen T	Stratford, CT
1961	Richmond Shakespeare Society	Terrace Garden; Fulham Open Air; George Inn
1963	Birmingham Rep/John Harrison; Derek Jacobi T, Arthur Pentlow TH, Philip Voss A	Repertory Theatre
1963	Stratford Festival Canada/Michael Langham; John Colicos H, William Hutt P, Eric Christmas TH, Peter Donat T	Festival Theatre Stratford, Ont.
1964	Marlowe Society/Robin Midgley	Cambridge Arts
1964	Victoria University Drama Club	Wellington, N.Z.
1965	National Youth Theatre/Michael Croft	Old Vic
1965	APA Repertory/Richard Watts, Jr	Phoenix, NY
1965	N. Y. Shakespeare Festival/Joseph Papp	Delacorte, Central Park, NY
1966	Nottingham Theatre Club	Hutchinson St.
1968	University of Michigan, Ann Arbor	Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre, MI
1968	Guildhall School of Music and Drama/Edward Argent	Guildhall School
1968-9	RSC/John Barton; Norman Rodway TH, Michael Williams T, Helen Mirren C, David Waller P, Alan Howard A, Patrick Stewart H, Sebastian Shaw U	RST; Aldwych,
1969	John Fernald Company/John Fernald	Rochester, MI
1969	Great Lakes Shakespeare Festival/Lawrence Carra	Lakewood, OH



xviii List of productions

Date(s)	Company / Director; Principal actors	Venue(s)
1970	Princeton Repertory/Arthur Lithgow, Tom Brenner	McCarter, Princeton, NJ
1970	Champlain Shakespeare Festival/James J. Thesing	Burlington, VT
1971	Belgrade Coventry	Studio Theatre
1971	Royal Academy of Dramatic Art	Vanbrugh Theatre
1971	Trinity Square Repertory/Adrian Hall; Richard Kneeland U	Providence, RI
1971	Yale Repertory	New Haven, CT
1972	Oregon Shakespeare Festival/Jerry Turner	Bowmer Theatre, Ashland, OR
1972	Olney Theatre/Ellie Chamberlain	Olney, MD
1972	Bristol Old Vic/Howard Davies; Anna Calder-Marshall C	Theatre Royal
1972	New Jersey Shakespeare Festival	Madison, NJ
1973	NY Shakespeare Festival/David Schweitzer	Lincoln Center, NY
1973	Marlowe Society/Richard Cottrell	Cambridge Arts; Nuffield, Southampton
1973	Merseyside Unity Theatre/Jerry Dawson	Liverpool Everyman
1973	Glasgow Citizens'/Philip Prowse; Mike Gwilym A	Citizens' Theatre
1976	Yale Repertory/Alvin Epstein; Jeremy Geidt P	New Haven, CT
1976	Old Globe Theatre Co./Edward Payson; John Doolin U, Sandy McCallom T, Pamela Payton-Wright C	San Diego, CA
1976	National Theatre/Elijah Moshinsky; Robert Eddison P, Denis Quilley H, Philip Locke U	Young Vic



List of productions xix

Date(s)	Company / Director; Principal actors	Venue(s)
1976-7	RSC/John Barton, Barry Kyle; Mike Gwilym T, Tony Church U, Michael Pennington H, Robin Ellis A, David Waller P, Francesca Annis C	RST; Aldwych
1977	Round House Downstairs/Ronald Hayman	Roundhouse, Chalk Farm
1978	National Arts Center/John Wood; Edward Atienza U, Erik Donkin P	Ottawa, Ont.
1978	The Changing Space	New York
1979	Bristol Old Vic/Richard Cotrell	Edinburgh Festival; Theatre Royal
1980	New York Theatre Ensemble	East 4th Street, NY
1981	Oxford University Dramatic Society	Oxford Playhouse; Cambridge Arts
1981	RSC/Terry Hands; David Suchet A, Tony Church P, Joe Melia TH, Carol Royle C	Aldwych
1983	Manchester Umbrella	Bretton Hall College
1983	Folger Library Theatre Group/John Neville-Andrews	Washington, DC
1984	Oregon Shakespeare Festival/Richard E. T. White	Ashland, OR
1984	Utah Shakespeare Festival/Libby Appel	Cedar City, UT
1985-6	RSC/Howard Davies; Anton Lesser T, Juliet Stevenson C, Peter Jeffries U, Alan Rickman A, Alun Armstrong TH	RST; Barbican
1987	Stratford Festival Canada/David William	Avon Theatre, Stratford, Ont
1987	National Youth Theatre/Matthew Francis	Christ Church, Spitalfields
1987	Chicago Shakespeare Rep/Barbara Gaines	Ruth Page Theatre, Chicago, IL



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Date(s)	Company / Director; Principal actors	Venue(s)
1988	Berkley Shakespeare Festival/Michael Addison	Hinkle Park, Berkley, CA
1990	Yale Repertory/Andrei Belgrader; John Turturro TH, Ethyl Eichelberger P, Bill Camp T, Cindy Katz C	New Haven, CT
1990-1	RSC/Sam Mendes; Norman Rodway P, Simon Russell Beale TH, Ralph Fiennes T, Patterson Joseph T, David Troughton H	Swan; Barbican Pit
1992	Shakespeare Company/Bill Alexander	Washington, DC
1992	Shakespeare and Company/Dennis Krausnick	The Mount, Lennox, MA
1993	Contact-Tara Arts Co./Jatinder Verma	Manchester; Stockport
1995	London Theatre Base	Diorama, Camden Town
1995	New York Shakespeare Festival/Mark Wing-Davey	Delacorte, NY
1996	RSC/Ian Judge; Joseph Fiennes T, Philip Quast A, Clive Francis P	RST
1996	Georgia Shakespeare Festival/Tom Markus	Atlanta, GA
1997	Colorado Shakespeare Festival/Tom Markus	Boulder, CO
1997	Wisconsin Shakespeare Festival/Thomas Collins	Platteville, WI
1998	Open Air Theatre/Alan Strachan	Regent's Park
1998-9	RSC/Michael Boyd; Jayne Ashbourne C, Darrell D'Silva A, Alistair Petrie H, William Houston T	Pit; Tour (UK, US), Swan
1999	National Theatre/Trevor Nunn; David Bamber P, Sophie Okonedo C, Peter de Jersey T, Dhobe Oparei H	Olivier
1999	Alabama Shakespeare Festival/Kent Gash	Montgomery, AL
1999	Utah Shakespeare Festival/Paul Barnes	Cedar City, UT



List of productions xxi

Date(s)	Company / Director; Principal actors	Venue(s)
1999	Washington Shakespeare Co./Joe Banno	Arlington, VA
1999-2000	Oxford Stage Co./Dominic Dromgoole; Matt Lucas TH	Oxford Theatre; Tour; Old Vic
2000	Playhouse/Peter Bogdanov	Sydney, Australia
2001	Theatre for a New Audience/Peter Hall	American Place, NY
2001	Oregon Shakespeare Festival/Kenneth Albers	Ashland, OR
2003	Tobacco Factory/Andrew Hilton; Lisa Kay C, Ian Barritt P, Andrew Kaye U, Jamie Ballard TH	Bristol
2003	Stratford Festival Canada/Richard Monette; Bernard Hopkins P, Claire Jullien C, Peter Donaldson, U	Tom Patterson Theatre, Stratford, Ont.
2004	Publick Theatre/Steve Barkhimer	Boston, MA

Radio, television and recordings

1935	BBC Radio/Val Gielgud; Ion Swinley H, Angela Baddeley C
1955	BBC TV/George Rylands, Douglas Allen; Frank Pettingell P, Walter Hudd U,
	Richard Wordsworth TH
1966	BBC TV/Michael Croft, Bernard Hepton, Paul Hill
1981–2	BBC Shakespeare Plays Series/Jonathan Miller; Anton Lesser T, Charles Gray
	P, 'The Incredible Orlando' TH, Suzanne Burden C
1948	Marlowe Society audio recording/George Rylands
1961	Caedmon audio recording/Howard Sackler
1981	BBC/Audio Forum recording
1998	Arkangel/Clive Brill; Norman Rodway P, David Troughton TH, Julia Ford C,
	Ian Pepperell T