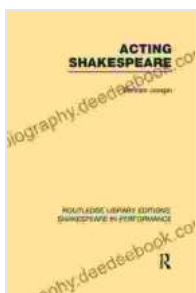


# Acting Shakespeare: Routledge Library Editions: Shakespeare in Performance

William Shakespeare's plays have been performed for centuries, and they continue to be staged all over the world today. Actors and directors have approached Shakespeare's plays in a wide variety of ways, and there is no one definitive way to perform them. However, there are some general principles that can help actors and directors create effective and engaging performances of Shakespeare's plays.

## Understanding the Text

The first step in performing Shakespeare is to understand the text. This means reading the play carefully and paying attention to the language, the characters, and the plot. Actors must also be aware of the historical and cultural context in which the play was written.



## Acting Shakespeare (Routledge Library Editions: Shakespeare in Performance Book 6) by Tom Stoppard

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 9355 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 226 pages



Understanding the text is not always easy. Shakespeare's language can be complex and challenging, and his plays often deal with complex themes and emotions. However, with careful study and analysis, actors can come to a deep understanding of Shakespeare's plays and the characters he created.

## **Creating the Character**

Once actors have a solid understanding of the text, they can begin to create the characters they will be playing. This involves developing a physical and vocal characterization, as well as a backstory and motivation for the character.

Actors must also consider the relationship between their character and the other characters in the play. They must understand how their character interacts with the other characters, and how their character's actions affect the plot of the play.

Creating a character is a complex and challenging process, but it is also one of the most rewarding aspects of acting. By bringing a character to life, actors can create a connection with the audience and help them to experience the play in a new way.

## **Rehearsing the Play**

Once the actors have created their characters, they must begin to rehearse the play. This involves working together to develop the blocking, the movement, and the timing of the play.

Rehearsal is an essential part of the acting process. It allows actors to work out the kinks in their performances and to develop a sense of ensemble. By

the time opening night arrives, the actors should be confident in their performances and ready to share the play with the audience.

## **Performing the Play**

Performing a Shakespeare play is a daunting task, but it is also an incredibly rewarding experience. When actors step out onto the stage, they have the opportunity to create a magical experience for the audience.

By understanding the text, creating the characters, and rehearsing the play, actors can give powerful and moving performances of Shakespeare's plays. They can bring the characters to life, tell the story, and explore the themes of the play in a way that resonates with the audience.

Acting Shakespeare is a challenging but rewarding experience. By following these principles, actors can create effective and engaging performances of Shakespeare's plays. They can bring the characters to life, tell the story, and explore the themes of the play in a way that resonates with the audience.

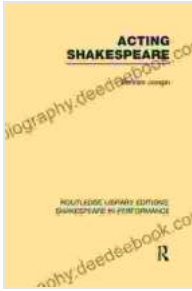
## **Further Reading**

\* Acting Shakespeare: A Routledge Library Editions Anthology of Actors on Shakespeare in Performance \* Acting Shakespeare by David Bevington \* The Shakespeare Performance Reader by James Bulman

## **Image Credits**

\* Image of actor performing Shakespeare by Pexels

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