

Shakespeare lives through cinema

By Nefeli Poulopati

Films

- The Guinness Book of Records lists 410 film and TV versions of William Shakespeare's plays as having been produced, making Shakespeare the most filmed author ever in any language.
- The earliest known production is a French version of Hamlet, made in 1900, starring Sarah Bernhardt as Hamlet. This was not a silent film; it is cited as one of the first examples of sound and moving image-syncing.



Comedies

Some Shakespearean comedies made into films are:

- As You Like It
- The Merchant of Venice
- A Midsummer Night's Dream
- Much Ado About Nothing
- The Taming of the Shrew
- Twelfth Night

As you like it

- 11 adaptations
- Name of protagonist: Rosalind
- First: 1912 (USA)
- Last: 2010 (UK)
- Quote: "Believe then, if you please, that I can do strange things"



The Merchant of Venice

- 12 adaptations
- Name of protagonist: Shylock
- First: 1916 (UK)
- Last: 2004 (USA) → Al Pacino (Shylock)
- Quote: "But love is blind and lovers cannot see"



A Midsummer Night's Dream

- 4 adaptations
- Names of protagonists: Titania, Oberon
- First: 1909
- Last: 1999
- Quote: "Lord, what fools these mortals be"



Much Ado about Nothing

- 3 adaptations
- Name of protagonist: Benedick
- First: 1973 (US)
- Last: 1993 (UK) → Kenneth Branagh (Benedick)
- Quote: "Let me be that I am and seek not to alter me"



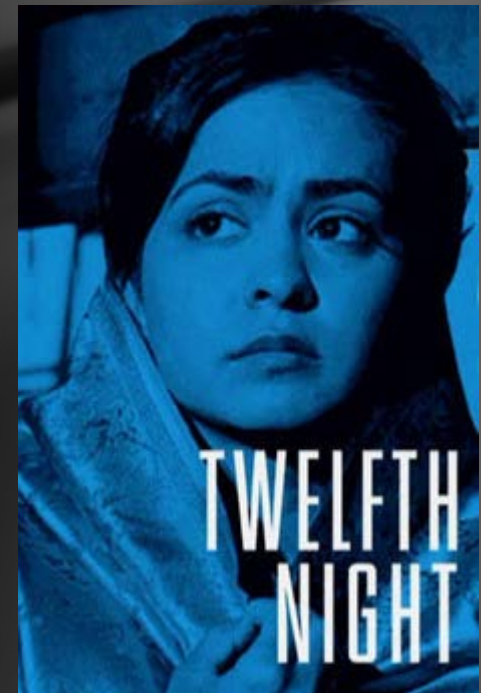
The Taming of the Shrew

- 5 adaptations
- Names of protagonists: Katherine, Petruchio
- First: 1929 (US)
- Last: 1980 (UK)
- Quote: "Kill a wife with kindness"



Twelfth Night

- 8 adaptations
- Name of protagonists: Viola
- First: 1910 (US)
- Last: 2003 (UK)
- Quote: "If music be the food of love, play on"



Tragedies

Some Shakespearean comedies made into films are:

- Coriolanus
- Hamlet
- Macbeth
- Othello
- Romeo and Juliet

Coriolanus

- 2 adaptations
- Name of protagonist: Coriolanus
- First: 1984 (UK)
- Last: 2012 (UK)
- Quote: "What is a city, but the people; True the people are the city"



Hamlet

13 adaptations

Name of protagonist: Hamlet

First: 1921 (Germany)

Last: 2000 (USA)

Quote: "Though this is madness, there is method in it".



Macbeth

15 adaptations

Name of protagonist: Macbeth

First: 1948 (USA)

Last: 2015 (UK)

Quote: "Fair is foul and foul is fair"



Othello

9 adaptations

Name of protagonist: Othello

First: 1922 (Germany)

Last: 1995 (USA)

Quote: "We cannot all be masters, nor all masters cannot be truly followed"



Romeo and Juliet

9 adaptations

Names of protagonists: Romeo and Juliet

First: 1908 (US)

Last: 2013 (UK)

Quote: "What's in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet"



Shakespeare's work on history

Many works of Shakespeare based on historical events have been turned into movies. For instance:

- Henry IV
- Henry V
- Henry VI
- King John
- Richard III, etc.

Kenneth Branagh

- One of the most famous actor and director that has starred in many movies based on Shakespeare's works is Kenneth Branagh.
- Some of these movies are: Henry V, Hamlet, Much Ado about Nothing, Othello



5 most famous Shakespeare movies

5. Much Ado about Nothing (1993)

- With: Kenneth Branagh and Emma Thompson



4. Coriolanus (2012)

- With: Ralph Fiennes



3. Hamlet (1996)

- With: Kenneth Branagh
- 9 wins and 19 nominations



2. Henry V (1944)

- With Laurence Olivier



1. Romeo and Juliet (1996)

- With Leonardo Di Caprio



The End