THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO SHAKESPEARE AND RACE

The Cambridge Companion to Shakespeare and Race shows teachers and students how and why Shakespeare and race are inseparable. Moving well beyond Othello, the collection invites the reader to understand racialized discourses, rhetoric, and performances in all of Shakespeare's plays, including the comedies and histories. Race is presented through an intersectional approach with chapters that focus on the concepts of sexuality, lineage, nationality, and globalization. The collection helps students to grapple with the unique role performance plays in constructions of race by Shakespeare (and in Shakespearean performances), considering both historical and contemporary actors and directors. The Cambridge Companion to Shakespeare and Race will be the first book that truly frames Shakespeare studies and early modern race studies for a nonspecialist, student audience.

AYANNA THOMPSON is Director of the Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies (ACMRS) and a Regents Professor at Arizona State University. She is the author of *Blackface* (2021), *Shakespeare in the Theatre: Peter Sellars* (2018), *Teaching Shakespeare with Purpose: A Student-Centred Approach* (2016), *Passing Strange: Shakespeare, Race, and Contemporary America* (2011), and *Performing Race and Torture on the Early Modern Stage* (2008). She wrote the Introduction for the Arden Third Series *Othello: Revised Edition* (2016), and is the editor of *Weyward Macbeth: Intersections of Race and Performance* (2010) and *Colorblind Shakespeare: New Perspectives on Race and Performance* (2006). She was the 2018–19 President of the Shakespeare Association of America, and served as a member of the Board of Directors for the Association of Marshall Scholars. She was one of Phi Beta Kappa's Visiting Scholars for 2017–18. She has conceived and organized large-scale interdisciplinary conferences like RaceB4Race.

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press 978-1-108-49211-9 — The Cambridge Companion to Shakespeare and Race Edited by Ayanna Thompson Frontmatter <u>More Information</u>

THE CAMBRIDGE Companion to Shakespeare and race

EDITED BY

AYANNA THOMPSON

Arizona State University



CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press 978-1-108-49211-9 — The Cambridge Companion to Shakespeare and Race Edited by Ayanna Thompson Frontmatter <u>More Information</u>

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8B5, United Kingdom One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA 477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi – 110025, India

79 Anson Road, #06–04/06, Singapore 079906

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108492119 DOI: 10.1017/9781108684750

© Cambridge University Press 2021

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2021

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.

15BN 978-1-108-49211-9 Hardback 15BN 978-1-108-71056-5 Paperback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

Contents

List of Figures List of Contributors Note on Shakespeare Editions		<i>page</i> vii ix xiii
I	Did the Concept of Race Exist for Shakespeare and His Contemporaries?: An Introduction Ayanna Thompson, Arizona State University	I
2	The Materials of Race: Staging the Black and White Binary in the Early Modern Theatre <i>Farah Karim-Cooper, Shakespeare's Globe and King's College London</i>	17
3	Barbarian Moors: Documenting Racial Formation in Early Modern England <i>Ambereen Dadabhoy, Harvey Mudd College</i>	30
4	Racist Humor and Shakespearean Comedy <i>Patricia Akhimie, Rutgers University</i>	47
5	Race in Shakespeare's Histories Andrew Hadfield, University of Sussex	62
6	Race in Shakespeare's Tragedies Carol Mejia LaPerle, Wright State University	77
7	Experimental Othello Matthew Dimmock, University of Sussex	93
8	Flesh and Blood: Race and Religion in <i>The Merchant of Veni</i> Dennis Austin Britton, University of New Hampshire	<i>ce</i> 108
9	Was Sexuality Racialized for Shakespeare? Antony and Cleopa Melissa E. Sanchez, University of Pennsylvania	<i>tra</i> 123

vi	Contents	
10	The Tempest and Early Modern Conceptions of Race Virginia Mason Vaughan and Alden T. Vaughan, Clark University	139
II	Shakespeare, Race, and Globalization: <i>Titus Andronicus</i> <i>Noémie Ndiaye, University of Chicago</i>	158
12	How to Think Like Ira Aldridge Scott Newstok, Rhodes College	175
13	What Is the History of Actors of Color Performing in Shakespeare in the UK? <i>Urvashi Chakravarty, University of Toronto</i>	190
14	Actresses of Color and Shakespearean Performance: The Question of Reception <i>Joyce Green MacDonald, University of Kentucky</i>	208
15	<i>Othello</i> : A Performance Perspective <i>Adrian Lester</i>	223
16	Are Shakespeare's Plays Racially Progressive? The Answer Is in Our Hands <i>Miles Grier, City University of New York</i>	237
17	How Have Post-Colonial Approaches Enriched Shakespeare's Works? <i>Sandra Young, University of Cape Town</i>	254
18	Is It Possible to Read Shakespeare through Critical White Studies? <i>Arthur L. Little, Jr., University of California, Los Angeles</i>	268
Fur	Further Reading	
Index		290

Figures

I.I	Internal engraving from Compost et kalendrier des bergiers.	
	The shepardes kalender. Here beginneth the kalender o	
	f shepardes newly augmented and corrected (1570).	
	Folger Shakespeare Library. pa	ge 3
2.1	George Gower, The Plimpton "Sieve" portrait	
	of Queen Elizabeth I. Oil on panel, 1579. Folger	
	Shakespeare Library.	20
3.I	Title page from George Sandys, A relation of a iourney	
-	begun an: Dom: 1610. Foure bookes. Containing a description	
	of the Turkish Empire, of Ægypt, of the Holy Land, of the remote	
	parts of Italy, and ilands adioyning (1615). Folger Shakespeare	
	Library.	35
3.2	Frontispiece from The arrivall and intertainements of the	• •
5	embassador, Alkaid Jaurar Ben Abdella, with his associate,	
	Mr. Robert Blake. From the High and Mighty Prince, Mulley	
	Mahamed Sheque, Emperor of Morocco, King of Fesse, and Suss.	
	With the ambassadors good and applaud (London: Printed by I.	
	Okes dwelling in little Saint Bartholmewes, 1637). Folger	
	Shakespeare Library.	36
4.I	"Michael Schanze (links, spielt italienischen Tenor	2
•	'Tito Merelli' / spielt farbigen Feldherrn in der Verdi-Oper	
	'Othello' als 'Mohr'), Pascal Breuer (spielt falschen 'Othello',	
	leidenschaftlicher Amateursänger), vor Aufführung der Komödie	
	'Othello darf nicht platzen' ('Lend me a Tenor'), Theater 'Kleine	es
	Haus', Delmenhorst, Niedersachsen, Deutschland, Europa,	
	Verkleidung, Kostüm, Maske, Perücke, Schauspieler, Promi,	
	BB, DIG; PNr. 814/2013, 27.11.2013." Photo by Peter	
	Bischoff / Getty Images.	50

vii

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-49211-9 — The Cambridge Companion to Shakespeare and Race
Edited by Ayanna Thompson
Frontmatter
More Information

viii	List of Figures	
6.1	Henry Peacham, sixteenth-century drawing of <i>Titus Andronicus</i> . From the collection at Longleat House. Reproduced by permission of the Marquess of Bath, Longleat.	78
7.1	"A broadside against coffee. London, 1672" from <i>Broad-sides</i> against tobacco: The first given by King James of famous memory; his Counterblast to tobacco. The second transcribed out of that learned physician Dr. Everard Maynwaringe, his treatise	
8.1	of the scurvy. Folger Shakespeare Library. "Mr. Macklin in Shylock" from <i>The Dramatick writings</i> printed complete from the best editions of Sam. Johnson and Geo.	104
	Steevens (1788). Folger Shakespeare Library.	110
9.1	H. Partout, Shakspeare. Antony and Cleopatra, act III, scene IX [i.e., 11], the palace in Alexandria, Antony, Cleopatra, Eros, Charmian, Iras, &c. / painted by H. Tresham; engraved by H. Partout (Netherlands?: s.n., late eighteenth century).	
	Folger Shakespeare Library.	124
10.1	Image from Thomas Hariot, <i>A briefe and true report of the new found land of Virginia</i> (1590). Folger Shakespeare	
	Library.	149
11.1	Title page from Jan Vos, Aran et Titus, of Wraak en	
	<i>weerwraak, Volume 1</i> (Amsterdam: Dominicus van der Stichel, 1641). https://books.google.com/books?id=PRxoAAAAAAJ&	
	printsec=frontcover&source=gbs_ge_summary_r&cad=o#v=	
	onepage&q&f=false	170
12.1	"Mr. Ira Aldridge as Aaron in Titus Andronicus" (London:	
	London Printing and Publishing Company, 1852).	0
	Folger Shakespeare Library. "Ira Aldridge's first appearance at Covent Gardens in the	183
13.1	role of Othello – a play bill dated 1833 plus 2 small engraved	
	portraits and an article in German, mounted together."	
	London, 1833. Folger Shakespeare Library.	193
14.1	Henrietta Vinton Davis, 1893. Schomburg Center for	
	Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library. http://	
	digitalcollections.nypl.org/items/510d47da-7332-a3d9-e040-	
	$\frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}$	210
15.1	Desdemona (Olivia Vinall) and Othello (Adrian Lester) embrace in Cyprus, surrounded by soldiers, in Nicholas Hytner's 2013 production at the National Theatre.	
	Johan Persson / ArenaPAL.	230
	-	<i>,</i>

Contributors

- PATRICIA AKHIMIE is Associate Professor of English at Rutgers University – Newark. She is the author of *Shakespeare and the Cultivation of Difference: Race and Conduct in the Early Modern World* (2018). She is co-editor, with Bernadette Andrea, of *Travel and Travail: Early Modern Women, English Drama, and the Wider World* (2019). She is currently at work on a new edition of *Othello* and a monograph about women's travel.
- DENNIS AUSTIN BRITTON is Associate Professor of English at the University of New Hampshire. His research interests include early modern English literature, Protestant theology, critical race theory, and the history of emotion. He is the author of *Becoming Christian: Race, Reformation, and Early Modern English Romance* (2014), co-editor of *Rethinking Shakespeare Source Study: Audiences, Authors, and Digital Technologies* (2018), and co-editor of "Spenser and Race," a special issue of *Spenser Studies* (2021).
- URVASHI CHAKRAVARTY is Assistant Professor of English at the University of Toronto and works on early modern literature, critical race studies, queer studies, and the history of slavery. Her first book, *Fictions of Consent: Slavery, Servitude and Free Service in Early Modern England*, will be published by the University of Pennsylvania Press, and her articles have appeared in journals and collections including *English Literary Renaissance, Shakespeare Quarterly*, and the *Journal for Early Modern Cultural Studies*.
- AMBEREEN DADABHOY is Assistant Professor of Literature at Harvey Mudd College. Her research focuses on cross-cultural encounters in the early modern Mediterranean and race and religion in early modern English drama. She investigates the various discourses that construct human differences and how they are mobilized in the global imperial

х

List of Contributors

projects of the early modern period. Currently, she is working on a project that explores early modern anti-blackness from the Mediterranean to the Atlantic.

- MATTHEW DIMMOCK is Professor of Early Modern Studies at the University of Sussex. His research focuses on the interaction of peoples and ideas that took place as a consequence of early modern England's "expansionary thrust" in the late sixteenth century. As well as extensive editorial work, his publications include *New Turkes: Dramatizing Islam and the Ottomans in Early Modern England* (2005), *Mythologies of the Prophet Muhammad* (2013), and *Elizabethan Globalism* (2019).
- MILES GRIER is Assistant Professor of English at Queens College, City University of New York. He has published on the history of racial profiling, Joni Mitchell's blackface pimp alter ego, and the trope of racial blackness as illiteracy in early modern English theatre and culture. His essays have appeared in *Politics and Culture, Genders, Journal of Popular Music Studies, William and Mary Quarterly,* and the edited volumes *Scripturalizing the Human* and *Early Modern Black Diaspora Studies.*
- ANDREW HADFIELD is Professor of English at the University of Sussex, and visiting professor at the University of Granada. He is the author most recently of *Shakespeare and Republicanism* (2005), *Edmund Spenser: A Life* (2012), and *Lying in Early Modern English Culture* (2017). *John Donne: In the Shadow of Religion* will appear in 2021. He is currently completing a study of literature and class and is co-editing the works of Thomas Nashe.
- FARAH KARIM-COOPER is Head of Higher Education & Research at Shakespeare's Globe and Professor of Shakespeare Studies at King's College London. She has published over thirty articles and chapters in books, has edited four essay collections, and has written two books, *Cosmetics in Shakespearean and Renaissance Drama* (2006) and *The Hand on the Shakespearean Stage: Gesture, Touch and the Spectacle of Dismemberment* (2016). She is currently writing a book called *Shakespeare and Race.*
- Actor and director ADRIAN LESTER, CBE, started his career with a string of award-winning performances in West End productions including *Company* and *Sweeney Todd*. He played *Hamlet*, directed by Peter Brook, *Henry V*, and *Othello* at the National Theatre and Ira Aldridge in *Red Velvet* in London and New York. Major TV roles include *Hustle*,

List of Contributors

Undercover, Trauma, and Riviera. Movies include Primary Colors, Day after Tomorrow, and Oscar-nominated Mary Queen of Scots.

- ARTHUR L. LITTLE, JR. is Associate Professor of English at the University of California, Los Angeles. His research works very much at the intersections of gender, sexuality, and race both in the early modern period as well as in more contemporary times. His publications include *Shakespeare Jungle Fever: National-Imperial Re-Visions of Race, Rape, and Sacrifice* (2000) and (in process) *Shakespeare and Race Theory* and *White People in Shakespeare.*
- JOYCE GREEN MACDONALD, Associate Professor of English at the University of Kentucky, is the author of *Shakespearean Adaptation*, *Race, and Memory in the New World* (2020), and of several other studies of early modern performance and racial representation.
- CAROL MEJIA LAPERLE is Professor and Honors Advisor for the English Department of Wright State University. She teaches and writes about Renaissance rhetoric, philosophies of will, theories of affect, and constructions of race and gender in early modern culture. She is editing a forthcoming collection of essays entitled *Race and Affect in Early Modern English Literature*. Her monograph-in-progress, *Dark Will: Race, Affect, and Volition in William Shakespeare*, examines philosophies of will and formations of race.
- NOÉMIE NDIAYE is Assistant Professor of English at the University of Chicago. She works on representations of race and gender in early modern English, French, and Spanish theatre and performance culture. She has published several articles in peer-reviewed journals (including *Renaissance Drama, Early Theatre*, and *English Literary Renaissance*) and various edited collections. She is currently at work on her first monograph tentatively entitled *Racecraft: Early Modern Repertoires of Blackness*.
- SCOTT NEWSTOK is Professor of English at Rhodes College and founding director of the Pearce Shakespeare Endowment. He is author of *How to Think Like Shakespeare* (2020) and *Quoting Death in Early Modern England* (2009); editor of *Paradise Lost: A Primer* (2020) and *Kenneth Burke on Shakespeare* (2007); and co-editor (with Ayanna Thompson) of *Weyward Macbeth* (2010).
- MELISSA E. SANCHEZ is Donald T. Regan Professor of English and Comparative Literature and Core Faculty in Gender, Sexuality, and

xi

xii

List of Contributors

Women's Studies at the University of Pennsylvania. She is the co-editor of *Rethinking Feminism in Early Modern Studies: Gender, Race, Sexuality* and the author of *Erotic Subjects: The Sexuality of Politics in Early Modern English Literature, Shakespeare and Queer Theory,* and *Queer Faith: Reading Promiscuity and Race in the Secular Love Tradition.*

- AYANNA THOMPSON is Director of the Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies (ACMRS) and a Regents Professor at Arizona State University. She is the author of *Blackface* (2021), *Shakespeare in the Theatre: Peter Sellars* (2018), *Teaching Shakespeare with Purpose:* A Student-Centred Approach (2016), Passing Strange: Shakespeare, Race, and Contemporary America (2011), and Performing Race and Torture on the Early Modern Stage (2008). She wrote the Introduction for the Arden Third Series Othello: Revised Edition (2016).
- ALDEN T. VAUGHAN, Professor Emeritus of History at Columbia University and Affiliate Professor of History at Clark University, wrote *Roots of American Racism: Essays on the Colonial Experience* (1995) and *Transatlantic Encounters: American Indians in Britain, 1500–1776* (2006), among many works on early America. His publications on Shakespeare include *Shakespeare's Caliban: A Cultural History* (1991) with Virginia Mason Vaughan; together they edited *The Tempest* in the Arden Third Series (1999, rev. 2011).
- VIRGINIA MASON VAUGHAN, Professor Emerita and Research Professor of English at Clark University, is the author of *Othello: A Contextual History* (1994), *Performing Blackness on English Stages, 1500–1800* (2005), *Antony and Cleopatra: Language and Writing* (2016), and *Shakespeare and the Gods* (2019). With Alden T. Vaughan she wrote "Before Othello: The Elizabethan Image of Sub-Saharan Africans," *William and Mary Quarterly* (1997), and *Shakespeare in America* (2012).
- SANDRA YOUNG is Professor of English Literary Studies at the University of Cape Town. Her new book, *Shakespeare in the Global South: Stories of Oceans Crossed in Contemporary Adaptation* (2019), examines innovative adaptations that engage Shakespeare to tell new stories of dispossession across the Global South. Her first book, *The Early Modern Global South in Print: Textual Form and the Production of Human Difference as Knowledge* (2015), traces the emergence of a racialized 'South' in early modern geographies.

Note on Shakespeare Editions

All texts of Shakespeare quoted or referred to in this volume are from the New Cambridge Shakespeare, unless otherwise specified.

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press 978-1-108-49211-9 — The Cambridge Companion to Shakespeare and Race Edited by Ayanna Thompson Frontmatter <u>More Information</u>