

Chapter 1 : Shakespeare Schools Foundation

It is a wonderful conceit to imagine Will Shakespeare, the boy from sleepy Stratford-upon-Avon, the glover's son with at most a grammar school education, turning up in London with a folio of.

When Did Shakespeare Go to London? In this episode, I talk to our guests about all the myths and stories that are told around why Shakespeare set out for London. Map of London by Braun and Hogenburg, But it gives a good impression of the size and layout of the capital city in the late 16th century. Probably in the mids, sometime after the birth of the twins. That seems to me the key factor. We do know that his first printed work was Venus and Adonis, the long poem which was printed in Field was two and a half years older than Shakespeare - pretty certain he went to the grammar school too - and so Shakespeare had a personal connection with the printer and publisher of his first poem, Venus and Adonis. It was a rousing success, it went on being reprinted; it was reprinted more often than any of his plays were. And of course, people make up theories about it, quite understandably, deductions which change over the years, as more becomes known, about the not only about Shakespeare himself but also about the social environment in which he lived. Paul Edmondson is the head of Research and Knowledge at the SBT, and if you were listening closely Stanley just mentioned him in that clip. But Paul really likes this theory, and he explained why he likes it to me when I spoke to him. I like that theory best of all because it grounds it in the sort of everyday experience without having to imagine Shakespeare as some kind of Dick Whittington hero who up-sticks and goes with his knotted red and white handkerchief at the end of a pole on his shoulder. Stratford was not a backwater, Stratford had a lively market and trading commercial world and relied heavily on exchanges with the capital. It took about three days, if you did it quickly; four if you did it more comfortably, perhaps. And things were coming up from London all the time, things were being taken to London. The bailiff - twice the bailiff, Richard Quiney - there are letters from him to Stratford folk in London and in the other direction. John Shakespeare went to London in the s. It was simply what you did and what could be done in that day and age, it just took a lot longer than it takes now. So there was news coming in from London all the time. There were spices, there were books, there were other goods coming from London to be traded in Stratford. And Stratford, goods were being taken to London as well. So the image I want to convey there is of a kind of porous, commercial, cultural world that links Stratford with London. Paul there described a bit about what Stratford was like at the time when Shakespeare was alive. But what was London like? Was it the thriving metropolis that we know it as today? Ben Crystal painted a lovely picture of London in the late sixteenth century when I spoke to him, which is slightly ironic as we were recording in a park in the middle of London, so apologies for the sound quality on this clip. Three hundred thousand people, a big city by our standards, for that time. A very confusing place, because it had the city of Westminster, the rich nobles living on the Strand, one bridge crossing the river where most people would enter the town through with heads of traitors on spikes warning you to not to, you know, warning you to behave. The equivalent of the red light district of Suffolk where the bear baiting and the prostitutes and taverns and the theatres were. One of the most popular stories are theories for Shakespeare leaving Stratford is, of course, the infamous deer poaching story which most of us will have heard at one point or another in some form. Now, a lovely story this may be, there are a few problems with it. Liz Dollimore, who is the Outreach and Primary Learning manager at the SBT, outlines this story for us in the next clip, as well as describing a couple of the less popular stories that people may not have heard. So, there are several theories as to why he went from Stratford to London, one of the most popular is that he got into trouble for stealing or poaching a deer from Charlecote. Charlecote Manor is still an existing manor house that you can visit, it belongs to the National Trust - bit of a plug there for the National Trust. However, history has a few problems with that story. But anyway, the full story goes that he poached this whatever from Sir Thomas Lucy, and Sir Thomas Lucy got disproportionately annoyed with him. And in order to kind of poke fun at Sir Thomas Lucy, Shakespeare apparently wrote a rude ballad about him and that angered Sir Thomas Lucy even more and Shakespeare felt he had to run away to London to get away from it. You can see that that story has obviously become elaborated over the years and quite possibly is completely untrue. Other ideas

involve various religious questions and the question of whether or not Shakespeare was a good Protestant as people were supposed to be in that time period, or whether he was brought up secretly as a Catholic. Some people think that Shakespeare was sent to be a tutor in a Catholic household, and there are various places which purport to be the household he was sent to. One of them was in Lancaster, but anyway, that is possible. And one question we get asked quite a lot at the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust is how Shakespeare would have gotten to London. So in my next clip, Liz again fleshes out in a bit more detail what the journey would have been like and how long it would have taken Shakespeare to get to London. In the early days before he was wealthier, he would have no doubt walked. In the later days when he was better off, he probably rode. To ride, three days, four days, depending on how fast you went. But all evidence points to a very different relationship with the town, a relationship that saw him return regularly and invest a great deal of money in the town that he thought of as his home. And depending on how you start with New Place, will depend on the effect that you think it has on Shakespeare. I mean, why would you have done that and then spent most of your time away from it? It was a prestigious dwelling, it stood on an entire burgage plot, it was technically the largest house in the town, the borough of Stratford-upon-Avon. There were larger houses over the borough border, as it were, out of the jurisdiction of the town, near Holy Trinity Church. You know, but looking at it objectively, the town of Stratford had its limits of jurisdiction, and New Place was the largest dwelling within that boundary. And Stratford was a compelling place for that. He was always a lodger in London, you know, in rented accommodation, and I think that also adds to the picture, of how Shakespeare divided his time up between these two centres of Stratford and London. Well, that book is out, and it is called *The Shakespeare Circle*: Paul, Stanley, Michael, Liz and Ben. A huge thanks to the friends of the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, without who this podcast would not be possible. If you want to get in touch with us you can tweet ShakespeareBT or use the hashtag talkshakespeare.

Chapter 2 : Life of William Shakespeare - Wikipedia

EDMONDSON: Another theory which I find compelling is that his father John was dealing in wool - this is a theory of David Fallow from the University of Exeter - and the theory goes there that Shakespeare first goes to London to represent his father's business interest in the wool dealing industry which we know John Shakespeare was involved.

Some time before , a funerary monument was erected in his memory on the north wall, with a half-effigy of him in the act of writing. Its plaque compares him to Nestor , Socrates , and Virgil. Textual evidence also supports the view that several of the plays were revised by other writers after their original composition. The first recorded works of Shakespeare are Richard III and the three parts of Henry VI , written in the early s during a vogue for historical drama. By William Blake , c. His characters become more complex and tender as he switches deftly between comic and serious scenes, prose and poetry, and achieves the narrative variety of his mature work. Henry Fuseli , â€” According to the critic Frank Kermode, "the play-offers neither its good characters nor its audience any relief from its cruelty". Less bleak than the tragedies, these four plays are graver in tone than the comedies of the s, but they end with reconciliation and the forgiveness of potentially tragic errors. Shakespeare in performance It is not clear for which companies Shakespeare wrote his early plays. The title page of the edition of Titus Andronicus reveals that the play had been acted by three different troupes. In Cymbeline, for example, Jupiter descends "in thunder and lightning, sitting upon an eagle: The ghosts fall on their knees. Copper engraving of Shakespeare by Martin Droeshout. It contained 36 texts, including 18 printed for the first time. In the case of King Lear , however, while most modern editions do conflate them, the folio version is so different from the quarto that the Oxford Shakespeare prints them both, arguing that they cannot be conflated without confusion. He dedicated them to Henry Wriothesley, Earl of Southampton. Critics consider that its fine qualities are marred by leaden effects. Scholars are not certain when each of the sonnets was composed, but evidence suggests that Shakespeare wrote sonnets throughout his career for a private readership. It remains unclear if these figures represent real individuals, or if the authorial "I" who addresses them represents Shakespeare himself, though Wordsworth believed that with the sonnets "Shakespeare unlocked his heart". Thou art more lovely and more temperate It is not known whether this was written by Shakespeare himself or by the publisher, Thomas Thorpe , whose initials appear at the foot of the dedication page; nor is it known who Mr. He wrote them in a stylised language that does not always spring naturally from the needs of the characters or the drama. The grand speeches in Titus Andronicus , in the view of some critics, often hold up the action, for example; and the verse in The Two Gentlemen of Verona.

Chapter 3 : Why Did Shakespeare Move To London

Many speculations exist to explain why William Shakespeare left his home town with his wife and children and moved to London. One bit of speculation claims he was accused of poaching and moved to escape prosecution.

William Shakespeare [3] was born in Stratford-upon-Avon. His exact date of birth is not known—the baptismal record was dated 26 April—but has been traditionally taken to be 23 April, which is also the Feast Day of Saint George, the patron saint of England. He was the first son and the first surviving child in the family; two earlier children, Joan and Margaret, had died early. They had eight children: Joan baptised 15 September, died in infancy, Margaret bapt. London, 31 December. John Shakespeare owned several properties in Stratford and had a profitable—though illegal—sideline of dealing in wool. He was appointed to several municipal offices and served as an alderman in, culminating in a term as bailiff, the chief magistrate of the town council, in. For reasons unclear to history he fell upon hard times, beginning in, when William was. After four years of non-attendance at council meetings, he was finally replaced as burgess in. It was free to all male children and the evidence indicates that John Shakespeare sent his sons there for a grammar school education, though no attendance records survive. Shakespeare would have been enrolled when he was 7, in. The school day typically ran from 6 a. Grammar schools varied in quality during the Elizabethan era, but the grammar curriculum was standardised by royal decree throughout England, [9] and the school would have provided an intensive education in Latin grammar and literature—as good a formal literary training as had any of his contemporaries". As a part of this education, the students performed Latin plays to better understand rhetoric. By the end of their studies at age 14, grammar school pupils were quite familiar with the great Latin authors, and with Latin drama and rhetoric. The licence, issued by the consistory court of the diocese of Worcester, 21 miles west of Stratford, allowed the two to marry with only one proclamation of the marriage banns in church instead of the customary three successive Sundays. The reason for the special licence appeared six months later with the baptism of their first daughter, Susanna, on 26 May. This seven-year period, known as the "lost years" to Shakespeare scholars, was filled by early biographers with surmises drawn from local traditions, and by more recent biographers with surmises about the onset of his acting career deduced from textual and bibliographic hints and the surviving records of the various playing troupes of the time. Shakespeare mythos[edit] Shakespeare Before Thomas Lucy, a typical Victorian illustration of the poaching anecdote Several hypotheses have been put forth to account for his life during this time, and a number of accounts are given by his earliest biographers. Johnson adds that the story had been told to Alexander Pope by Rowe. Honigmann proposed that Shakespeare acted as a schoolmaster in Lancashire, [19] on the evidence found in the will of a member of the Houghton family, referring to plays and play-clothes and asking his kinsman Thomas Hesketh to take care of "William Shakeshaft, now dwelling with me". How or when Shakespeare got into acting is unknown. Before being allowed to perform for the general public, touring playing companies were required to present their play before the town council to be licensed. Players first acted in Stratford in, the year that John Shakespeare was bailiff. Before Shakespeare turned 20, the Stratford town council had paid for at least 18 performances by at least 12 playing companies. In one playing season alone, that of, five different acting troupes visited Stratford. The works are written within the frame of reference of the career actor, rather than a member of the learned professions or from scholarly book-learning. The application was successfully renewed in, most probably at the instigation of William himself as he was the more prosperous at the time. The motto "Non sanz droict" "Not without right" was attached to the application, but it was not used on any armorial displays that have survived. The theme of social status and restoration runs deep through the plots of many of his plays, and at times Shakespeare seems to mock his own longing. Also by, his name began to appear on the title pages of his plays, presumably as a selling point. Legal documents from, when the case was brought to trial, show that Shakespeare was a tenant of Christopher Mountjoy, a Huguenot tire-maker a maker of ornamental headdresses in the northwest of London in. Shakespeare was enlisted as a go-between, to help negotiate the details of the dowry. Eight years later, Bellott sued his father-in-law for delivering only part of the dowry. During the Bellott v. Mountjoy case, Shakespeare

was called to testify, but said he remembered little of the circumstances. Shakespeare himself seems to have lived in rented accommodation while in London. According to John Aubrey, he travelled to Stratford to stay with his family for a period each year. Speculators were acquiring excess quantities in the hope of profiting from scarcity. This has often been interpreted as evidence that he was listed as a hoarder. According to Mark Eccles, "the schoolmaster, Mr. Aspinall, had eleven quarters, and the vicar, Mr. Lewis, however, suggest that he purchased the malt as an investment, since he later sued a neighbour, Philip Rogers, for an unpaid debt for twenty bushels of malt. In short, he had become an entrepreneur specialising in real estate and agricultural products, an aspect of his identity further enhanced by his investments in local farmland and farm produce. Boehrer suggests he was pursuing an "overall investment strategy aimed at controlling as much as possible of the local grain market", a strategy that was highly successful. The town clerk Thomas Greene, who opposed the enclosure, recorded a conversation with Shakespeare about the issue. Shakespeare said he believed the enclosure would not go through, a prediction that turned out to be correct. The purchase was probably an investment, as Shakespeare was living mainly in Stratford by this time, and the apartment was rented out to one John Robinson. Robinson may be the same man recorded as a labourer in Stratford, in which case it is possible he worked for Shakespeare. In he was called as a witness in the Bellott v. Susanna and her husband Dr John Hall sued for slander. Lane failed to appear and was convicted. From November Shakespeare was in London for several weeks with his son-in-law, Hall. Shakespeare died on 23 April which was also the day of his birth and the feast day of St. George, patron of England , at the reputed age of No extant contemporary source explains how or why he died. After half a century had passed, John Ward , the vicar of Stratford, wrote in his notebook: Of the tributes that started to come from fellow authors, one refers to his relatively early death: His son Hamnet had died in His last surviving descendant was his granddaughter Elizabeth Hall , daughter of Susanna and John Hall. A monument on the wall nearest his grave, probably placed by his family, [44] features a bust showing Shakespeare posed in the act of writing. Each year on his claimed birthday, a new quill pen is placed in the writing hand of the bust. He is believed to have written the epitaph on his tombstone. Blest be the man that spares these stones, And cursed be he that moves my bones.

Chapter 4 : Shakespeare goes to london by Julian Jabie on Prezi

It is well-known that William Shakespeare moved to London from Stratford, a town miles northwest of London. However, the move came after the birth of his twins, Hamnet and Judith in

One that travellers embrace and I lived when I went solo to London. You can enter for free with a London Pass. The tour guide was very knowledgeable. Building it was a bit of a covert operation. When their lease came due, the landlord refused to renew it and tried to claim the building as well. In the middle of the night, the players disassembled their theatre beam by beam and transported it across the Thames to build The Globe. The venue held between 2, and 3, patrons. But the life of the Globe Theatre was cut short €” twice. During a performance of Henry VIII in , the thatched roof caught fire from a blast of a canon on stage and the whole theatre burned in less than two hours. The theatre was then rebuilt with a tile roof and operated until when all theatres were closed by the Puritan government. It was demolished two years later. The gallery was for affluent theatre goers. Building the replica theatre was complicated by the lack of historical documents, the time required for archeological excavations, acquiring the land and more. But the time was worth it. It is a remarkable achievement. It offers a timeline on the construction of the original Globe as well as that of the modern day project. It houses costumes as they would have been during the period, displays props and demonstrates stage tricks. Along with the tour, it reveals the past of modern day theatre. It offers a unique glimpse into Elizabethan England. When planning your trip to London you may want to click here to€!

Chapter 5 : William Shakespeare Timeline: Timeline of Shakespeare's Life & Works

When William Shakespeare's fictitious sister Judith goes to London, she most certainly does not meet with his success (though she was born every bit as gifted as her brother).

Chapter 6 : Solo Travel to London for Theatre at the Globe

Time Out's complete guide to all William Shakespeare plays and productions in London, from the Fringe to the West End, including Shakespeare's Globe. Go to the content Go to the footer.

Chapter 7 : The British Theatre Guide: Shakespeare Goes to Paris - How the Bard Conquered France

William Shakespeare is born in Stratford-upon-Avon to John and Mary Arden Shakespeare. The fourth of the Shakespeares' eight children shares a birthday with St. George, the patron saint of England. (Note: Though April 23 is commonly accepted as Shakespeare's birthday, it's impossible to know the exact date he was born.

Chapter 8 : Shakespeare's Lost Years

LONDON €” The Royal Shakespeare Company's season of Roman plays would appear to put history first, as you might expect from two Shakespeare titles €” "Julius Caesar" and "Antony and.

Chapter 9 : William Shakespeare - Wikipedia

William Shakespeare was an actor, playwright, poet, and theatre entrepreneur in London during the late Elizabethan and early Jacobean eras. He was baptised on 26 April in Stratford-upon-Avon in Warwickshire, England, in the Holy Trinity Church.