

Some Shakespeare Films

The following is a hastily compiled collection of Shakespearean adaptations on film. I have marked with an asterisk productions that I thought particularly clever. For general advice about watching Shakespearean adaptations, check out this site, from which I have compiled many of the items below:

<http://www.jetlink.net/~massif/shakes/films/filmgen.htm>

All's Well That Ends Well:

All's Well That Ends Well (1968; Dir. John Barton and Claude Whatham): made for television

All's Well That Ends Well (1978; Dir. Wilford Leach): made for television
All's Well That Ends Well (1980; BBC series; Dir. Elijah Moshinsky): BBC series

Antony and Cleopatra:

Antony and Cleopatra (1981; Dir. Jonathan Miller): BBC series

Antony and Cleopatra (1908; Dir. J. Stuart Blackton)

Antony and Cleopatra (1908; Dir. Charles Kent)

Antony and Cleopatra (1910; Dir. Henri Andraean): French film

Antony and Cleopatra (1951): British film

Antony and Cleopatra (1973; Spain/Switzerland/UK; dir. Charlton Heston)

Antoine et Cléopâtre (1973--Switzerland; French title), Matco Antonio y Cleopatra (1973--Spain).

As You Like It:

As You Like It (1908; Dir. Keanan Buel)

As You Like It (1912; Dir. J. Stuart Blackton and James Young (I))

As You Like It (1912; Dir. Charles Kent)

As You Like It (1936; Dir. Paul Czinner; Laurence Olivier as Orlando)

As You Like It (1946; Dir. Ian Atkins): British release

As You Like It (1953; Dir. Peter Ebert): British release

As You Like It (1963; Dir. Michael Elliott): Vanessa Redgrave as Rosalind; Made for British television.

As You Like It (1978; Dir. Basil Coleman; Helen Mirren as Rosalind): A good production

made for British television on BBC

As You Like It (1992; Dir. Christine Edzard)

Comedy of Errors:

*Comedy of Errors (BBC): **U of O Media Services: Videotape 01803**

Coriolanus:

Coriolanus (BBC)

Hamlet:

Amleto (1908, Italy; 1st version; silent; dir. ?; Hamlet)

Amleto (1908, Italy; 2nd version; silent; dir. Luca Comerio; Hamlet)

Amleto (1910, Italy; silent; dir. Mario Caserini; Hamlet)

(I have not yet seen the Hamlet version starring Ethan Hawke)

Branagh's Hamlet

*Olivier's Hamlet

Gibson's Hamlet (Dir. Zeffirelli): Mel Gibson attempts to hide his Australian accent as the good Prince.

Johnny Hamlet (Italy-US, 1972; Western; Believe it or not!)

The Lion King (Disney's nod to the general Hamlet plotline)

Strange Brew (1983): A version of Hamlet: I kid you not!

A Midwinter's Tale (Dir. Kenneth Branagh): a semi-Hamlet tale

Hamlet-filmed rehearsal of Richard Burton's Broadway version in the 1960s.

* Hamlet (1976; Dir. Celestino Coronado): Very avant-garde

Hamlet: (2000?) Ethan Hawke is Hamlet, transformed into son of media tycoon.

Henry 4, Pt. 1

Kagemusha (1980; Dir. Kurosawa, 1 Henry IV)

Chimes at Midnight (a.k.a. Falstaff), directed by Orson Welles (1 and 2 Henry IV)

Henry 4, Pt. 2

My Own Private Idaho

Henry V:

*Henry V (1989): Cast includes Kenneth Branagh, Derek Jacobi, and Emma Thompson.

U of O Media Services: Videotape 01496

*Henry V (1945): Stars Laurence Olivier. High concept art, in that the backdrops for all

the settings are medieval manuscript pages from the Duc du Berry's Book of

Hours, painstaking reproduced in costume and backdrops.

Julius Caesar:

Julius Caesar (1989) Produced By Peter Snell ; Directed By Stuart Burge

Julius Caesar (1953) Loew's Incorporated With Marlon Brando! **U of O Media**

Services Videotape 01332

Julius Caesar (1978?) The BBC production. **U of O Media Services Videotape 01687**

King Lear:

Michael Elliott's King Lear (Laurence Olivier 1985)

Korol' Lir (Russian King Lear)

King Lear (Dir. Peter Brook)

King Lear (Dir. Jean-Luc Godard)

*The Conscience of the King"--Star Trek:TOS (Lear)

*Ran (Highly acclaimed Japanese adaptation of Lear, transfiguring the Celtic warriors

into Japanese Samurai)

A Thousand Acres

Macbeth:

Welles' Macbeth

Polanski's Macbeth

*Throne of Blood

*Men of Respect (Dramatically changed text, but captures the spirit and feeling of

Macbeth well, in spite of the Italian gangster set-up)

Measure for Measure:

Measure for Measure (BBC)

Merchant of Venice:

Jonathan Miller's Merchant

A Midsummer Night's Dream:

A Midsummer Night's Dream (1935; Dir. Max Reinhardt; 117 minutes; B&W); Warner

Brothers Cast includes Mickey Flooney, Jimmy Cagney, and Jean Muir. **U of O**

Media Services Videotape: 00563

A Midsummer Night's Dream

(Benny Hill as Bottom; BBC TV version)

A Midsummer Night's Dream (mid-1970's; dir. Celestino Coronado; avant-garde)

A Midsummer Night's Dream (1981; BBC Production. **U of O Media Services**

Videotape: 01799

A Midsummer Night's Dream (1988; Dir. Peter Hall; Royal Shakespeare's Company's

Version). **U of O Media Services Videotape: 00980**

* A Midsummer Night's Dream (1999)

Much Ado About Nothing:

Branagh's Much Ado

Othello:

* Othello (1995; Dir. Oliver Parker); Cast includes Laurence Fishburne, Irene Jacob, and

Kenneth Branagh 1995

* Olivier's Othello

Orson Welles' Othello

All Night Long (1961; Dir. Basil Dearden)

O (2001). The story of Othello told as the downfall of a black basketball player.

Richard III:

* McKellen's Richard III (1995; Dir. Richard Loncraine); An outstanding adaptation given

a World War II ambience. Cast includes Ian McKellen, Annette Bening, Robert

Downey, Jr., and Nigel Hawthorne. **U of O Media Services Video Laserdisc:**

00114

* Richard III (1955; Dir and Starring Laurence Olivier) **U of O Media Services**

Videotape: 00377

The Tragedy of Richard III (1987; Dir. Jane Howell; 210 minutes); **U of O Media**

Services Videotape: 01665

Romeo and Juliet:

Aniujan (1948; India; Dir. Akhtar Hussein)

Romeo and Juliet (1956 MGM production); Laurence Harvey (Romeo) and Susan

Shental (Juliet)

Romeo and Juliet (1966; Dir. Paul Czinner); Adapted for Royal Ballet performance.)

U of O Media Services Videotape: 02383

* Romeo and Juliet (1968; Dir. Franco Zeffirelli)

Romeo and Juliet (1980; Paramount Pictures, 138 minutes) **U of O Media Services**

Videotape: 00474

Romeo and Juliet (1992; BBC Production) **U of O Media Services Videotape: 01802**

William Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet (1997; Dir. Baz Luhrmann, starring Leonardo

di Caprio and Claire Danes)) **U of O Media Services Videotape: 04140**

West Side Story (a musical adaptation set amongst America's inner city youth and gang warfare)

Taming of the Shrew:

* Taming of the Shrew (directed Franco Zeffirelli, 132 minutes); Film adaptation starring

Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton **U of O Media Services Videotape: 04587**

(Cut a bit too much, but great sparks between actress Taylor and her soon-to-be-

divorced husband, Burton).

Taming of the Shrew (with Mary Pickford and Douglas Fairbanks; silent)

* Taming of the Shrew, (starring John Cleese; 127 minutes) **U of O Media Services**

Videotape: 01401 (Note the clever tricks with lighting as Petruchio and Kate

argue about whether the sun is out).

Moonlighting's Taming of the Shrew (spoof starring Willis and Shepherd)

Philadelphia Story (1940; Dir. George Cukor; starring Katharine Hepburn, Cary Grant,

1940)

Ten Things I Hate About You (1999), an updated, appealingly "cute" version of The

Taming of the Shrew set in a high school.

The Tempest:

Prospero's Books (Artsy and surrealistic recreation of the Tempest; lush with imagery.)

The Tempest (dir. Paul Mazursky; star. John Cassavete)

Forbidden Planet (I kid you not--the direct inspiration for this Sci-Fi classic is The

Tempest!)

The Tempest (1979; Dir. Derek Jarman)

Titus Andronicus:

Titus (2000) Anthony Hopkins

Troilus and Cressida:

Troilus and Cressida: (1981; Dir. Jonathan Miller, 190 minutes); A Time-Life made-for-

television production. **U of O Media Services Videotape: 01807**

Twelfth Night:

Twelfth Night (1987; Dir. John Gorrie; 128 minutes); A BBC production.) **U of O Media**

Services Videotape: 01450

Twelfth Night (1989; Dir. David Giles; 150 minutes); Made for the Stratford Festival.)

U of O Media Services Videotape: 04892

* Twelfth Night (1996; Dir. Trevor Nunn; 133 minutes); A Fine Line Feature, cast includes

Helena Bonham Carter and Nigel Hawthorne.) **U of O Media Services**

Videotape: 04221

Varia:

* Looking for Richard (1997); Al Pacino and the actor's quest for his role as King Richard.

Worth it all just to hear Al Pacino argue that literary scholars know nothing about

performing Shakespeare, and to hear the man-off-the-street discussions. **U of O**

Media Services Videotape 04887

The Spread of the Eagle (1963; UK): A television mini-series with material akin to Shakespeare's Roman plays: Antony and Cleopatra, Coriolanus, and Julius Caesar

Playing Shakespeare (1984; miniseries)

*Shakespeare in Love: A delightful and playful pseudo-biography of Shakespeare.

Though it could not possibly be historically accurate, it is marvellously entertaining and filled with Shakespearean in-jokes, such as his signature, and the conventions of Shakespeare's own plays, such as the heroine-disguised as a boy..

Shakespeare: The Animated Tales (1995; Home Box Office) Very short, butchered versions of Shakespeare.

The Wars of the Roses: (1966; UK) A television mini-series that seems to have covered the Henry VI plays and Richard