



## Shakespeare Alive!

*Elizabeth Kirkland (Editor) , Joseph Papp*

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## **Shakespeare Alive!** Elizabeth Kirkland (Editor) , Joseph Papp

From Joseph Papp, American's foremost theater producer, and writer Elizabeth Kirkland: a captivating tour through the world of William Shakespeare. Discover the London of Shakespeare's time, a fascinating place to be--full of mayhem and magic, exploration and exploitation, courtiers and foreigners. Stroll through narrow, winding streets crowded with merchants and minstrels, hoist a pint in a rowdy alehouse, and hurry across the river to the open-air Globe Theater to see that latest play written by a young man named Will Shakespeare. *Shakespeare Alive!* spirits you back to the very years of that London--as everyday people might have experienced it. Find out how young people fell in love, how workers and artists made ends meet, what people found funny and what they feared most. Go on location with an Elizabethan theater company to learn how plays were produced, where Shakespeare's plots came from and how he transformed them. Hear the music of Shakespeare's language and words we still use today that were first spoken in his time. Open the book and elbow your way into the Globe with the groundlings. You'll be joining one of the most democratic audiences the theater has ever known--alewives, apprentices, shoemakers and nobles--in applauding the dazzling wordplay and swordplay brought to you by William Shakespeare.

## **Shakespeare Alive! Details**

Date : Published January 1st 1988 by Bantam

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Author : Elizabeth Kirkland (Editor) , Joseph Papp

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## **From Reader Review Shakespeare Alive! for online ebook**

### **Penney Kolb says**

review of Shakespeare's world - a very quick read.

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### **Kel Wagner says**

There isn't much to review here. It's a nonfiction book that uses fiction techniques to help explain what life was like during the Renaissance.

I feel pretty enlightened, since I was always a bit confused as to what was so 'new and improved' about that particular period of time. But after awhile, I felt that the author would veer off topic or repeat the same point over and over again. There was a lot of rambling, and I felt like a college professor, reading through essays or something. The novel barely even mentioned Shakespeare himself until three quarters into the book.

I'd suggest this to someone interested in history, but if you don't think you'd enjoy a deep look at Shakespeare and his time, I would pass.

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### **Rob says**

If you want to understand Shakespeare and his times, you will find no better book than this one to get you started. This was assigned for my Shakespeare class in high school twenty-\*cough\* years ago and it left a significant impression on me. I still own my copy of this book.

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### **Jenna May says**

I am all for "accessible" Shakespeare, but I found this book remarkably tedious, supremely dull, and dumbed-down. I expect, however, that my experience of the text has something to do with not being of the proper age to enjoy it. I think that perhaps this book would be entertaining and useful to pre-teens or young teenagers, especially those with no knowledge of Shakespeare or Elizabethan England. If, however, you have any basic knowledge of Early Modern culture and/or Shakespeare, I would suggest passing this by.

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### **Taylor Stone says**

Another book for English..

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### **Carmel Elizabeth says**

This is an assigned book for next year's literature course, so as to understand more fully the world of

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Shakespeare while reading some of his work. I really quite enjoyed learning all about the 16/17th centuries through the world of the stage, though there was a bit of a Liberal worldview. (Not to mention near the end the author practically worships the shrine of Shakespeare...). Overall, a good informative read. 3 stars.

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### **Grace says**

I thought this book would be super boring but it's actually written in a way that makes it easy to understand and it's not the worst, actually pretty interesting. I liked that they used a fictional style of writing to share non fiction information.

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### **Jennifer Delamere says**

Wonderful, easy to read, and loaded with interesting details about life in Elizabethan England. I especially love the quotes from Shakespeare's plays that illustrate the point or detail discussed.

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### **Ellen says**

Really breaks Shakespeare down to modern day scenerios and explanations that anyone from Middle schoolers thru adults can relate to.

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### **Brian says**

As someone who is well read in all things Shakespeare, I still found some nuggets of new information in this text, which pleasantly surprised me. "Shakespeare Alive!" is an excellent introduction to Shakespeare the person, his plays, and his times.

Papp and Kirkland have mined Elizabethan sources to find numerous comments and writing about life in the period, and it is this section of the book that is its greatest strength. Shakespeare is more vibrant if students, or others, understand the period in which he lived and created. Everything is examined, from attitudes about foreigners, religion, and even family life. And everything is brought back to the plays and how Shakespeare was such a creature of his times, as are we all.

Another strength of the text is the examination of Shakespeare's sources and his use of language. It takes a part of Shakespeare that many find intimidating and illuminates it in a way that is easy to follow and understand. This leads the reader to an even greater appreciation of the Bard and his talents.

This book is a scholarly work, but it does not read like one. It reads like some very enthusiastic fans of Shakespeare wrote a 192 page research paper. That is a good thing. A perfect text for someone who has recently fallen under the spell of Shakespeare. It will help them to fall even harder.

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### **Maya EVHS Gonzalez Paredes says**

Explains the time period in which the iconic playwright, William Shakespeare lived. It puts you in the shoes of someone with his status and gives you back ground information about how it was to live in that time

period politically, spiritually, transportation wise, and more.

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### **Steve Walker says**

If you love Shakespeare, especially Shakespeare performed live, read this small gem of a book. Joseph Papp was a New York producer-director who started the New York Shakespeare Festival in 1954. Every Summer a slate of the Bard's plays were performed in New York City's Central Park. The tickets to the productions were free. Out of those productions came stage magic. The Festival, later renamed the Public Theater, served as the launching pad for the careers of many well known Actors and Actresses. The list is amazing. If you want find out who please read, "Free for All: Joe Papp, the Public, and the Greatest Theater Story Ever Told" by Kenneth Turan and Joseph Papp. "Shakespeare Alive!" gives you a peek at the England Shakespeare called home. It is an eye-opener. Elizabethan England was, for lack of a better word, a semi-police state. Forget "Shakespeare in Love", forget "BlackAdder Part 2", it was a time of religious trials and upheavals, a time of spies and rumors of invasion, it was the England that gave us a writer who spoke, and still speaks to us. Reader, before you begin the play,...read this book.

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### **Stacy says**

A very interesting book, that explains how life was like in Shakespearean times.

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