

SALEM PRESS

Published & Distributed by Grey House Publishing

For Immediate Release

December 10, 2015

Contact: Jessica Moody, VP Marketing
(800) 562-2139 x101
jmoody@greyhouse.com

Salem Press Announces a New Title in the *Critical Survey Series: Critical Survey of Shakespeare's Plays*

Critical Survey of Shakespeare's Plays, edited by Joseph Rosenblum from the *University of North Carolina Greensboro*, compiles a wide range of essays on the life and works of the most famous English playwright of all time, William Shakespeare (1564-1616). A basic part of the curriculum, Shakespeare's plays—still being introduced to students, from middle school through college, four centuries after their composition—have never lost their popularity, and succeeding years have witnessed hundreds of new theatrical productions as well as a constantly growing list of film adaptations that have kept audiences riveted to the play's enduring themes of love, human relationships, responsibility, tolerance, and the lessons of history.

The volume is divided into three parts: **"Biography"** first presents a time line of those events in Shakespeare's life of which we are reasonably certain. There follow three essays focusing on his life from three different viewpoints: as man, as dramatist, and as poet. **"The Plays"** section offers an essay on each of the plays, ranging between 2,000 to 2,500 words, and each play presents a plot summary ("The Story") and an analysis ("Critical Evaluation") of the play. All plays end with a targeted, annotated list of secondary sources for more in-depth study. Similarly, the final section, **"The Poetry"**, contains separate analyses of the poems (excluding the sonnets, which are treated in a separate volume): *A Lover's Complaint*, *The Passionate Pilgrim*, *The Phoenix and the Turtle*, *The Rape of Lucrece*, and *Venus and Adonis*.

Throughout the text, more than fifty famous quotations from Shakespeare's plays appear as separate boxed elements, in which the famous words are cited by play, act, scene, and line, and are fully explained within the context of the play's plot. At the end of the volume a **"Quotation Index"** (immediately preceding the **"Subject Index"**) will link readers to these discussions and assist them in identifying the exact source of the quotation.

Additional aids to study appear at the front of the volume: Three lists of Shakespeare's works—an **"Alphabetical List of Works,"** a **"Categorized List of Works,"** and a **"Chronological List of Works"**—appear after the introduction. Appendices include an extensive **"Bibliography,"** reprinted from the citations in the volume *Shakespeare* (Magill's Bibliography Series, 1992), which has been updated by its author, Joseph Rosenblum; this listing of sources organizes the plethora of major Shakespeare editions and studies into useful categories. For those interested in the history of trends and fashions in Shakespeare studies, Rosenblum's **"Brief History of**

Shakespeare Studies” precedes the bibliography. Next, a **“Character Index”** directs readers to essays covering famous characters from the plays. Finally, following the **“Quotation Index”** mentioned above, the comprehensive **“Subject Index”** lists plays, poems, people, and concepts likely to be of interest to those learning about Shakespeare for the first time.

This new edition, the first in seventeen years, adds an appendix listing Shakespeare festivals across the United States and a new guide to free online resources on Shakespeare’s plays. The **“Brief History of Shakespeare Studies”** has been expanded, and both the general bibliography in the appendix and the annotated bibliographies at the end of most of the essays have been updated. Another new feature is an essay exploring Shakespeare’s enduring allure. Here Joseph Rosenblum, the volumes editor offers a compelling overview of Shakespeare’s language, characters, stories, and themes.

The essays in this single volume compile the essentials for any person interested in Shakespeare, whether a student approaching his works for the first time or a habitual theatergoer about to witness a new production of one of the plays. This title is a set of essays that record the history of Shakespeare the man, the dramatist, and the poet, and analyze each work attributed to his pen.

FREE ONLINE ACCESS

Libraries and schools purchasing the printed version of any Salem Press title get complimentary online access to that title on our new online database, <http://online.salempress.com>. Combining Salem's Literature, History, Health, Science and Careers titles, students and researchers can now access all of their Salem content in one comprehensive site. Any school or library with print reference content in Salem Press' database is entitled to online access to that content. This access is an inherent part of our product.

Critical Survey of Shakespeare’s Plays

Pub. Date: October 2015

Hardcover ISBN: 978-1-61925-864-8

Ebook ISBN: 978-1-61925-865-5

Publisher: Salem Press

400 pages

\$125.00