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DOCUMENTS OF PERFORMANCE IN EARLY MODERN ENGLAND

As well as ‘play-makers’ and ‘poets’, playwrights of the early modern period were known as ‘play-patchers’ because their texts were made from separate documents. This book is the first to consider all the papers created by authors and theatres by the time of the opening performance, recovering types of script not previously known to have existed. With chapters on plot-scenarios, arguments, playbills, prologues and epilogues, songs, staged scrolls, backstage-plots and parts, it shows how textually distinct production was from any single unified book. And, as performance documents were easily lost, relegated or reused, the story of a play’s patchy creation also becomes the story of its co-authorship, cuts, revisions and additions. Using a large body of fresh evidence, *Documents of Performance* brings a wholly new reading of printed and manuscript playbooks of the Shakespearean period, redefining what a play, and what a playwright, actually is.

TIFFANY STERN is Professor of Early Modern Drama at Oxford University, and the Beaverbrook and Bouverie Fellow and Tutor in English Literature at University College, Oxford. She specialises in Shakespeare, theatre history from the sixteenth to the eighteenth century, book history and editing. Her previous publications include *Shakespeare in Parts* (co-written with Simon Palfrey, 2007, and winner of the 2009 David Bevington Award for Best New Book in Early Drama Studies), *Making Shakespeare* (2004) and *Rehearsal from Shakespeare to Sheridan* (2000).

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To my uncle Patrick Tucker

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