



*The Shakespearean International Yearbook*

# THE SHAKESPEAREAN INTERNATIONAL YEARBOOK

**DISABILITY PERFORMANCE AND GLOBAL  
SHAKESPEARE**

Edited by  
Alexa Alice Joubin and Natalia Khomenko

Guest Editor  
Katherine Schaap Williams



# Preface

*Alexa Alice Joubin and Natalia Khomenko*

How do global performances of disability themes and figures deconstruct the nation and enrich our understanding of Shakespeare? The fields of critical disability studies and global Shakespeare have a great deal to say to each other, which is why we are creating this opportunity for an interdisciplinary dialogue and reflection. This year's *Shakespearean International Yearbook* focuses on the theme of global disability performances of Shakespeare. Curated by Katherine Schaap Williams, this cluster of articles attends to the global turn in critical disability studies by expanding the history of Shakespearean performance in India, Iran, Sri Lanka, Poland, Russia, and the Arabian Peninsula.

One immediate benefit of using the global as a category of analysis is its ability to counterbalance the stronghold of the nation as a unit of imagination by pointing to, but not exhausting, new forms of knowledge and new forms of feeling. Disability rights are often organized, understandably, through the concept of the nation-state. Thinking beyond the Western framework enables a more inclusive, and expansive, perspective on the diverse ways in which disability aesthetics affect disability politics and on the question of what "counts" as disability representation. When they transcend the "nation," critical tools from disability studies are more effective in aiding our deconstruction of ableist erasure of human variation.

Studies of global performance can further enrich our understanding of disability representation by mobilizing a range of local histories and theatrical traditions. The articles in this cluster highlight Shakespearean film and theater's potential for engaging with national traumas and curative fantasies, and interrogate the ethics of disability representation across cultural contexts. Ultimately, examining disability performances in relation to global definitions of alterity fosters culturally and politically nuanced visions of deploying Shakespeare in service of social justice.

In addition to its curated collections of thematic articles, each *Yearbook* publishes a “state of the field” review chapter in keeping with the general commitment to current scholarship in global Shakespeare studies. In this volume we feature Roderick Hugh McKeown’s article that covers key books and digital resources published in the past two years on appropriation, global performance, race, gender, technology, and digital pedagogy. Using access as a framing concept, McKeown asks meta-critical questions that bring together the diverse publications he assesses: Who has the opportunity to stage, to read, to watch, or to write about Shakespeare? Whose engagements with Shakespeare, whether creative, critical, or something between the two are then transmitted? The publications and projects covered by McKeown will be essential to our ongoing dialogues about global Shakespeare.

Alexa Alice Joubin, General Editor  
Natalia Khomenko, Co-editor

# The Shakespearean International Yearbook

*The Shakespearean International Yearbook* surveys the present state of Shakespeare studies in global contexts, addressing issues that are fundamental to our interpretive encounter with Shakespeare's work and his time. Contributions are solicited from scholars across the field and from both hemispheres of the globe who represent diverse career stages and linguistic traditions. Both new and ongoing trends are examined in comparative contexts, and emerging voices in different cultural contexts are featured alongside established scholarship. Each volume features a collection of articles that focus on a theme curated by a specialist Guest Editor, along with coverage of the current state of the field in other aspects. An essential reference tool for scholars of early modern literature and culture, this annual publication captures, from year to year, current and developing thought in global Shakespeare scholarship and performance practice worldwide.

**Alexa Alice Joubin**, Professor of English, George Washington University, and Research Affiliate, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA.

**Natalia Khomenko** teaches English Literature at York University (Toronto). Her ongoing research project focuses on the reception, interpretation, and adaptation of Shakespearean drama in early Soviet Russia.

# The Shakespearean International Yearbook

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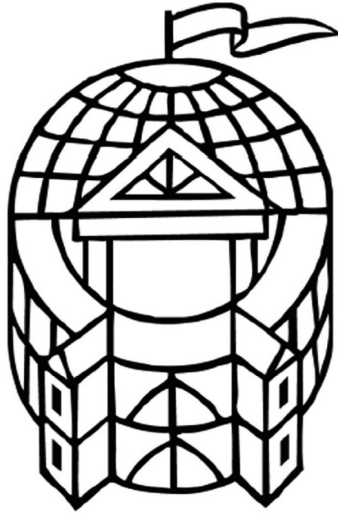
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**The Shakespearean  
International Yearbook**  
Disability Performance and Global  
Shakespeare

**Edited by Alexa Alice Joubin and  
Natalia Khomenko**

**Guest Editor Katherine Schaap Williams**

First published 2024  
by Routledge  
605 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10158

and by Routledge  
4 Park Square, Milton Park, Abingdon, Oxon, OX14 4RN

*Routledge is an imprint of the Taylor & Francis Group, an informa business*

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*Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data*

Names: Joubin, Alexa Alice, 1973- editor. | Khomenko, Natalia, editor. | Schaap Williams, Katherine, 1983- editor.

Title: The Shakespearean international yearbook : disability performance and global Shakespeare / edited by Alexa Alice Joubin and Natalia Khomenko ; guest editor, Katherine Schaap Williams.

Other titles: Disability performance and global Shakespeare

Description: New York, NY : Routledge, 2024. | Series: The Shakespearean international yearbook | Includes bibliographical references and index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2023051241 (print) | LCCN 2023051242 (ebook) | ISBN 9781032649214 (hardback) | ISBN 9781032649221 (paperback) | ISBN 9781032649238 (ebook)

Subjects: LCSH: Shakespeare, William, 1564-1616--Dramatic production. | Shakespeare, William, 1564-1616--Stage history. | People with disabilities and the performing arts. | Theater and society. | Social justice.

Classification: LCC PR3091 .S39 2024 (print) | LCC PR3091 (ebook) | DDC 792.9/5--dc23/eng/20231122

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2023051241>

LC ebook record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2023051242>

ISBN: 978-1-032-64921-4 (hbk)

ISBN: 978-1-032-64922-1 (pbk)

ISBN: 978-1-032-64923-8 (ebk)

DOI: 10.4324/9781032649238

Typeset in Sabon  
by SPi Technologies India Pvt Ltd (Straive)

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