



SHAKESPEARE IN CONTEXT

What we need before we get to James Shapiro

GOT TO START WITH TUDORS

- Henry the VII
- Edward VI
- Bloody Mary
- Queen Elizabeth



WILL SHAKESPEARE'S FAMILY

- Father John
- Mother
- Brothers and sisters
- Wife Anne
- Children



SHAKESPEARE'S BROTHERS AND SISTERS

- Joan, born 1558, died before 1569.
- Margaret, born 1562, died 1563 William, born 1564, died 1616
- Gilbert, born 1566, haberdasher, died 1612.
- Joan, born 1569, married William Hart, died 1646.
- Anne, born 1571, died 1579.
- Richard, born 1574, occupation unknown, died 1613.
- Edmund, born 1580, "player," died 1607



- Anne Hathaway Shakespeare
- Outlived him by 7 years, died at 67
- Joh Shakespeare died 1601, at 69 or 70
- Mary Arden Shakespeare died 1608,
- Probably 66



THEATER BETWEEN GREEKS AND ELIZABETH

Greek Religious Ritual becomes formalized & ritualized, sacrifice goat, male chorus with audience

Drama emerges, festivals popular
competition among writers

Tragedy, Comedy, Crude Satires

Actors play several roles, wear masks,



ROMAN INFLUENCE TUDOR ERA

Roman playwright Ovid taught in grammar schools, much revered

Schools taught in Latin so people could read the bible and legal documents

Protestants wanted good schools so people could read the Bible and be teachers, preachers, bureaucrats



RIVALS CHRISTOPHER MARLOWE

Son of a shoemaker, got to go to college

Six year career, died just as Will started

Credited with establishing dramatic Blank Verse

Believed worked in secret service

Died in tavern fight over bill



"While money doesn't buy love, it puts you in a great bargaining position."

Christopher Marlowe

REVENGE TRAGEDY

- A Revenge Play can be defined as drama in which the protagonist seeks revenge for the bloody actions of the antagonist and the revelation of the murder or crime comes to the protagonist through superficial appearances such as ghosts..



REVENGE TRAGEDY

- In the process of seeking revenge, the main character might witness insanity, murder, suicide, philosophical debates, etc. and in the end there will death of the antagonist and the protagonist or a dear one related to the protagonist.



THOMAS KYD 1558 -1594

- Father was a scrivener. Got classical education similar to Shakespeare's
- Marlowe's roommate, tortured for atheism tracks he claimed were Marlowe's
- Many believe Shakespeare wrote 325 lines in the play, one good speech.



PROFESSOR DOUGLAS BRUSTER SHAKESPEARE SCHOLAR

- “Taken in sum, the parallels with Shakespeare’s known work argue overwhelmingly for his authorship of the Additional Passages. No one else we know of was capable of writing them
- “I believe they were composed as bravura pieces for Richard Burbage, the lead actor of the Lord Chamberlain’s Men later celebrated for his portrayal of Hieronimo”



ROBERT GREENE 1558-1592



THERE IS AN UPSTART CROW, BEAUTIFIED WITH
OUR FEATHERS, THAT WITH HIS TIGER'S HEART
WRAPPED IN A PLAYER'S HIDE SUPPOSES HE IS AS
WELL ABLE TO BOMBAST OUT A BLANK VERSE AS
THE BEST OF YOU: AND BEING AN ABSOLUTE
JOHANNES FACTOTUM, IS IN HIS OWN CONCEIT THE
ONLY SHAKE-SCENE IN A COUNTRY.

- ROBERT GREENE (DRAMATIST) -

BEN JONSON 1572-1637

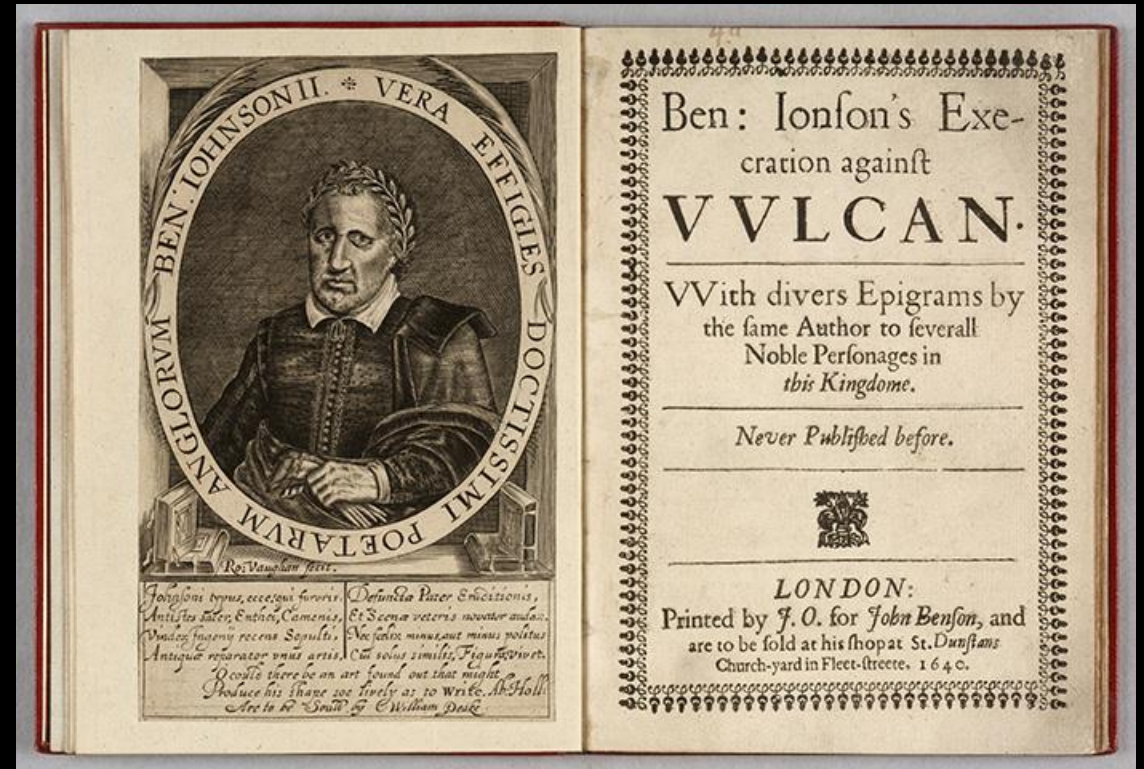
Stepfather was a bricklayer, attended good school but went into that trade.

Became actor, strolling player, and playwright.

Wrote tragedies, had troubles.

Wrote satire for children's company.

Second only to Shakespeare

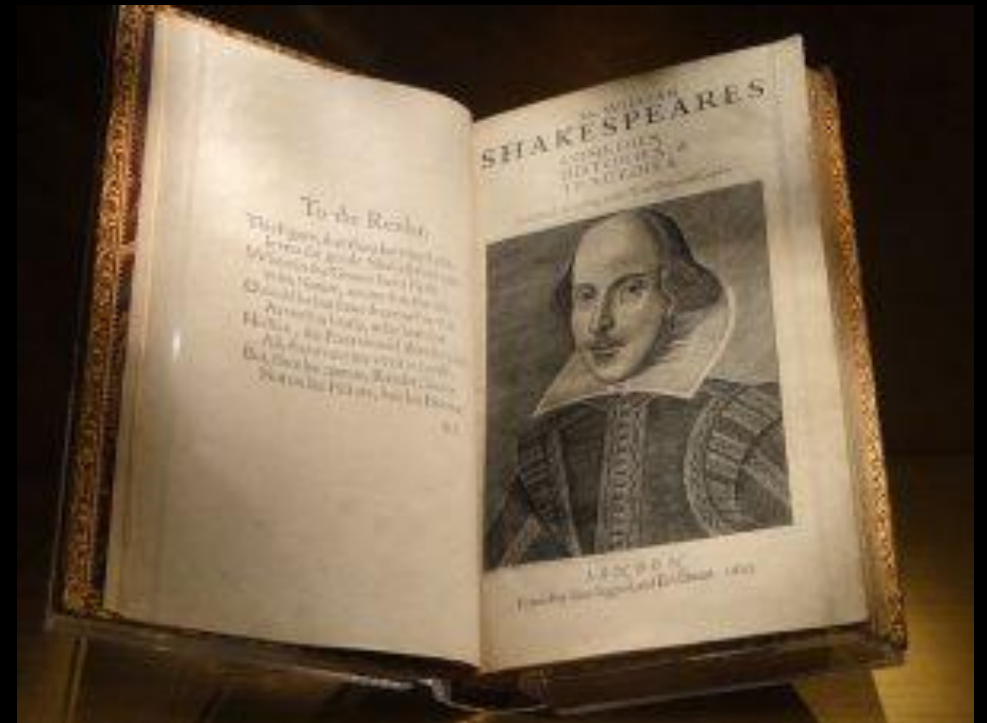


- Ben Jonson loved Shakespeare this side of idolatry, calling him 'Thou star of poets,' and of course: that he was 'Not for an age but for all time'.
- But he was also critical of his friend: he insisted that Shakespeare lacked art, citing how he had described a sea-shore in landlocked Bohemia.
- The players say he never blotted a line, "would he had blotted a thousand" he writes



- This Figure, that thou here feest put,
It was for gentle Shakespeare cut:
Wherein the Grauer had a strife
with Naure, to out-doo the life:
O, could he but haue dravvne his
vvit
As vvell in frasse, as he hath hit
Hisface; the Print vvould then
surpasse
All, that vvas euer in frasse.
But, since he cannot, Reader, looke
Not on his picture, but his Booke.

B.J.



- Ben Jonson's Eulogy to Shakespeare

- To draw no envy (Shakespeare) on thy name,
Am I thus ample to thy Booke, and Fame;
While I confesse thy writings to be such,
As neither Man, nor Muse, can praise too much.

'Tis true, and all men's suffrage. But these wayes

Were not the paths I meant unto thy praise;
For seeliest Ignorance on these may light,
Which, when it sounds at best, but eccho's right;

Or blinde Affection, which doth ne're advance
The truth, but gropes, and urgeth all by chance;

Or crafty Malice, might pretend this praise,
And thine to ruine, where it seem'd to raise.
These are, as some infamous Baud, or Whore,
Should praise a Matron. What could hurt her more?

But thou art prooffe against them, and indeed
Above th' ill fortune of them, or the need.
I, therefore will begin

- Soule of the Age !

The applause ! delight ! the wonder of our Stage !

My Shakespeare, rise; I will not lodge thee by

Chaucer, or Spenser, or bid Beaumont lye
A little further, to make thee a roome :

Thou art a Moniment, without a tombe,
And art alive still, while thy Booke doth live,
And we have wits to read, and praise to give.

That I not mixe thee so, my braine excuses

;
I meane with great, but disproportion'd
Muses :

For, if I thought my judgement were of
yeeres,

I should commit thee surely with thy
peeres,

And tell, how farre thou dist our Lily out-
shine,

Or sporting Kid or Marlowes mighty line.

- And though thou hadst small Latine, and lesse Greeke,
From thence to honour thee, I would not seeke
For names; but call forth thund'ring schilus,
Euripides, and Sophocles to vs,
Paccuvius, Accius, him of Cordova dead,
To life againe, to heare thy Buskin tread,
And shake a stage : Or, when thy sockes were on,
Leave thee alone, for the comparison
Of all, that insolent Greece, or haughtie Rome
Sent forth, or since did from their ashes come.
Triumph, my Britaine, thou hast one to showe,
To whom all scenes of Europe homage owe.
He was not of an age, but for all time !
And all the Muses still were in their prime,
When like Apollo he came forth to warme
Our eares, or like a Mercury to charme !
Nature her selfe was proud of his designes,
And joy'd to weare the dressing of his lines !

- Which were so richly spun, and woven so fit,
As, since, she will vouchsafe no other Wit.
The merry Greeke, tart Aristophanes,
Neat Terence, witty Plautus, now not please;
But antiquated, and deserted lye
As they were not of Natures family.
Yet must I not give Nature all: Thy Art,
My gentle Shakespeare, must enjoy a part;
For though the Poets matter, Nature be,
His Art doth give the fashion. And, that he,
Who casts to write a living line, must sweat,
(Such as thine are) and strike the second heat
Upon the Muses anvile : turne the same,
(And himselfe with it) that he thinkes to frame;
Or for the lawrell, he may gaine a scorne,
For a good Poet's made, as well as borne.

- And such wert thou. Looke how the fathers face
Lives in his issue, even so, the race
Of Shakespeares minde, and manners brightly shines
In his well toned, and true-filed lines :
In each of which, he seemes to shake a Lance,
As brandish't at the eyes of Ignorance.
Sweet swan of Avon! what a fight it were
To see thee in our waters yet appeare,
And make those flights upon the bankes of Thames,
That so did take Eliza, and our James !
But stay, I see thee in the Hemisphere
Advanc'd, and made a Constellation there !
Shine forth, thou Starre of Poets, and with rage,
Or influence, chide, or cheere the drooping Stage;
Which, since thy flight fro' hence, hath mourn'd like
night,
And despaires day, but for thy Volumes light.

B E N : J O N S O N



WHAT WE ACTUALLY KNOW FOR SURE

- Baptized April 26, 1564 in Stratford
- Highly likely attended grammar school
- Married Anne Hathaway 1582
- Three children
- Lived in London, sent money home



WHAT WE ACTUALLY KNOW FOR SURE



Arrive in London 1585-1592

Returned to Stratford-upon-Avon
1610-1611,

March 25, 1616 revised his will. Died
April 23, 1616

Commercial transactions