

Timeline to support the four research guides for finding disability, gender, queerness and race in our collections.

The timeline is intended to help its users understand how the plays of Shakespeare relate to those of his contemporaries for whom they were live entertainment rather than literature. It is also important because 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.

NB Dating of first performance cannot usually be done with certainty.

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

NB 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.

NB 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).

Plays are tagged to reference the relevant research guides (d for disability; g for gender; q for queerness; r for race).

The works below are listed according to the half-decade in which it is suggested they were first performed.

In the right-hand column, the listing in each half-decade is alphabetical).

Half decade	Shakespeare's plays	Other works
	Title: Co-author, if any Probable date of first production ¹ (date of publication) [disability = d; gender = g; queerness = q; race = r]	Title: Author (date of publication) [disability = d; gender = g; queerness = q; race = r]
1560-1564		Gorbuduc: Thomas Norton and Thomas Sackville (1565) [g]
1565-1569		Damon and Pythias: Richard Edwards (1571) [q] Supposes: George Gascoigne (1573) [d, g]
1570-1574		
1575-1579		
1580-1584		The Arraignment of Paris: George Peele (1584) [d, g] Campaspe: John Lyly (1584) [g]

¹ Based on the 'limits' range in Martin Wiggins' (in association with Catherine Richardson) British Drama 1533-1642: A Catalogue, 9 vols (2012-2019).

1580-1584 (continued)		Fedele and Fortunio: Anthony Munday (1585) [d, g] Galatea: John Lyly (1592) [g, q] The Rare Triumphs of Love and Fortune: Anon. (1589) [d, g] Sappho and Phao: John Lyly (1584) [g, q]
1585-1589		The Battle of Alcazar: ?George Peele (1594) [r] Dido, Queen of Carthage: Christopher Marlowe (1594) [g, q, r] Edward II: Christopher Marlowe (1594) [g, q] The Jew of Malta: Christopher Marlowe (1633) [g, r]

1585-1589 (continued)		John a Kent and John a Cumber: Anthony Munday (1851) [g] The Love of King David and Fair Bethsabe: George Peele (1599) [g] The Massacre at Paris: Christopher Marlowe (1594) [g, q] Midas: John Lyly (1592) [d] Mother Bombie: John Lyly (1597) [d, g] Soliman and Perseda: Thomas Kyd (1592) [g, q, r] The Spanish Tragedy: Thomas Kyd (1592) [d]
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		Tamburlaine Parts 1 and 2: Christopher Marlowe (1590) [d, g, r] The Three Lords and Ladies of London: Robert Wilson (1590) [g] The Wars of Cyrus: Anon. (1594) [g, q, r]
1590-1594	Henry VI, Part II: 1591 (1594) [d, g, q, r] Henry VI, Part III: 1591 (1595) [d, g, q, r] Henry VI, Part I: no consensus, 1592 (1623) [d, g, q, r] Comedy of Errors: 1592 (1623) [d, g, r] Titus Andronicus: George Peele, 1592 (1594) [d, g, q, r] Taming of the Shrew: 1592 (1623) [d, g, q, r]	The Cobbler's Prophecy: Robert Wilson (1594) [d] Cornelia: Thomas Kyd (1594) [g] Doctor Faustus: Christopher Marlowe (1604/1616) [d, q] Edward III: Anon. (hands may include Shakespeare's) (1596) [g] Friar Bacon and Friar Bungay: Robert Greene (1594) [g, q]

1590-1594 (continued)	Richard III: 1593 (1597) [d, g, q] The Two Gentlemen of Verona: 1594 (1623) [d, g, q, r]	King Leir and his Daughters: Anon. (1605) [g] The Lamentable Tragedy of Locrine: Disputed (1595-96) [r] Love's Metamorphosis: John Lyly (1601) [q] The Old Wives' Tale: George Peele (1595) [d, g] Orlando Furioso: Robert Greene (1594) [d, g, r] Selimus: Robert Greene (1594) [d, r] Summer's Last Will and Testament: Thomas Nashe (1600) [d]
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1590-1594 (continued)		The Taming of A Shrew: Anon. (1594) [g, q] The Woman in the Moon: John Lyly (1597) [d, g, q]
1595-1599	Romeo and Juliet: 1595 (1597) [d, g, q] Richard II: 1595 (1597) [d, g, q, r] A Midsummer Night's Dream: 1595 (1600) [d, g, q, r] Love's Labour's Lost: 1596 (1598) [g, q, r] King John: 1596 (1623) [d, g, q] The Merchant of Venice: 1596 (1600) [d, g, q, r] The Merry Wives of Windsor: 1596 (1602) [d, g, q]	Alarum for London: Anon. (1602) [d] Englishmen for My Money: William Haughton (1616) [g, r] Every Man in his Humour: Ben Jonson (1601) [d] George-A-Greene, The Pinner of Wakefield: Anon (1599) [q] The History of the Trial of Chivalry: Anon. (1605) [d, g] An Humorous Day's Mirth: George Chapman (1597) [d]

1595-1599 (continued)	Henry IV, Part I: 1597 (1598) [d, g, q, r] Henry IV, Part II: 1597 (1600) [d, g, q, r] Much Ado About Nothing: 1598 (1600) [d, g, q] Henry V: 1599 (1600) [d, g, q, r] Julius Caesar: 1599 (1623) [d, g, q]	King Edward IV parts 1 and 2 or Jane Shore: Thomas Heywood (1599) [g] Old Fortunatus: Thomas Dekker (1600) [d, g, r] The Shoemakers' Holiday: Thomas Dekker (1600) [d, g] The Two Angry Women of Abingdon: Henry Porter (1599) [g] A Warning for Fair Women: Anon. (1599) [g] The Wisdom of Doctor Dodypoll: Anon (1600) [d, g]
1600-1604	As You Like It: 1600 (1623) [d, g, q] Hamlet: 1600 (1603) [d, g, q]	Antonio and Mellida: John Marston (1602) [g, q, r] Antonio's Revenge: John Marston (1602) [d]

1600-1604 (continued)	Twelfth Night: 1601 (1623) [d, g, q] Troilus and Cressida: 1602 (1609) [d, g, q] Measure for Measure: 1603 (1623) [g, q] Othello: 1604 (1622) [d, g, q, r]	Cynthia's Revels: Ben Jonson (1601) [g] The Honest Whore Part 1: Thomas Dekker and Thomas Middleton (1630) [d, g, q] Lust's Dominion: Thomas Dekker et al, (1657) [g, r] The Malcontent: John Marston (1604) [d, g, q] Parasitaster, or The Fawn: John Marston (1606) [g, q] Philotas: Samuel Daniel (1605) [r] The Phoenix: Thomas Middleton (1607) [d] Sir Thomas More: Anthony Munday, et al, unperformed (1844) [r]
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1600-1604 (continued)		The Tragedy of Hoffman: Henry Chettle (1631) [d, g, q] Westward Ho!: Thomas Dekker and John Webster (1607) [g, q] What You Will: John Marston (1601) [d, q] When You See Me You Know Me: Samuel Rowley (1605) [d, g]
1605-1609	All's Well That Ends Well: Thomas Middleton?, 1605 (1623) [d, g, q] King Lear: 1605 (1608) [d, g, q, r] Macbeth: Thomas Middleton?, 1606 (1623) [d, g, q] Antony and Cleopatra: 1606 (1623) [d, g, q, r]	Caesar and Pompey: George Chapman (1631) [r] The Duchess of Amalfi's Steward: Lope de Vega (1618) [g] The Fair Maid of the Exchange: Anon. (1607) [d, g]

1605-1609 (continued)	Timon of Athens: 1607 (1623) [d, g, q] Pericles: George Wilkins, 1607 (1609) [g, r] Coriolanus: 1608 (1623) [d, g, q]	The Faithful Shepherdess: John Fletcher (1609) [g] The Fleer: Edward Sharpham (1607) [q] The Rape of Lucrece: Thomas Heywood (1608) [g] The Two Maids of More- Clacke with the life and simple manner of John in the Hospitall: Robert Armin (1609) [d, g, q] The Honest Whore Part 2: Thomas Dekker (1630) [g] If You Know Not Me, You Know Nobody Part 1: Thomas Heywood (1605) [g] If You Know Not Me, You Know Nobody Part 2: Thomas Heywood (1605) [g, r]
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1605-1609 (continued)		The Insatiate Countess: John Marston, William Barksted and Lewis Machin (1613) [g, q, r] The Isle of Gulls: John Day (1606) [q] The Knight of the Burning Pestle: Francis Beaumont (1613) [g, q] Law Tricks: John Day (1608) [g] A Mad World, My Masters: Thomas Middleton (1608) [d, g, q] The Maid's Tragedy: Francis Beaumont and John Fletcher (1619) [g, q] Michaelmas Term: Thomas Middleton (1607) [q]
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1605-1609 (continued)		The Miseries of Enforced Marriage: George Wilkins (1607) [g] El Nino Inocente de la Guardia: Lope de Vega (1617) [d, r] Philaster or Love Lies a-Bleeding: Francis Beaumont and John Fletcher (1620) [g, q] The Puritan or the Widow of Watling Street: ?Thomas Middleton (1607) [d, g] Ram Alley: Lording Barry (1611) [g, q] The Tragedy of Tiberius Claudius Nero: Anon. (1624) [d]
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		The Travailes of the Three English Brothers: John Day, William Rowley and George Wilkins (1607) [r] A Trick to Catch the Old One: Thomas Middleton (1608) [g] The Turk: John Mason (1610) [q, r] Volpone: Ben Jonson (1607) [d, g, q] The Widow's Tears: George Chapman (1612) [g] The Wonder of Women: John Marston (1606) [g, r] Your Five Gallants: Thomas Middleton (1608) [g, q]
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1610-1614	Cymbeline: 1610 (1623) [d, g, q, r] The Winter's Tale: 1611 (1623) [d, g, q] The Tempest: 1611 (1623) [d, g, r] Henry VIII: John Fletcher, 1612 (1623) [d, g, q, r] The Two Noble Kinsmen: John Fletcher, 1613 (1634) [d, g, q, r]	Amends for Ladies: Nathan Field (1618) [g, q] Bartholomew Fair: Ben Jonson (1631) [d, g. q] Beggars Bush: John Fletcher and Philip Massinger (1647) [d] Bonduca: John Fletcher (1647) [g] The Brazen Age: Thomas Heywood (1613) [d] A Chaste Maid in Cheapside: Thomas Middleton (1630) [g, q] A Christian Turn'd Turke: Robert Daborne (1612) [q, r]
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1610-1614 (continued)		The Duchess of Malfi: John Webster (1623) [g] The Golden Age: Thomas Heywood (1611) [q] The Labyrinth of Desire: Lope de Vega (1617) [g, q] Love's Pilgrimage: John Fletcher (1647) [g, q] No Wit, No Help Like a Woman's: Thomas Middleton (1657) [g, q] The Roaring Girl: Thomas Dekker and Thomas Middleton (1611) [d, g, q] The Scornful Lady: Francis Beaumont and John Fletcher (1616) [g, q]
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1610-1614 (continued)		The Second Maiden's Tragedy: Thomas Middleton (1824) [g] Valentinian: John Fletcher (1647) [d, g, q] The White Devil: John Webster (1612) [d, g, q, r] The Wise Woman of Hoxton: Thomas Heywood (1638) [g, q]
1615-1619		All's Lost by Lust: William Rowley (1633) [r] The Custom of the Country: John Fletcher and Philip Massinger (1647) [d, g] The Devil's Law Case: John Webster (1623) [g]

1615-1619 (continued)		Love's Victory: Lady Mary Wroth (1996) [g, q] The Poor Man's Comfort: Robert Daborne (1655) [d] The Tragedy of Herod and Antipater: Gervase Markham and William Sampson (1622) [d, g, q, r] The Widow: Thomas Middleton (1652) [g, q] Women Beware Women: Thomas Middleton (1657) [d, g]
1620-1624		Anything for a Quiet Life: Thomas Middleton and ?John Webster (1662) [g, q] The Birth of Merlin: William Rowley and ? (1662) [d]

1620-1624 (continued)		The Bondman: Philip Massinger (1624) [d, g, r] The Chances: John Fletcher (1647) [g] The Changeling: Thomas Middleton and William Rowley (1652) [d, g, q] The Duchess of Suffolk: Thomas Drue (1631) [g] The Duke of Milan: Philip Massinger (1623) [d, g, q] The Faithful Friends: Unknown (1812) [d, q] The False One: Philip Massinger and John Fletcher (1647) [g]
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1620-1624 (continued)		The Island Princess: John Fletcher (1647) [g, r] Osmond The Great Turk: Lodowick Carlell (1657) [d, g, q, r] The Renegado: Philip Massinger (1630) [d, g, q, r] Rule a Wife and Have a Wife: John Fletcher (1640) [g] The Spanish Gypsy: Thomas Dekker, John Ford, Thomas Middleton and William Rowley (1653) [g] The Virgin Martyr: Philip Massinger and Thomas Dekker (1622) [g, r] Women Pleased: John Fletcher (1647) [d, g]
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1625-1629		Appius and Virginia: John Webster and Thomas Heywood (1654) [g] The Grateful Servant: James Shirley (1630) [g, q] The Great Duke of Florence: Philip Massinger (1636) [g] The Jews' Tragedy: William Hemings (1662) [r] The Lover's Melancholy: John Ford (1629) [d, g, q] A New Way to Pay Old Debts: Philip Massinger (1633) [d, g] The Northern Lass: Richard Brome (1632) [g]
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1625-1629 (continued)		The Picture: Philip Massinger (1630) [d, g] The Queen, or The Excellency of her Sex: John Ford? (1653) [g] The Roman Actor: Philip Massinger (1629) [g] The Witty Fair One: James Shirley (1633) [g]
1630-1634		The Broken Heart: John Ford (1633) [g] A Challenge for Beauty: Thomas Heywood (1636) [g, q] The City Madam: Philip Massinger (1658) [g] Comus: John Milton (1634) [g]

1630-1634 Continued		The Emperor of the East: Philip Massinger (1632) [d, g, q] The Late Lancashire Witches: Richard Brome and Thomas Heywood (1634) [g] Love's Mistress or The Queens Masque: Thomas Heywood (1636) [d, g] Love's Sacrifice: John Ford (1633) [d, g] Punishment without Revenge: Lope de Vega (1631) [g] 'Tis Pity She's a Whore: John Ford (1633) [g] The Wits: William Davenant (1636) [g]
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1635-1639		The Antipodes: Richard Brome (1640) [d, g] The Bashful Lover: Philip Massinger (1655) [q] The Doubtful Heir: James Shirley (1653) [q] The English Moor: Richard Brome (1659) [d, g, q, r] The Fancies Chaste and Noble: John Ford (1638) [g] The Lady Mother: Henry Glapthorne (1883) [g] The Lady of Pleasure: James Shirley (1637) [g] The Lady's Trial: John Ford (1639) [d, g]
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1635-1639 (continued)		Messallina, the Insatiate Roman Empress: Nathaniel Richards (1639) [g] The Sparagus Garden: Richard Brome (1640) [g, q] The Unfortunate Lovers: William Davenant (1643) [g]
1640-1642		The Court Beggar: Richard Brome (1653) [d, g] The Spanish Ladie: Cervantes (1640) [d, g]
1642-1660 Closure of theatres		
1660-1664		
1665-1669		
1670-1674		
1675-1679		Aureng-zebe: (performed as The Captive Queen): John Dryden (1676) [g, r]
1680-1684		The Injur'd Princess: Thomas d'Urfey (1682) [g]

Gotthold Ephraim Lessing's ***The Jews*** [r] was written in 1749 and first staged in 1754.