

# Cambridge Elements

Elements in Shakespeare Performance  
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## HAUNTING HISTORY ONSTAGE

*Shakespeare in the USA and Canada*

Regina Buccola  
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# Haunting History Onstage

## Shakespeare in the USA and Canada

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**ABSTRACT:** In 2016, Chicago Shakespeare Theater and the Stratford Festival of Canada mounted marathons through Shakespearean history to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the death of Shakespeare with *Tug of War* and *Breath of Kings*. Both productions invited parallels to contemporary political events in their promotion and design, just as the original performances of these works in the Shakespearean era used past events to comment on present realities. Endurathons for cast and audience alike, *Tug of War* and *Breath of Kings* used double-casting, stylized treatments of violence, and “firsts” for each company to sweeten the bitter pill of these historical narratives.

**KEYWORDS:** Shakespeare, history plays, performance studies

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