

Timeline alternative for BPB users

A timeline was produced intended to help users understand how the plays of Shakespeare relate to those of his contemporaries for whom they were live entertainment rather than literature. As this is not very accessible to Blind/Partially Blind users, the information is here provided as straightforward text. There are some basic things to remember:

Borrowings or allusions between plays could have meant access to a printed copy, but it could also have drawn on the memories of audiences and performers.

The dating of first performance cannot usually be done with certainty.

Not every performed play was published, and the gap between performance and first publication varied from months or years to decades and even centuries.

The published version may not accurately represent the play as it was first performed. It is interesting to note that 25 of these plays were first published during the closure of the theatres between 1642 and 1660.

This is not a complete listing of all the plays of the period, but one which highlights works featured in the research guides because the plays have had some performance here (including both full productions and one-off script in hand performances).

1560-1564

The earliest play that appears in the guides is *Gorbuduc* by Thomas Norton and Thomas Sackville. From the early 1560s, it was first published in 1565. It is mentioned in the Disability research guide.

1565-1569

In the later 1560s, *Damon and Pythias* by Richard Edwards, published in 1571, and *Supposes* by George Gascoigne, published in 1573, were first performed. For *Damon and Pythias*, there is more information in the

Queerness research guide. For *Supposes* there is more information in the Disability and Gender research guides.

1580-1584

The next plays with some performance history at the modern Globe are thought to have been performed in the early 1580s.

The Arraignment of Paris by George Peele was first published in 1584. It appears in the Disability and Gender research guides.

Campaspe by John Lyly was also first published in 1584. This is included in the Gender research guide. His *Sappho and Phao* was first published in 1584 while his *Galatea* was not published until 1592. Both feature in the Gender and Queerness research guides.

Anthony Munday's *Fedele and Fortunio* was first published in 1585, and features in the Disability and Gender research guides.

An anonymous play called *The Rare Triumphs of Love and Fortune* also seems to be from this period but was not published until 1589. It features in the Disability and Gender research guides.

1585-1589

Most of Marlowe's works were first performed in this period. Both parts of his *Tamburlaine* were first published in 1590. They feature in the Disability, Gender and Race research guides. His *Dido, Queen of Carthage* which was first published in 1594 is included in the Gender, Queerness and Race guides. His *Edward II* and *The Massacre at Paris* also first published in 1594, appear in the Gender and Queerness research guides. *The Jew of Malta* which features in the Gender and Race guides was not published until 1633.

The Battle of Alcazar, probably by George Peele, was first published in 1594. It is included in the Race research guide. His *The Love of King David and Fair Bethsabe*, not published until 1599 is in the Gender research guide.

Lyly's *Midas* was first published in 1592 and is in the Disability research guide. His *Mother Bombie*, first published in 1597 features in both the Disability and Gender research guides.

Anthony Munday's *John a Kent and John a Cumber* was not published until 1851 but is dated to this period. It is included in the Gender research guide.

Two plays of Thomas Kyd were first published in 1592. *The Spanish Tragedy* is in the Disability research guide, while *Soliman and Perseda* is included in the Gender, Queerness and Race research guides.

Robert Wilson's *The Three Lords and Ladies of London* was first published in 1590. It is included in the Gender research guide.

The anonymous play *The Wars of Cyrus* published in 1594 appears in the Gender, Queerness and Race research guides.

1590-1594

The earliest plays by Shakespeare seem to have been first performed in the early 1590s. These include:

Henry VI Part 1 (not published until 1623) which is mentioned in all four research guides

Henry VI Part 2 (first published in 1594) which is mentioned in all four research guides

Henry VI Part 1 (first published in 1595) which is mentioned in all four research guides

The Comedy of Errors (not published until 1623) which is mentioned in the Disability, Race and Gender research guides

Titus Andronicus (first published in 1594) which is mentioned in all four research guides

The Taming of the Shrew (not published until 1623) which is mentioned in all four research guides

Other plays first performed in the early 1590s include:

Edward III, an anonymous play with one hand identified as Shakespeare's, was first published in 1596. It appears in the Gender research guide. Another anonymous play of this era is *The Lamentable Tragedy of Locrine*. Included in the Race research guide, this was first published around 1595-96. A third anonymous play is *King Leir and his Daughters* which was not published until 1605. This features in the Gender research guide. A fourth play with an unknown author was *The Taming of A Shrew* which was first published in 1594. It is referred to in the research guides for Gender and Queerness.

Three plays of Robert Greene were first published in 1594. *Orlando Furioso* is in the Disability, Gender and Queerness research guides, while *Selimus* is included in the Disability and Race research guides. His *Friar Bacon and Friar Bungay* appears in both the Gender and Queerness research guides.

Lyly's *The Woman in the Moon* is referenced in the Disability, Gender and Queerness research guides. It was first published in 1597. His *Love's Metamorphosis* which features in the Queerness research guide was first published in 1601.

Doctor Faustus by Christopher Marlowe, which is mentioned in both the Disability and Queerness research guides, was published first in 1604 (and a different edition in 1616).

The Cobbler's Prophecy by Robert Wilson published in 1594 is mentioned in the Disability research guide.

Cornelia by Thomas Kyd published in 1594 is included in the Gender research guide.

Thomas Nashe's *Summer's Last Will and Testament* was first published in 1600 and is mentioned in the Disability research guide.

1595-1599

Shakespeare's plays first performed in 1595 include:

Romeo and Juliet (first published in 1597) which is mentioned in the Disability, Gender and Queerness research guides.

Richard II was also first published in 1597, but *A Midsummer Night's Dream* was not published until 1600. Both are mentioned in all four research guides.

The following plays are attributed to 1596:

Love's Labour's Lost which was published in 1598 is mentioned in the Gender, Queerness and Race research guides.

King John (not published until the Folio in 1623) is featured in the Disability, Gender and Queerness research guides. As also is *The Merry Wives of Windsor* (first published in 1602).

The Merchant of Venice which is referenced in all four research guides was first published in 1600.

Both parts of *Henry IV* are dated to 1597 with publication of Part 1 in 1598 and Part 2 in 1600. Both are referenced in all four research guides.

Much Ado About Nothing was first performed in 1598 and published in 1600. It is referenced in the Disability Gender and Queerness research guides.

Henry V and *Julius Caesar* are both dated to 1599 with publication in 1600 and 1623 respectively. The former is referenced in all four research guides while the latter is mentioned in the Disability, Gender and Queerness research guides.

Also attributed to this period are two plays by Thomas Dekker both first published in 1600. His *Old Fortunatus* is featured in the Disability, Gender and Race research guides. The *Shoemaker's Holiday* is referenced in the Disability and Gender research guides.

There are several anonymous plays of this period. The earliest published (1599) were *George-A-Greene*, *The Pinner of Wakefield* and *A Warning for Fair Women* which are in the Queerness and Gender research guides respectively. *The Wisdom of Doctor Doddypoll* was first published the following year. References can be found in both the Disability and Gender research guides.

The Disability research guide has references to further anonymous plays of this date, *Alarum for London* (first published in 1602) and *The History of the Trial of Chivalry* (first published in 1605). The latter is also mentioned in the Gender research guide.

George Chapman's *An Humorous Day's Mirth* is also mentioned in the Disability research guide. It was first published in 1597. Ben Jonson's *Every Man in his Humour* is also mentioned in this research guide. It was first published in 1601.

The Gender research guide includes two plays first published in 1599, Thomas Heywood's *King Edward IV parts 1 and 2 or Jane Shore* and Henry Porter's *The Two Angry Women of Abingdon*.

William Haughton's *Englishmen for My Money* is mentioned in the Gender and Race research guides. It was first published in 1616.

1600-1604

Shakespeare's plays from this period include the following:

Hamlet and *As You Like It* (first published in 1603 and 1623 respectively) are both mentioned in the Disability, Gender and Queerness research guides.

Also in these three research guides are *Twelfth Night* (first published in 1623) and *Troilus and Cressida* (first published in 1609).

Measure for Measure also first published in 1623 is in the Gender and Queerness research guides.

Othello, first published in 1622, appears in all four research guides.

The unperformed play *Sir Thomas More* by several hands including Shakespeare's is also from this period. Not published until 1844, it is included in the Race research guide. Another hand in that play is that of Henry Chettle, whose *The Tragedy of Hoffman* is of a similar date (but published only in 1631. This play is in the Disability, Gender and Queerness research guides. Some scholars think Chettle also had a hand in Thomas Dekker's *Lust's Dominion* (first published in 1657), which is included in the Gender and Race research guides.

Dekker co-wrote *The Honest Whore Part 1* with Thomas Middleton and *Westward Ho!* with John Webster. The latter (referenced in the Gender and Queerness research guides) was first published in 1607 and the former (referenced in the Disability, Gender and Queerness research guides) in 1630. Thomas Middleton's *The Phoenix* was also first published in 1607 and is mentioned in the Disability research guide.

Five plays by John Marston were first performed in this period. The first to be published (in 1601) was *What You Will*. This has been included in the Disability and Queerness research guides. The linked plays *Antonio and Mellida* and *Antonio's Revenge* were first published in 1602. The latter is featured only in the Disability research guide, but the former is in the Gender, Queerness and Race research guides. *The Malcontent* was first published in 1604 and appears in the Disability, Gender and Queerness research guides. His *Parasitaster, or The Fawn* was first published in 1606. It features in both the Gender and Queerness research guides.

Ben Jonson's *Cynthia's Revels*, which was first published in 1601 is referenced in the Gender research guide.

Samuel Daniel's *Philotas* first published in 1605 is mentioned in the Race research guide.

Mention of Samuel Rowley's *When You See Me You Know Me* also published in 1605 can be found in the Disability and Gender research guides.

1605-1609

Thomas Middleton is thought to have had a hand in the printed versions of both 1605's *All's Well That Ends Well* and 1606's *Macbeth*, both first published in the 1623 Folio. Both plays are mentioned in the Disability, Gender and Queerness research guides.

Other plays not published until the Folio are *Antony and Cleopatra* (dated to 1606), which is mentioned in all four research guides, *Timon of Athens* (dated to 1607) and 1608's *Coriolanus*, both of which are referenced in the Disability, Gender and Queerness research guides.

1605's *King Lear* was first published in 1608 and is mentioned in all four research guides. The collaborative play *Pericles*, co-written with George Wilkins, dates from 1607 and was first published in 1609. This is featured in the Gender and Race research guides.

A couple of anonymous plays from this period are *The Fair Maid of the Exchange* (first published in 1607), which is featured in the Disability and Gender research guides, and *The Tragedy of Tiberius Claudius Nero* (first published in 1624), which is in the Disability research guide.

Robert Armin's *The Two Maids of More-Clacke with the life and simple manner of John in the Hospitall* was first published in 1609 and features in the Disability, Gender and Queerness research guides.

George Chapman's *Caesar and Pompey* was not published until 1631. It features in the Race research guide, while his *The Widow's Tears* (published in 1612) is mentioned in the Gender research guide. Also drawing on Classical sources was John Marston's *The Wonder of Women*, first published in 1606, which is included in the Gender and Race research guides. Marston's *The Insatiate Countess* co-authored with William Barksted and Lewis Machin, and first published in 1613, has been included in the Gender, Queerness and Race research guides.

Thomas Heywood's plays in this period include *If You Know Not Me, You Know Nobody*, both parts of which were first published in 1605. Part 1 is mentioned in the Gender research guide, while Part 2 is in the Gender and Race research guides. His *The Rape of Lucrece* which is referenced in the Gender research guide was first published in 1608.

Works by the writers John Fletcher and Francis Beaumont seem to have been first performed at this period. Fletcher's *The Faithful Shepherdess* (featured in the Gender research guide) was first published in 1609. Beaumont's *The Knight of the Burning Pestle* (featured in the Gender and Queerness research guides) was first published in 1613. Their jointly written plays *The Maid's Tragedy*, first published in 1619, and *Philaster or Love Lies a-Bleeding*, first published in 1620, are both featured in the Gender and Queerness research guides.

Thomas Middleton, whom we have seen may have had a hand in the printed version of two of Shakespeare's plays from this period, also authored other plays of this date that have had some degree of performance here. *Michaelmas Term* first published in 1607 is in the Queerness research guide. *The Puritan or the Widow of Watling Street* is also attributed to him. Printed the same year, it is mentioned in the Disability and Gender research guides. Three of his plays were published the following year.

These are *A Mad World, My Masters*, which is in the Disability, Gender and Queerness research guides, *A Trick to Catch the Old One*, which is in the Gender research guide, and *Your Five Gallants*, which is in the Gender and Queerness research guides.

Two Spanish Golden Age plays by Lope de Vega are from this period. *The Duchess of Amalfi's Steward* which is mentioned in the Gender research guide and was first published in 1618, and *El Nino Inocente de la Guardia*, first published in 1617, which is in the Disability and Race research guides.

Two John Day plays are *The Isle of Gulls* and *Law Tricks*. Published in 1606 and 1608 respectively, they are respectively mentioned in the Queerness and Gender research guides. His *The Travailes of the Three English Brothers*, co-authored with William Rowley and George Wilkins (published 1607) is in the Race research guide.

Wilkins' *The Miseries of Enforced Marriage* was first published in 1607 and is mentioned in the Gender research guide. Edward Sharpham's *The Fleer* was also first published in 1607 and is mentioned in the Queerness research guide. Thomas Dekker's *The Honest Whore Part 2* (although not

published until 1630) is from this period. It is featured in the Gender research guide.

Ben Jonson's *Volpone*, first printed in 1607, is included in the Disability, Gender and Queerness research guides. John Mason's *The Turk*, which was first printed in 1610, is included in the Queerness and Race research guides. Lording Barry's *Ram Alley* is included in the Gender and Queerness research guides. It was first published in 1611.

1610-1614

This is the period of Shakespeare's final plays:

Cymbeline is dated to 1610 and was printed first in the 1623 Folio. This is referred to in all four research guides.

The Winter's Tale and *The Tempest* are both from 1611 (and again first published in 1623). The former is in the Disability, Gender and Queerness research guides, while the latter is in the Disability, Gender and Race research guides.

The co-written *Henry VIII* and *The Two Noble Kinsmen* are dated to 1612 and 1613 respectively. The former, first published in the Folio, is featured in all four research guides. The latter, not published until 1634, also appears in all four research guides.

Ben Jonson's *Bartholomew Fair* is from this period although not published until 1631. It is featured in the Disability, Gender and Queerness research guides.

Three John Fletcher plays are from this period although unpublished until 1647. *Bonduca* is in the Gender research guide, *Love's Pilgrimage* is in the Gender and Queerness research guides, and *Valentinian* in the Disability, Gender and Queerness research guides.

His play *Beggars Bush* co-authored with Philip Massinger (and also published in 1647) is mentioned in the Disability research guide. Francis Beaumont also co-wrote a play with him (*The Scornful Lady*, first

published in 1616). This is featured in the Gender and Queerness research guides.

Thomas Heywood's *The Golden Age* and *The Brazen Age* were published in 1611 and 1613 respectively. The former is included in the Queerness research guide and the latter in the Disability research guide. His play *The Wise Woman of Hoxton*, not published until 1638 is in the Gender and Queerness research guides.

John Webster's *The White Devil*, first published in 1612 is in all four research guides. His *The Duchess of Malfi* (not published until 1623) features in the Gender research guide.

Thomas Dekker's *The Roaring Girl*, co-written with Thomas Middleton was first published in 1611. It features in the Disability, Gender and Queerness research guides. The central character of Moll Frith, a contemporary resident of London, also features in Nathan Field's *Amends for Ladies* of a similar date and first published in 1618. This features in the Gender and Queerness research guides.

A further three Thomas Middleton plays are the comedies *A Chaste Maid in Cheapside*, published in 1630, and *No Wit, No Help Like a Woman's*, printed in 1657, both of which are in the Gender and Queerness research guides, and *The Second Maiden's Tragedy* (not published until 1824), which is in the Gender research guide.

Robert Daborne's *A Christian Turn'd Turke* features in the Queerness and Race research guides. It was first printed in 1612.

Lope de Vega's *The Labyrinth of Desire*, first published in 1617 is in the Gender and Queerness research guides.

1615-1619

Two plays by Thomas Middleton from this date are *The Widow* (first published in 1652), and *Women Beware Women* (printed in 1657). The former is in the Gender and Queerness research guide. The latter is in the Disability and Gender research guide.

Gervase Markham and William Sampson's *The Tragedy of Herod and Antipater* was published in 1622. This is mentioned in all four research guides.

John Webster's *The Devil's Law Case*, first printed in 1623, is in the Gender research guide.

William Rowley's *All's Lost by Lust*, first published in 1633 is in the Race subject guide.

Robert Daborne's *The Poor Man's Comfort* features in the Disability research guide. It was first published in 1655.

John Fletcher and Philip Massinger's *The Custom of the Country* which is mentioned in the Disability and Gender research guide was first published in 1647.

The closet drama *Love's Victory* by Lady Mary Wroth (not published until 1996) is referred to in the Gender and Queerness research guides.

1620-1624

The first of John Fletcher's plays of this date to be published was *Rule a Wife and Have a Wife* in 1640. Which is referenced in the Gender research guide. His *The Chances* is mentioned in the Gender research guide. This and both *The Island Princess* (mentioned in the Gender and Race research guides) and *Women Pleased* (mentioned in the Disability and Gender research guides) were published in 1647.

Fletcher was co-author with Philip Massinger of *The False One* which was also first published in 1647. This is in the Gender research guide.

Massinger's *The Duke of Milan*, which was first printed in 1623, is included in the Disability, Gender and Race research guides. His *The Bondman*, which is mentioned in the Disability, Gender and Race research guides, was first published in 1624. *The Renegado* (printed in 1630) features in all four research guides.

A co-authored play with Thomas Dekker, *The Virgin Martyr*, which was first printed in 1622, is in the Gender and Race research guides. Philip Massinger and Thomas Dekker.

Thomas Dekker was one of the co-authors of *The Spanish Gypsy* (with John Ford, Thomas Middleton and William Rowley), first published in 1653. It is included in the Gender research guide. Two of those writers (Thomas Middleton and William Rowley) were responsible for *The Changeling*, a tragedy printed in 1652, which is mentioned in the Disability, Gender and Queerness research guides. William Rowley and at least one other hand created *The Birth of Merlin* (not published until 1662), which is included in the Disability research guide. Thomas Middleton and a second hand (possibly John Webster) wrote *Anything for a Quiet Life* (also published in 1662) which features in the Gender and Queerness research guides.

The Faithful Friends by an unknown author, not printed until 1812. This appears in both the Disability and Queerness research guides. Thomas Drue's *The Duchess of Suffolk*, which was printed in 1631, is included in the Gender research guide. Lodowick Carlell's *Osmond The Great Turk* (published in 1657) appears in all four research guides.

1625-1629

Four of Philip Massinger's plays are from this period. *The Roman Actor* (printed in 1629) and *The Great Duke of Florence* (1636) are both included in the Gender research guide. *The Picture* (1630) and *A New Way to Pay Old Debts* (1633) are both in the Disability and Gender research guides.

James Ford's earliest solo-authored plays are from this period. The first of these to be published was *The Lover's Melancholy* (1629), which is in the Disability, Gender and Queerness research guides. *The Queen, or The Excellency of her Sex* (1653), probably by Ford, is in the Gender research guide.

James Shirley's earliest works to feature in the research guides are *The Grateful Servant* (printed in 1630), which is in the Gender and Queerness

research guides, and *The Witty Fair One* (1633) which is in the Gender research guide.

Both Richard Brome's *The Northern Lass* (first printed in 1632) and John Webster and Thomas Heywood's *Appius and Virginia* (1654) are mentioned in the Gender research guide.

William Hemings' *The Jews' Tragedy*, not published until 1662, is featured in the Race research guide.

1630-1634

Three John Ford plays were published in 1633: *The Broken Heart* and *'Tis Pity She's a Whore* which both feature in the Gender research guide, and *Love's Sacrifice* which is in both the Disability and Gender research guides.

Two Thomas Heywood plays were first printed in 1636: *A Challenge for Beauty* is in the Gender and Queerness research guides, while *Love's Mistress or The Queens Masque* appears in the Disability and Gender research guides. A collaboration with Richard Brome (*The Late Lancashire Witches*) had been published in 1634. This is featured in the Gender research guide.

Philip Massinger's *The Emperor of the East* was first printed in 1632 and features in the Disability, Gender and Queerness research guides. His *The City Madam*, which was not published until 1658, is in the Gender research guide.

John Milton's Masque *Comus* was printed in 1634 and is in the Gender research guide, along with Lope de Vega's *Punishment without Revenge*, printed in 1631, and William Davenant's *The Wits* (published in 1636).

1635-1639

Three Richard Brome plays were first performed in this period. *The English Moor*, first printed in 1659, is in all four research guides. His *The Antipodes* and *The Sparagus Garden* both published in 1640 are

respectively mentioned in the Disability and Gender, and Disability, Queerness and Race research guides.

James Shirley's *The Lady of Pleasure*, first published in 1637 is mentioned in the Gender research guide. His *The Doubtful Heir* (not published until 1653) is in the Queerness research guide.

John Ford's *The Fancies Chaste and Noble* (printed in 1638) can be found in the Gender research guide. His *The Lady's Trial* (published the following year) is featured in the Disability and Gender research guides.

Philip Massinger's *The Bashful Lover*, included in the Queerness research guide, was first printed in 1655.

Henry Glapthorne's *The Lady Mother* is in the Gender research guide. It was not printed until 1883.

Nathaniel Richards *Messallina, the Insatiate Roman Empress* (1639) and William Davenant's *The Unfortunate Lovers* (1643) are both included in the Gender research guide.

1640-1642

Cervantes' novella *The Spanish Ladie* was published in 1640. The Read not Dead performance is mentioned in the Disability and Gender research guides.

Richard Brome's *The Court Beggar*, printed in 1653 also features in the Disability and Gender research guides.

1642-1660

Closure of the Theatres.

1660-1674

No works have had even a script in hand staging at the modern Globe.

1675-1679

John Dryden's *Aureng-Zebe* (performed as *The Captive Queen*) which was printed in 1676 features in the Gender and Race research guides.

1680-1684

Thomas D'Urfey's *The Injur'd Princess* (printed in 1682) is mentioned in the Gender research guide.

1750-1754

The final play included here is Gotthold Ephraim Lessing's *The Jews*, written in 1749 and first staged in 1754, which is mentioned in the Race research guide.