



## Searching for Shakespeare

*Tanya Cooper, James Shapiro (Contributor), Marcia Pointon (Contributor), Stanley Wells (Contributor)*

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In 1856 the newly founded National Portrait Gallery in London was presented with a compelling painting of Shakespeare known as the “Chandos” portrait. Yet, 150 years later, few scholars agree that a true contemporary portrait of the most famous playwright in the history of English literature actually exists. Using the questionable authenticity of this portrait as its starting point, this unique and fascinating book examines the connections between theatrical performance and Shakespeare’s references in the visual arts. Featuring numerous portraits and images of costumes, theater models, manuscripts, and maps, *Searching for Shakespeare* looks at the artist’s overall biography and life’s work. Portraits of Shakespeare’s contemporaries are also included—fellow actors, entertainers, and playwrights as well as his patrons. Insightful essays by distinguished scholars discuss a range of themes, from Shakespeare’s sonnets, fame, and professional connections to his relationships with his actors, dramatists, and courtly and public audiences. They also reveal interesting background on the provenance and scholarship surrounding the “Chandos” portrait, which has been copied, purloined, and reproduced since it was first linked with Shakespeare at the beginning of the eighteenth century. For anyone interested in Shakespeare, the mystery surrounding his identity, and the performing and visual arts of the Elizabethan period, this is an essential book to own.

## Searching for Shakespeare Details

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## **From Reader Review Searching for Shakespeare for online ebook**

### **David Macpherson says**

This was a very informative catalog to a art show I saw at Yale a few years back. It is a look at the difficulty in determining the likeness of Shakespeare. What I loved about the show and the book is how they grounded everything in what they have, all the material evidence of Shakespeare's existence. So we have his will and his plays and paintings of contemporaries and clothes of the time.

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