

GENDER STUDIES FROM THE 16TH CENTURY SEXUAL AND FEMINIST THEMATIC IN SHAKESPEAREAN DRAMA

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ABSTRACT

Gender Inclusivity in Shakespeare's Works

Shakespeare's plays have long been viewed as the point where the boundaries of binary gendered sex, sexuality, and desire become murky. However, the contemporary social justice call for gender-inclusivity has been integrated into the Shakespearean theater's existing conventions. This paper closely reads the reviews and other materials to argue that contemporary Shakespeare performance is a space where the public makes meaning of gender nonconformist. In the same manner, performance institutions need to become self-aware of their role in potential education or misrecognition of gender norms. Complex and holistic strategies for engaging in transgender themes were devised in the recent productions of his work at the Pittsburgh Public Theater, the African-American Shakespeare Company, and the California Shakespeare Theatre. These transgender themes were incorporated through the various processes of staging, casting, and outreach programming into multiple Shakespearean works.

KEYWORDS: *Shakespearean Drama, Sexual & Feminist Thematic*