



Shakespeare Four Hundred Years After: A Public Event

April 13-20, 2016
Old Dominion University

April 2016 will mark the 400th death anniversary of William Shakespeare. Communities across the US, Europe, and elsewhere, are organizing cultural events around this date. This is a year-long event that culminates in a week-long campus-wide, city-wide, multi-faceted event on the idea of “Shakespeare 400 Years After.” Shakespeare remains an unshakeable presence deployed in the rhetoric of global politics as well as in the common language of ordinary people in everyday life. Shakespeare’s world is indelibly present in this historically rich area in Virginia. The object of the event would be to host a rich exploration of the varied contradictory meanings of a pervasive cultural icon in the material practices of contemporary life.

Included in the event would be several kinds of activities:

- academic deliberations in an international conference with leading national and international scholars of Shakespeare (**see reverse for details**),
- performative offerings, to include several full length Shakespeare productions by ODU’s Theatre Department/Staples Theatre, and by other professional theatrical groups in Hampton Roads,
- a documentary film on the surviving Elizabethan traces in Hampton Roads and its immediate environs, titled “Shakespeare’s World and Virginia’s Beginnings,”
- historical exhibits from Jamestown, Folger Shakespeare Institute, and Chrysler and other museums in Norfolk
- Art, Music, and Dance presentations,
- Readings at the ODU Literary festival by noted poets and literary personalities focused on “Reimagining Shakespeare,”
- multiple multi-media mini shows put on across campus by interested collaborating theatre units of local academic institutions and other state theatre groups.

Visit <http://shakespeare400yearsafter.digitalodu.com/>

COLLABORATIONS:

- Historic Jamestown and Preservation Virginia
- Norfolk Sister City Alliance (with Norfolk, UK)
- Agecroft Hall, Richmond
- Chrysler Museum, Norfolk
- Performing troupes across Virginia
- Various contributing units at Old Dominion University
- Virginia Foundation for the Humanities
- Fort Raleigh, Roanoke Island
- Guineamen community, Gloucester County, Virginia



CONTACT INFORMATION

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SHAKESPEARE AND OUR TIMES

An interdisciplinary, international conference on the significance of Shakespeare in the early twenty-first century

**Old Dominion University,
Norfolk, VA.
April 14-16, 2016**

What does William Shakespeare mean to us today, and what traces of his thinking can still be seen in our lives? In the context of a week-long, multi-faceted investigation of Shakespeare's continued presence in our cultural landscape, this three-day conference will probe contemporary manifestations of the Bard. To mark the 400th anniversary of the playwright's death we will seek his footprint as we question the legacy of the early colonial mindset in the twenty-first century. Why does this figure among all others endure so persistently? At stake are questions of global imperialism and how it intersects with race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality and Shakespeare's extended influence in what were, for him, newly-emerging colonial locales. How, then, is Shakespeare understood, performed, translated, and analyzed today?

PLENARY SPEAKERS

Jonathan Dollimore

Independent scholar of Early Modern Studies and Shakespeare, editor of *Political Shakespeare: Essays in Cultural Materialism*

Leah Marcus

Edwin Mims Professor of English, Vanderbilt University, author of *Puzzling Shakespeare*

Ania Loomba

Catherine Bryson Professor of English, University of Pennsylvania, author of *Shakespeare, Race, and Colonialism*

Abstracts and panel proposals are welcome on these and other topics:

- Shakespeare and Popular Culture
- Shakespeare and Time
- Gender/Sexuality in Shakespeare
- Queering Shakespeare
- Shakespeare and the Idea of the Posthuman
- Postcolonial Shakespeare
- Shakespeare's Cities
- Shakespeare and International Relations
- Shakespeare and the Sciences
- Why Shakespeare? Shakespeare for Whom?
- Shakespeare and Disaster Management
- Shakespeare and Contemporary Censorship
- Translating Shakespeare
- The Rhetoric of Shakespeare
- Shakespeare and America, Shakespeare in America
- Shakespeare's Music
- Staging Shakespeare, Filming Shakespeare, Now
- Shakespeare and Language
- Theorizing Shakespeare in the Twenty-First century
- Shakespeare and Twenty-First Century Public Learning

Visit <http://shakespeare400yearsafter.digitalodu.com/>

Inquiries about the conference can be sent to:

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- Dr. Liz Black eblack@odu.edu



250-word abstracts for individual 20-minute papers, or 3-paper panel sessions can be submitted online at <http://goo.gl/forms/Cd582zZpa1> by **August 15, 2015**. Advanced graduate students are welcome to apply.