

Mariangela Tempera

We were all shocked by the news of Mariangela Tempera's death on 31 December 2015.

Mariangela Tempera – professor of English at the University of Ferrara since 2001 – was much respected and loved by the many international colleagues who had the privilege to work with her over the years.

Mariangela Tempera enjoyed a fine reputation in Italy and abroad, in the international arena of Shakespeare studies. In part this reputation was due to her long-running conference and book series “Dal testo alla scena” – devoted to the page-stage nexus in Shakespeare studies. Colleagues from many countries contributed to this astonishing series, which distinguishes Mariangela Tempera as a European Shakespearean of the first hour. She was also, in 2008, the co-founder of the Italian Association of Shakespearean and Early Modern Studies (IASEMS).

Mariangela Tempera is perhaps best known internationally for her great contribution to Shakespeare and Film studies. As the director of the Shakespeare Centre in Ferrara, she was continually adding to her unique collection of cinematic Shakespearean footage. How hard she worked became clear to me one day when she invited me to her house where, it turned out, she had a gigantic satellite television set which recorded Shakespeare-related programs around the clock. Mariangela would “listen” to these programs as she was cooking or working around the house, and when hearing a quotation from Shakespeare, she would rush back to the living room and proceed to record the details of the movie, documentary, or advertisement for the amazing catalogue (updated annually) that she drew on for her essays and seminar contributions at conferences, and also generously shared with so many of us.

Finally, Mariangela was the initiator of the European Shakespeare IP – the Erasmus Intensive Programme for student and staff exchange. Year after year, she would organize two-week programs for students and staff from Ferrara, Berlin, Porto, and Utrecht, and set a standard for such exchange meetings which have since been held also in Porto and Prague. Not only Mariangela's international colleagues will miss her and remember her with affection, but also the students she received in Ferrara whose lives she changed forever. A number of these students have meanwhile become our colleagues, and they will know what it means to dedicate a life to Shakespeare.

We shall all miss Mariangela very much.

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