Shakespeare on Film: Annotated Bibliography
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Here is a list of Shakespeare films at Sawyer Library, Williams
College, identified by director, year, length, format and call number.

There is a very thorough, reliable guide to Shakespeare on
Screen through 1990 in the Sawyer Reference Room, non-circulating
(PR 3093 R68). The editor is Kenneth Rothwell.

Another reliable guide is Jo McMurtry, Shakespeare Films in the
Classroom: A Descriptive Guide (Archon Books, 1994) in Sawyer (PR
2987 M36 1994).

Note: The Williamstown Public Library has the complete
BBC/PBS Shakespeare Series, on VHS.

All's Well That Ends Well (BBC/PBS, 1980, 191 min). Producer,
Jonathan Miller; director, Elijah Moshinsky. VHS.

Antony and Cleopatra (BBC/PBS Shake, 1981, 180 min).

Antony and Cleopatra (Lawrence Carra, 1983; 183 min. Stars
1-2

Antony and Cleopatra (Charlton Heston, 1972; 160 minutes.) "One
of the most breathtaking love epics ever filmed!" so they say. VHS.
PR2802.A2 C37 1985

Antony and Cleopatra (RSC production staged for TV by Trevor
Nunn; Jon Scofield, dir.; 161 minutes) Stars Janet Suzman, Richard
Johnson. VHS. PR2802.A2 S36 1993

As You Like It (Paul Czinner, 1936; 97 minutes.) Laurence Olivier is
Orlando. VHS. PR2803.A2 C95 1984

As You Like It (Roland, 160 min). With Rosemary Dunsmore, Andrew
Gillies, Roberta Maxwell, Nicholas Pennell. VHS. PR2803.A2 R65
1986
As You Like It (BBC/PBS, 1978, 180 min.). Director, Basil Coleman. With Helen Mirren. VHS. PR2803.A2 B33 1987


Comedy of Errors (BBC/PBS, 1983, 150 min). Stars Roger Daltrey (Who!). VHS

Coriolanus. Video, 42 minutes; b&w. 1951 TV adaptation. PR2805.A2 M56 1983.


Cymbeline (BBC/PBS, 1982, 120 min). VHS.

Falstaff, or, Chimes at Midnight (Orson Welles, 1966; 115 minutes. The first hour is basically "Henry IV, part one." There are scenes from Henry IV, part 2," "Henry V," and "The Merry Wives of Windsor. This is a terrific film with a partial but strong conception of Falstaff and an abysmal sound track. Make sure you see the newer video with the better soundtrack. With Ralph Richardson, John Gielgud, Jeanne Moreau, Margaret Rutherford, Keith Baxter). VHS. PN1997 .C367 2002

* Hamlet (Laurence Olivier, 1948, 155 min.). The Academy Award winning film about "a man who could not make up his mind" about anything except his Mom, played by Clare Bloom. DVD PR2807 .O55 2000

Hamlet (NY Shakespeare Festival, 180 min). Kevin Kline.

Hamlet (Tony Richardson, 1969; 120 min). Nicol Williamson stars, with Anthony Hopkins, Marianne Faithful, as tears go by. VHS. PR2807 A23 R53.

Hamlet (BBC/PBS, 210 min). Derek Jacobi stars. BETA and VHS. The whole enchilada; a bravura performance by Jacobi.

Hamlet. Directed by Sir John Gielgud; videocassettes (3 hrs., 10 min.). Staged in rehearsal room and modern dress conditions. PR2807.A2 B8 1995

Hamlet (130 minutes; 2 part video). Richard Burton’s 1964 stage performance, with Hume Cronyn as Polonius and Alfred Drake as Claudius. This is a film of a stage performance, without much variation in camera angles and uneven audio, but it is a rousing show. Directed by Sir John Gielgud. Video. PR2807.A2 B8 1995.

Hamlet (Zeffirelli, 1990, 135 min.). Mel Gibson, Glenn Close, Paul Scofield, Ian Holm, Helena Bonham-Carter. VHS. (Also on laser disc). As usual with Zeffirelli, you lose lots of language and get a visual feast. PR2807.A2 Z44 1991

Hamlet [videorecording] : tragediia / Lenfilm ; directed by G. Kozintsev ; 1 videocassette (143 minutes) : sd., b&w ; A production of Shakespeare's Hamlet, with music by D. Shostakovich. VIDEO PR2786.H3 G3 1996


Discovering Hamlet (53 minutes). A very engaging documentary about the mounting of a Birmingham Rep production of the play, with comments by many of the actors. Derek Jacobi directs the young Kenneth Branagh, both of whom comment insightfully on the play and the craft of acting. VHS. PR3092 D57 1998


Henry IV, part 2. (David Giles, 1979; BBC/PBS, 180 min).


Julius Caesar (Stuart Burge, 1970, 116 min.) Stars Richard Chamberlain, Robert Vaughn, Diana Rigg, Jason Robards, John Gielgud. VHS. PN 1997 J856 1970. This production has its moments but it's leaden; Robards is particularly dull.

Julius Caesar CD recording. PR2808 A2 R5 1996.

King John (1984; BBC/PBS, 160 min). VHS.

King Lear (1982; BBC/PBS, 185 min).


King Lear (Olivier, 1984; 158 min). VHS. Laser. Olivier as Lear, of course; Colin Blakely as Kent, John Hurt as the Fool, Diana Rigg as Regan. Directed by Michael Elliott. PR 2819 A23 E 44 1990.

King Lear (Grigori Kozintsev, 1970; 150 minutes). A magnificent film in the epic tradition. VHS. PR2786. K53 L47.


King Lear (Thames TV 1988; 121 minutes). Patrick Magee as Lear. PR 2819.A23 D38 1990 (Laser Disc)

King Lear (BBC Radio Production by the Renaissance Theatre Company, directed by Glyn Dearman). This is a CD recording, starring John Geilgud and featuring Kenneth Branagh and Emma Thompson. PR 2819 A23 D43 1994.

King Lear CD recording. John Geilgud. PR 2819 A23 D43.

King Lear, or "Fear and Loathing" (Jean-Luc Godard, 1987; 91 min.). With Peter Sellars as "William Shakespeare, Junior, the Fifth." PR2819 A23 G63 1992.

Love's Labour Lost (1985;BBC/PBS, 120 min).


Macbeth (Welles, 1948, 150 min). VHS. PR2823 A2 W45.

Macbeth (George Schaefer, 1954; 103 min). NBC Production, starring Maurice Evans, Dame Judith Anderson. PR2823 A2 E83 1987


Macbeth (Polanski, 1971; 139 min). Stars Jon Finch, Francesca Annis. VHS. PN 1997 M131 1986. Even in voice-overs, the language is obscured. Some of the scenes are wonderfully realized, others overly literal or graphic; don't let your kid watch the murder of Duncan.

Macbeth CD recording. PR2823 A2 Q3 1996.

Measure for Measure (1979; BBC/PBS, 145 min).

Merchant of Venice (1980; BBC/PBS, 157 min).


Merry Wives of Windsor (1982; BBC/PBS, 180 min). VHS.


A Midsummer Night's Dream (Max Reinhardt, 1935; 117 min.). An odd but effective potpourri, with Mickey Rooney as a feral Puck, James Cagney a gritty Bottom, Joe E. Brown as Flute, Dick Powell a howl as Lysander, Olivia de Havilland as Hermia. Mixes the romantic/operatic with strong elements of the "dark dream." Anita Louise as Titania doesn't speak English but is gorgeous enough to upset the balance of nature. VHS. PN1997 M547 1984. Also LD: PR2827 A2 R45 1992.

A Midsummer Night's Dream (Peter Hall, 1968). Diana Rigg, Helen Mirren, David Warner Judi Dench. VHS. PR2827 A2 H35 1993. The "Mod" summer night's TV version, with tricky effects and some fine performances. Students, for reasons I don't yet understand, sometimes dislike this production vehemently.

A Midsummer Night's Dream (Joan Kemp-Welch, 1984; 111 min.). Benny Hill. PR2827 A2 R95 1984.

A Midsummer Night's Dream (165 min) The NY Shakespeare Festival production, with William Hurt as Oberon. VHS. PR2827 A2 P361 1988.


Othello (1981;BBC/PBS, 208 min). Stars Anthony Hopkins

Othello (Burge, 1965). Olivier, Maggie Smith, Frank Finlay, Derek Jacobi. A controversial, Leavisite or Iago-esque interpretation, and an over-the-top performance by Olivier.


Othello (Welles, 1951, 93 min) VHS. PR 2829 A2 W45 1993. Also LD. A gorgeous, flawed, but brilliant film.

Othello (Janet Suzman, dir. 187 minutes) VHS. PR 2829 A2 S84 1988.


Pericles (1984;BBC/PBS, 177 min). VHS


Richard III (1983; BBC/PBS, 228 min).


Romeo and Juliet (1980; BBC/PBS, 167 min). John Geilgud, Rebecca Saine, Patrick Ryecart. 3/4", VHS.


Romeo and Juliet CD recording. PR2831 A23 B73 1993.

The Taming of the Shrew (1980; BBC/PBS, 127 min).


The Taming of the Shrew. VHS. PR2832 A2 D49 1996

The Tempest (1980; BBC/PBS, 124 min).

The Tempest (Schaefer, 150 min).


The Tempest (76 min), produced and directed by George Schaefer. Stars Richard Burton, Maurice Evans, Tom Poston, and Lee Remick. PR2833 A23 F55 1983

Throne of Blood (Akira Kurosawa, 1957; 105 min). VHS. PN 1997 K856 1985. Kurosawa is a genius; this is one of his masterpieces.


Troilus and Cressida (1981; BBC/PBS, 120 min).


Twelfth Night (1980; BBC/PBS, 124 min).

Twelfth Night (Barton, 60 minutes). VHS. PR2995 P52 Pt.9.

Two Gentlemen of Verona (1983; BBC/PBS, 137 min).

The Winter's Tale (1981; BBC/PBS, 173 min.). VHS.