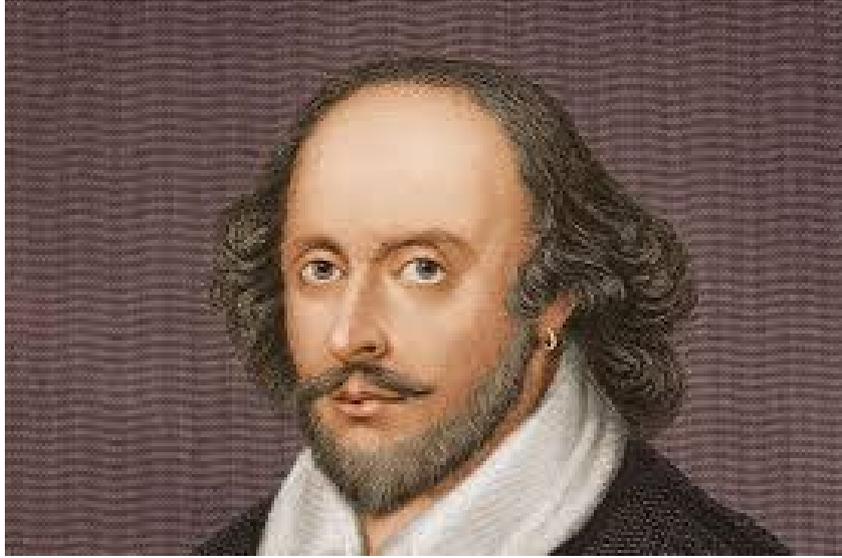


SHAKESPEARE



ON SCREEN

Week Six

Welcome to *Shakespeare On Screen*

Week Six

Friends, Romans, Broadway Cinemagoers...

Lend me your eyes and ears.

Yes, that's right, it's time for Week 6 of Shakespeare on Screen.

A pastoral comedy, a Roman tragedy and a competition between every actor who ever dreamed of treading the boards this week.

Yes, that's right, it's time for *As You Like It*, *Julius Caesar* and the almighty *Hamlet*.

With the last two plays especially, that's a lot of entries in the Oxford Book of Quotations.

But our big star of the week is, of course, the story of the Prince of Denmark and his complicated home life.

What is it about *Hamlet*?

Next to *Romeo & Juliet*, it's probably the play that has lingered the most in the hivemind. Even if you've never experienced the play, never seen an adaptation or even been lectured on the Dane by an excited English teacher, you've heard 'to be or not to be' or 'to thine own self be true' or 'get thee to a nunnery'.

Actors of a certain age – once primarily male actors but not exclusively – have hankered after the central part. Again, generally during a specific phase of their career, but there are exceptions there as well. It's a demanding part, with some daunting speeches, but it's also a much debated one. Is Hamlet mad? Is he putting it on? Does he see a literal ghost, or is it simply a figment of his fevered imagination?

It's a story that has been interrogated, reworked and punned upon for hundreds of years.

There's even a *Hamlet 2*. Sort of.

WEEK SIX FILMS

As You Like It

As You Like It (1936)
Paul Czinner

As You Like It (1978)
Basil Coleman

As You Like It (1994)
Aleksey Karaev

As You Like It (2006)
Kenneth Branagh

As You Like It (2019)
Carhyle Stewart

Julius Caesar

Julius Caesar (1950)
David Bradley

Julius Caesar (1953)
Joseph L. Mankiewicz

Julius Caesar (1970)
Stuart Burge

Julius Caesar (1979)
Herbert Wise

Hamlet

Hamlet (1900)
Clément Maurice

Hamlet (1910)
Mario Caserini

Hamlet (1948)
Laurence Olivier

Hamlet, Prince of Denmark (1980)
Rodney Bennett

Hamlet (1990)
Franco Zeffirelli

Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead (1990)
Tom Stoppard

Hamlet (1996)
Kenneth Branagh

Hamlet 2 (2008)
Andrew Fleming

Hamnet (2025)
Chloe Zhao