

SHAKESPEARE'S LONDON

Shakespeare History	Year	London's History
John Shakespeare born (approximately)	1531	Henry VIII on throne since 1509
	1533	Henry VIII breaks with Rome
Mary Arden born (approximately)	1537	
	1547	Henry VIII dies; Edward VI becomes king; Reform/Protestantism begins to take over reign
	1553	Edward VI dies; Mary I becomes Queen; return to Catholicism
John Shakespeare & Mary Arden marry	1557	
	1558	Mary I dies; Elizabeth I becomes Queen
William Shakespeare born	1564	
	1568	Mary Queen of Scots abdicates Scottish throne and flees to England
	1569	Catholic plots against Elizabeth I increase
	1570	Pope excommunicates Elizabeth I and encourages rebellions against her
	1571	Royal Exchange opens in London
John Shakespeare's fortunes begin to decline	1576	The Theatre is built: first purpose-based playing space
	1577	The Curtain built
Shakespeare (18) marries Anne Hathaway (26)	1582	
Susannah Shakespeare born (6 months after wedding); new acting company formed	1583	Tilney and Walsingham form Queen Elizabeth's Men acting company as political vehicle
	1584	Plots against Elizabeth I continue
Judith and Hamnet Shakespeare born	1585	
	1586	Babington plot: Mary Queen of Scots tried and found guilty of treason
The Rose built in London	1587	Mary Queen of Scots executed
	1588	England defeats Spanish Armada
<i>Two Gentlemen of Verona; The Taming of the Shrew; Henry VI parts 1, 2, 3; Titus Andronicus</i>	1590-3	
Robert Greene's <i>Groats-Worth of Wit</i> published	1592	Shakespeare now lives in London
Theatres closed	1592-4	Plague hits London, theatres closed
<i>Venus and Adonis</i> published	1593	
<i>Rape of Lucrece</i> published; <i>Richard III</i> performed (written earlier?)	1594	Theatres reopen
The Swan built in London	1595	
<i>Love's Labors Lost, Midsummer Night's Dream, Romeo and Juliet, Richard II, King John</i>	1595-6	

<i>Merchant of Venice, Henry IV part 1</i>	1596-7	
<i>Henry IV part 2, Merry Wives of Windsor (?)</i>	1597-8	
<i>Much Ado about Nothing</i>	1598	Lord Admiral's Men and Lord Chamberlain's Men established by Privy Council as only adult companies licensed to play in London
<i>Julius Caesar, Henry V, As You Like It</i>	1599	The Globe Theatre built (1599-1600)
<i>Hamlet</i>	1600	The Fortune Theatre built
<i>Twelfth Night</i> ; special performance of <i>Richard II</i>	1601	Essex executed; Lord Chamberlain's Men questioned; Elizabeth: "I am Richard II, know you not that?"
<i>Troilus and Cressida</i>	1601-2	
	1603	Elizabeth I dies; James VI of Scots becomes James I of England
<i>Measure for Measure</i>	1604	
<i>Timon of Athens</i>	1604-6	
<i>All's Well that Ends Well</i>	1604-5	
	1605	Gunpowder Plot discovered and prevented
<i>King Lear, Macbeth</i>	1606	
<i>Antony and Cleopatra</i>	1606-7	
	1607	Jamestown founded
<i>Coriolanus; Pericles</i>	1608	
<i>Cymbeline</i>	1610	
First performances in Blackfriars Theatre; <i>The Tempest, The Winter's Tale</i>	1611	King James Bible published
	1612	James I moves his mother's body to Westminster Abbey; to make room he moves Elizabeth I's body to grave of Mary I
<i>Henry VIII</i> ; Globe burns down	1613	
<i>Two Noble Kinsman</i>	1613-4	
Shakespeare dies	1616	
"First Folio" printed	1623	