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978-0-521-87125-9 - Shakespeare and Childhood

Edited by Kate Chedgzoy, Susanne Greenhalgh and Robert Shaughnessy

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## SHAKESPEARE AND CHILDHOOD

This collection offers the first definitive study of a surprisingly underdeveloped area of scholarly investigation, namely the relationship between Shakespeare, children and childhood, from Shakespeare's time to the present. It offers a thorough, multi-perspectival mapping of the domain in which Shakespearean childhoods need to be studied, in order to show how studying Shakespearean childhoods makes significant contributions both to Shakespearean scholarship, and to the history of childhood and its representations. The book is divided into two sections, each with a substantial introduction outlining relevant critical debates and contextualizing the rich combination of new research and re-readings of familiar Shakespearean texts that characterize the individual essays. The first part of the book examines the complex significance of the figure of the child in the Shakespearean canon and within early modern theatrical and literary culture. The second part traces the rich histories of negotiation, exchange and appropriation that have characterized Shakespeare's subsequent relations to the cultures of childhood in the literary, educational, theatrical and cinematic realms.

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SUSANNE GREENHALGH is Principal Lecturer at the School of Arts, Roehampton University.

ROBERT SHAUGHNESSY is Professor of Theatre in the School of Drama, Film and Visual Arts at the University of Kent.

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