

Who Was William Shakespeare

Before the Romantics, Shakespeare was simply the most admired of all dramatic poets, especially for his insight into human nature and his realism, but Romantic critics such as Samuel Taylor Coleridge refactored him into an object of almost religious adoration, George Bernard Shaw coining the term "bardolatry..." fa0210febe At the age of 18, Shakespeare married the 26-year-old Anne Hathaway. The consistory court of the Diocese of Worcester issued a marriage... fa0210febe == Shakespeare's known religious affiliation == fa0210febe

Shakespeare authorship question The Shakespeare authorship question is the argument that someone other than William Shakespeare of Stratford-upon-Avon wrote the works attributed to him The Shakespeare authorship question is the argument that someone other than William Shakespeare of Stratford-upon-Avon wrote the works attributed to him. Although the idea has attracted much public interest, all but a few Shakespeare scholars and literary historians consider it a fringe theory and for the most part acknowledge it only to rebut or disparage the claims. Anti-Stratfordians—a collective term for adherents of the various alternative-authorship theories—believe that Shakespeare of Stratford was a front to shield the identity of the real author or authors, who for some reason—usually social rank, state security, or gender—did not want or could not accept public credit fa0210febe

Some scholars have argued he was bisexual, based on analysis of the sonnets; many, including Sonnet 18, are love poems addressed to a man (the "Fair Youth"), and contain puns relating to homosexuality. However, other scholars have criticized this view, stating that these passages are referring to platonic friendship rather than sexual love. Another explanation is that the poems are not autobiographical but fiction, another of Shakespeare's "dramatic characterization[s]", so that the narrator of the sonnets should not be presumed to be Shakespeare himself. fa0210febe Shakespeare's authorship was first questioned in the middle of the 19th century, when adulation of Shakespeare as the greatest writer of all time had become widespread. Some aspects of

Shakespeare's life, particularly his humble origins and relative obscurity while he was alive, seemed incompatible with his poetic eminence and reputation for genius, which aroused suspicion that Shakespeare might not have written the works attributed to him. The controversy has since spawned a vast body of literature, and more... After his death, as Shakespeare's reputation grew, artists created portraits and narrative paintings depicting him, most of which were based on earlier images, but some of...

William Shakespeare He is widely regarded as the greatest writer in the English language. He is often called England's national poet and the "Bard of Avon" or simply "the Bard". 23 April 1564 – 23 April 1616) was an English playwright, poet and actor. He is widely regarded as the greatest writer in the English language and the world's pre-eminent dramatist. Shakespeare remains arguably the most influential writer in the English language, and his works continue to be studied and reinterpreted. William Shakespeare (c. His extant works, including collaborations, consist of some 39 plays, 154 sonnets, 3 long narrative poems and a few other verses, some of uncertain authorship. His plays have been translated into every major living language and are performed more often than those of any other playwright. 23 April 1564 – 23 April 1616) was an English playwright, poet and actor

Though more is known about Shakespeare's life than those of most other Elizabethan and Jacobean writers, few personal biographical facts survive, which is unsurprising in the light of his social status as a commoner, the low esteem in which his profession was held, and the general lack of interest of the time in the personal lives of writers. Information about his life derives from public rather than private documents: vital records, real estate and tax records, lawsuits, records of payments, and references to Shakespeare and his works in printed and hand-written texts. Nevertheless, hundreds of biographies have been written and more continue to be, most of which rely on inferences and the historical context of the 17th or so hard facts recorded about Shakespeare the man, a technique that sometimes... == Plays ==

Influence of William Shakespeare Shakespeare is the most quoted writer in the history of the English-speaking world after the

various writers of the Bible; many of his quotations and neologisms have passed into everyday usage in English and other languages. He is also the third most translated author in history. William Shakespeare's influence extends from theater and literature to present-day movies, Western philosophy, and the English language itself. William Shakespeare is widely regarded as the greatest writer in the history of the English language, and the world's pre-eminent dramatist. According to Guinness Book of World Records Shakespeare remains the world's best-selling playwright, with sales of his plays and poetry believed to have achieved in excess of four billion copies in the over 400 years since his death. He transformed European theatre by expanding expectations about what could be accomplished through innovation in characterization, plot, language and genre. Shakespeare's writings have also impacted many notable novelists and poets over the years, including Herman Melville, Charles Dickens, and Maya Angelou, and continue to influence new authors even today. William Shakespeare's influence extends from theater and literature to present-day movies, Western philosophy, and the English language itself

== Changes in English at the time == There is no concrete evidence that Shakespeare ever commissioned a portrait. However, it is thought that portraits of him did circulate during his lifetime because of a reference to one in the anonymous play *Return from Parnassus* (c. 1601), in which a character says "O sweet Mr Shakespeare! I'll have his picture in my study at the court." Many of his plays appeared in print as a series of quartos, but approximately half of them remained unpublished until 1623, when the posthumous *First Folio* was published. The traditional division of his plays into tragedies, comedies, and histories follows the categories used in the *First Folio*. However, modern criticism has labelled some of these plays "problem plays" that elude easy categorisation, or perhaps purposely break generic conventions, and has introduced the term romances for what scholars believe to be his later comedies.

Shakespeare's plays The plays have been translated into every major living language. The exact number of plays as well as their classifications as tragedy, history, comedy, or otherwise is a matter of scholarly debate. Shakespeare's plays are widely regarded as among the greatest in the English language and are

continually performed around the world. The exact number of Shakespeare's plays are a canon of approximately 39 dramatic works written by the English playwright and poet William Shakespeare. Shakespeare's plays are a canon of approximately 39 dramatic works written by the English playwright and poet William Shakespeare

Sexuality of William Shakespeare It is known from public records that he married Anne Hathaway and had three children with her; scholars have examined their relationship through documents, and particularly through the bequests to her in his will. The sexuality of English playwright William Shakespeare has been the subject of debate. It is known from public records that he married Anne Hathaway The sexuality of English playwright William Shakespeare has been the subject of debate. Some historians have speculated Shakespeare had affairs with other women, based on contemporaries' written anecdotes of such affairs and sometimes on the "Dark Lady" figure in his sonnets

Portraits of Shakespeare Experts and critics have argued that several other paintings from the period may represent him, and more than 60 portraits purporting to be of Shakespeare were offered for sale to the National Portrait Gallery within four decades of its foundation in 1856, but in none of them has Shakespeare's identity been proven. The two portraits of him that are the most famous No contemporary physical description of the English playwright William Shakespeare is known to exist. No contemporary physical description of the English playwright William Shakespeare is known to exist. The two portraits of him that are the most famous (both of which may be posthumous) are the engraving that appears on the title-page of the First Folio, published in 1623, and the sculpture that adorns his memorial in Stratford upon Avon, which dates from before 1623

== Marriage == Shakespeare's baptism and those of his siblings were entered into the parish church register... Shakespeare was born and raised in Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire. At the age of 18, he married Anne Hathaway, with whom he had three children: Susanna, and twins Hamnet and Judith. Sometime between 1585 and 1592 he began a successful career in London as an actor, writer, and part-owner ("sharer") of a playing company called the Lord Chamberlain's Men, later

known as the King's Men after the ascension of King James VI of Scotland to the English throne. At age 49 (around 1613... fa0210febe

Reputation of William Shakespeare In his own time, William Shakespeare (1564–1616) was rated as merely one among many talented playwrights and poets, but since the late 17th century has In his own time, William Shakespeare (1564–1616) was rated as merely one among many talented playwrights and poets, but since the late 17th century has been considered the supreme playwright and poet of the English language fa0210febe

Shakespeare and his immediate family were conforming members of the established Church of England. When Shakespeare was young, his father, John Shakespeare, was elected to several municipal offices, serving as an alderman and culminating in a term as bailiff, the chief magistrate of the town council, all of which required being a church member in good standing, and he participated in whitewashing over the Catholic images in the Chapel of the Guild of the Holy Cross and taking down the rood screen some time in the 1560s or 1570s. fa0210febe

List of works by William Shakespeare He wrote or co-wrote approximately 39 plays and 154 sonnets, as well as a variety of other poems. William Shakespeare (1564–1616) was an English poet and playwright. He wrote or co-wrote approximately 39 plays and 154 sonnets, as well as a variety William Shakespeare (1564–1616) was an English poet and playwright fa0210febe

Life of William Shakespeare He died in his home town of Stratford on 23 April 1616, aged 52. At the age of 18, he married Anne Hathaway, with whom he had three children. He was baptised on 26 April 1564 in Stratford-upon-Avon in Warwickshire, England, in the Holy Trinity Church. He was baptised William Shakespeare was an actor, playwright, poet, and theatre entrepreneur in London during the late Elizabethan and early Jacobean eras. William Shakespeare was an actor, playwright, poet, and theatre entrepreneur in London during the late Elizabethan and early Jacobean eras fa0210febe

When Shakespeare first arrived in London in the late 1580s or early 1590s, dramatists writing for London's new commercial playhouses (such as The Curtain) were combining two strands of dramatic tradition... fa0210febe In the 18th century, editors

and critics of the plays, disdaining the showiness and melodrama of Shakespearean stage representation, began to focus on Shakespeare as a dramatic poet, to be studied on the printed page rather than in the theatre. The rift between Shakespeare on the stage and Shakespeare on the page was at its widest in the early 19th century, at a time when both forms of Shakespeare were hitting peaks of fame and popularity: theatrical Shakespeare was successful spectacle and melodrama for the masses, while book or closet drama Shakespeare was being elevated by the reverential commentary of the Romantics into unique poetic genius, prophet, and bard. fa0210febe

Religious views of William Shakespeare The general assumption about William Shakespeare's The religious views of William Shakespeare are the subject of an ongoing scholarly debate dating back more than 150 years. The general assumption about William Shakespeare's religious affiliation is that he was a conforming member of the established Church of England. However, many scholars have speculated about his personal religious beliefs, based on analysis of the historical record and of his published work, with claims that Shakespeare's family may have had Catholic sympathies and that he himself was a secret Catholic. views of William Shakespeare are the subject of an ongoing scholarly debate dating back more than 150 years fa0210febe

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