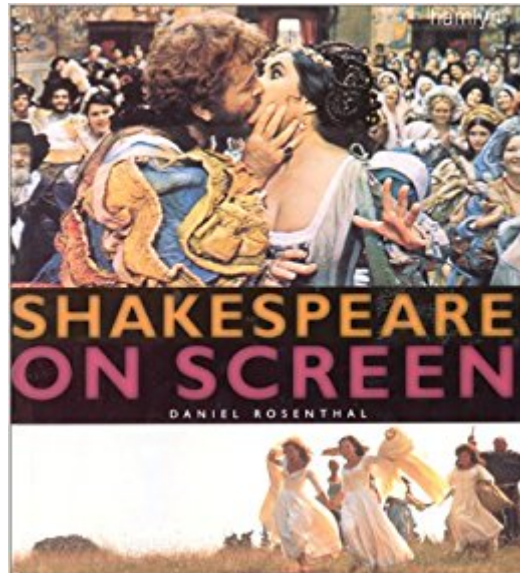




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Shakespeare On Screen



Synopsis

The best of the Bard on the silver screen! Cinema's love affair with Shakespeare began almost with the start of moving pictures and has continued passionately and unabated to this day. From the most faithful adaptations (Kenneth Branagh's uncut Hamlet) to versions musical (West Side Story, Kiss Me Kate), modernized (Ian MacKellen's WWII Richard III, Baz Luhrman's hallucinogenic William Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet), and otherwise transformed (Forbidden Planet, a low-budget yet compelling sci-fi retelling of The Tempest), see how the greatest of plays became the finest of films. Among the brilliant artists whose work receives special homage here are Orson Welles, Laurence Olivier, and Branagh--who did double-duty as Shakespearean actors and directors--as well as Akira Kurosawa, Franco Zeffirelli, and John Gielgud. With numerous stills and quotations.

Book Information

Hardcover: 208 pages

Publisher: Hamlyn (June 30, 2001)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0600601153

ISBN-13: 978-0600601159

Product Dimensions: 11.3 x 9.8 x 0.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.6 pounds

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #898,123 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #60 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Movies > Adaptations #591 in Books > Literature & Fiction > British & Irish > Shakespeare > Literary Criticism #1113 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Movies > Theory

Customer Reviews

Miramax chief Harvey Weinstein was afraid the title of Shakespeare in Love would be too hifalutin for a mass audience. But he'd underestimated movie audiences' great love for the bard, both in traditional productions featuring Laurence Olivier, Kenneth Branagh and Franco Zeffirelli and in modern reinterpretations, such as 10 Things I Hate About You (based on The Taming of the Shrew) and William Shakespeare's Romeo + Juliet featuring Leonardo DiCaprio and Claire Danes. These are just a few of intriguing tidbits in British film journalist Daniel Rosenthal's exploration of Shakespeare on Screen, which is loaded with commentary, criticism, in-depth profiles (of actors and directors like John Gielgud and Akira Kurosawa) and full-color photography. Agent, Laura Morris. (

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If you love Shakespeare and you love his movies, even the bad ones, this book is great!

At first glance this looks like one of those coffee table books that people buy to look like they'd know what they're talking about. But upon further examination, you'll find that it has everything you ever want to know about "Shakespeare on screen." There is a comprehensive table of contents and it index. Today if the film is an adoption of Shakespeare or just inspired by Shakespeare is in this book, grouped under the different plays of Shakespeare. For example, under chapter two on hamlet there are seven different entries starting with the famous Lawrence Oliver 1948 classic down to the infamous Michael Almereyda 2000 modern adaptation. Be sure to look for my review of most of these. In each section or chapter there is a breakdown of the basic play and some background information on that play. Then for each movie there is a list of the Cast, Directed by, Produced by, Photography, and music. Beach movies then further broken down into its elements. Even though all this information is available in different books, Daniel Rosenthal was able to design this comprehensive and beautiful book to make you feel that you know all there is to know about Shakespeare in the movies.

If you are a lover of the various shakespeare film adaptations then you will certainly love this book. Mr. Rosenthal describes numerous films some direct adaptations and some which are just plain fun (Joe Macbeth for instance). The bard should not be taken so seriously that fun cannot be included in his study. This book explores the good and not so good. A great reference source.

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