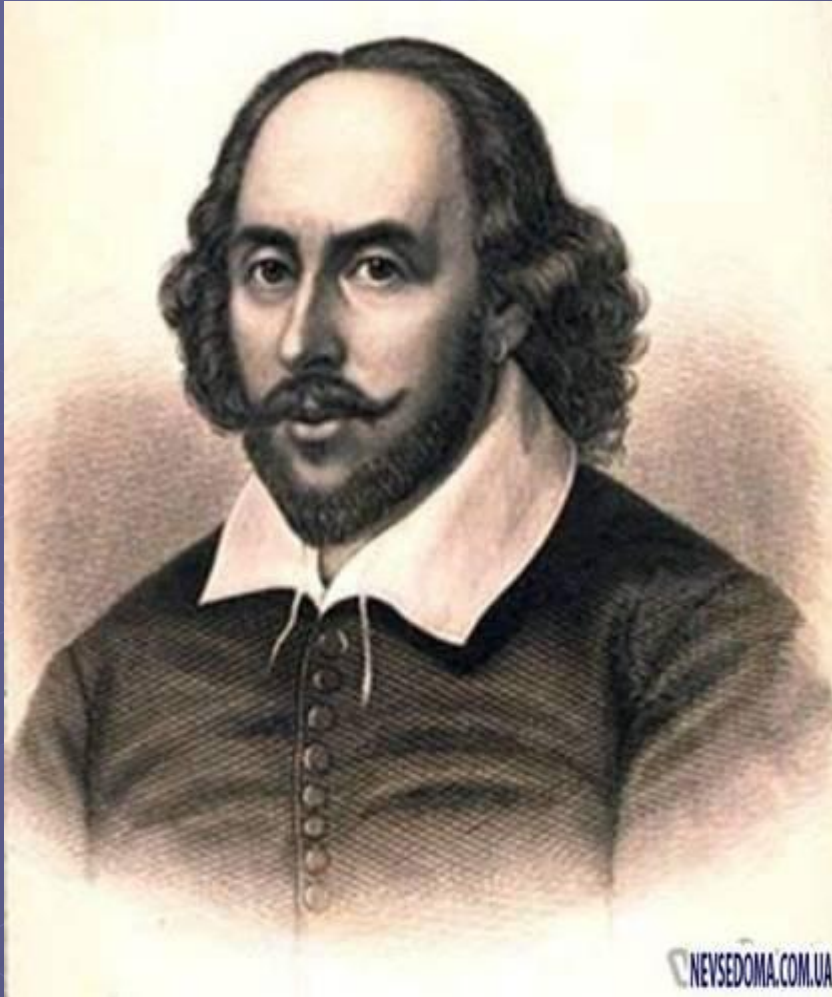


WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

(1564 -1616)



The name of Shakespeare is known all over the world. The last half of the 16-th and the beginning of 17-th centuries are known as the Golden Age of English Renaissance and sometimes are called the Age of Shakespeare. Many people know and like his works but many facts of Shakespeare's life are still unknown.

William Shakespeare was born on April, 23, 1564 in Stratford-on Avon, and was christened in Holy Trinity Church.

W.Shakespeare's birthplace

Holy Trinity Church



William Shakespeare's father, John Shakespeare, was one of the wealthiest citizens, and his mother, Mary Arden, belonged to an ancient and distinguished Catholic family.



William was their third child and the eldest son.

He must have attended Stratford Grammar school, where he acquired the knowledge of Latin.

At the age of 18 he got married to Anne Hathaway, a farmer's daughter, who was 9 years older than himself.



In 1583 their first child, Susanna was born, and in 1585 the twins, Hamnet and Judith, followed her.

After the birth of the twins we know absolutely nothing about Shakespeare's life for the next seven years.

It is known that by 1592 Shakespeare had settled in London and had started writing plays.



In 1593 a serious epidemic of the plague broke out, and all the theatres were closed down.

At that time William Shakespeare became a share-holder, the principal playwright and an actor of the Globe theatre in London.

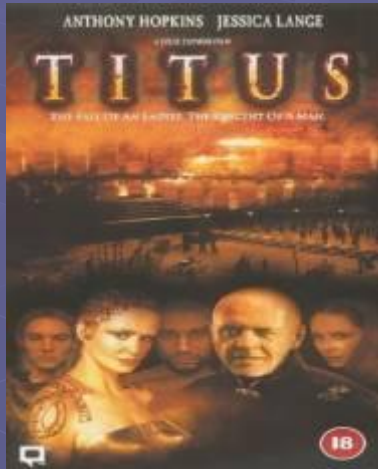


Shakespeare wrote and staged comedies, tragedies, historical plays and dramas. Besides, he composed sonnets. In 1613 after the Globe had been destroyed by fire, Shakespeare retired to Stratford where he died on April, 23, 1616.

He was buried in the same Holy Trinity Church, where he was christened.

In 1623 Shakespeare's plays were collected by his fellow-actors and published in a single volume. He wrote 37 plays and 154 sonnets.

His literary work may be divided into four periods. The first period includes the plays that were written under the influence of the University Wits.



1590/91 Henry VI, parts II and III

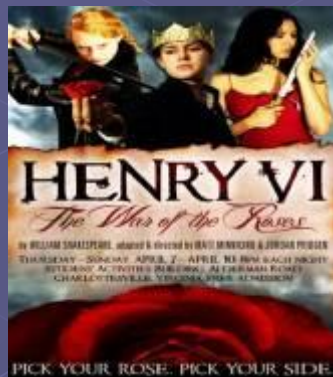
1591/92 Henry VI, part I

1592/93 Richard III

The Comedy of Errors

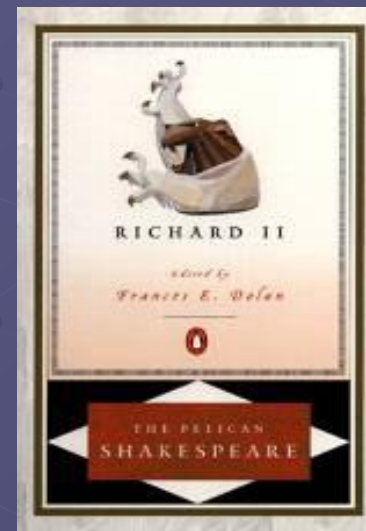
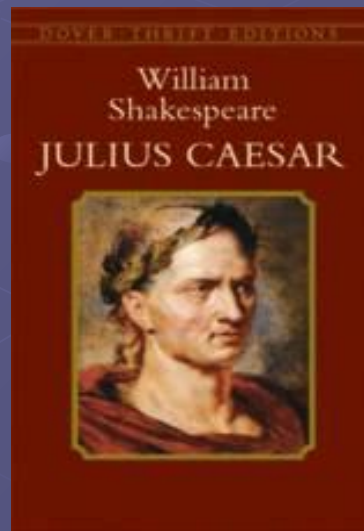
1593/94 Titus Andronicus

The Taming of the Shrew



During the second period William Shakespeare mainly wrote historical plays, chronicles, comedies . The only tragedy was “Romeo and Juliet”:

- 1594/95 The Two Gentlemen of Verona
- Romeo and Juliet
- 1595/96 Richard II
- A Midsummer Night’s Dream
- 1596/97 King John
- The Merchant of Venice
- 1597/98 Henry IV
- 1598/99 Much Ado About Nothing
- Henry V
- 1599/1600 Julius Caesar
- Twelfth Night



The third period is marked by Shakespeare's great tragedies that were the peak of his achievement, and made him truly immortal:

1600/01 Hamlet

The Merry Wives of Windsor

1601/02 Troilus and Cressida

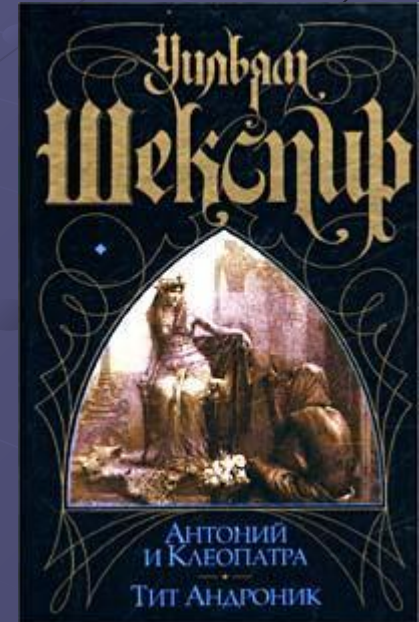
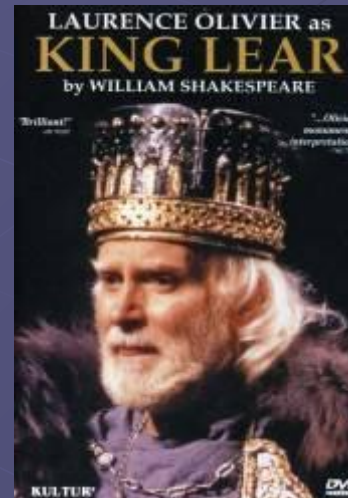
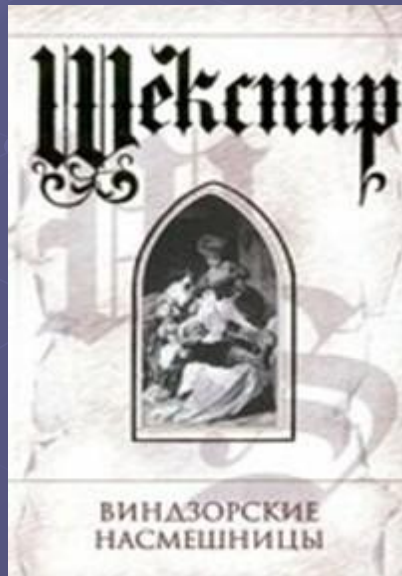
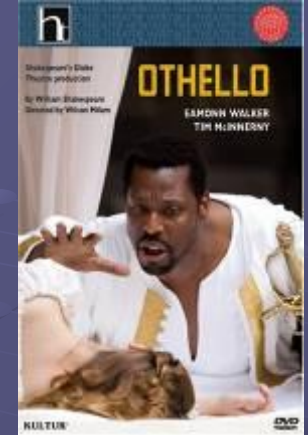
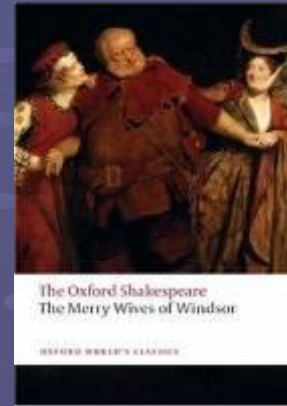
1603/04 All's Well That Ends Well

1604/05 Measure for Measure. Othello

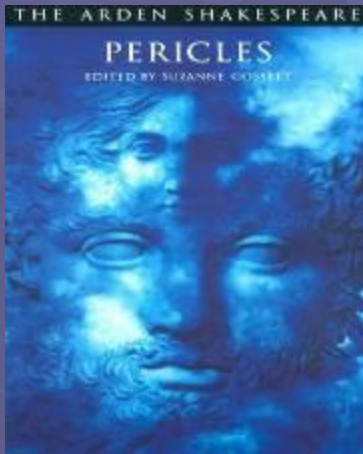
1605/06 King Lear. Macbeth

1606/07 Antony and Cleopatra

1607/08 Coriolanus. Timon of Athens



The fourth period of Shakespeare's creative activity is mainly constituted of the romantic dramas, but the tension in them is not so great as in tragedies, all of them have happy endings:



1608/09 Pericles

1609/10 Cymbeline

1610/11 The Winter's Tale

1611/12 The Tempest

1612/13 Henry VIII

