



THE MASKS OF KING LEAR

BY MARVIN ROSENBERG

The Masks Of King Lear

Kenneth Muir



The Masks Of King Lear:

The Masks of King Lear Marvin Rosenberg, 1992 LEAR Does Lear walk thus Speak thus Who is it that can tell me who I am Centuries of critics and actors have tried to tell but Lear s identity and the meaning of his action in the play are still touched with enigma This book seeks Shakespeare s intentions in King Lear in new ways It explores major interpretations of distinguished actors and directors as well as of critics from England the United States France Belgium Japan Sweden Norway Germany Italy the Soviet Union Czechoslovakia Romania Hungary Bulgaria and Poland Is the play unsuited for the stage as Charles Lamb and others have declared How in fact has it been staged and how visualized by critics Is Lear designed to be a frail and aging old man A powerful image of authority Mad or senile to begin with A kindly old father Everyman All of these None Does the play end with redemption Unmitigated despair Is it Christian Pagan Mr Rosenberg confronts these and other questions from the base of his study and personal experience of the play To deepen the theatrical side of that experience he began as he did in his *The Masks of Othello* with an involvement in the staged play he directed and acted in *Othello* and he followed a production of *King Lear* through two months of rehearsal and performance One by product of this intense participation was a discovery of some special qualities in the language of the play To achieve a better understanding of these qualities Mr Rosenberg put Lear s vocabulary through a computer and established a concordance of every word both for the play as a whole and for each character Interesting structural elements in Shakespeare s language become apparent Recognizing the difficulty for a critic of responding afresh to Shakespeare s craftsmanship in characterization and in arousing expectation Mr Rosenberg also arranged to expose the play to spectators who had never seen or read it The response of this naive audience after attending performances was curious and illuminating The author believes that any critical approach must be used that will increase our understanding of Shakespeare s work BOOK JACKET Title Summary field provided by Blackwell North America Inc All Rights Reserved *The Masks of King Lear* Marvin Rosenberg, 1974

The Masks of King Lear Marvin Rosenberg, 1972 *The Masks of King Lear* Marvin Rosenberg, 1992 **Aspects of King Lear** Kenneth Muir, Stanley Wells, 1982-10-28 This volume brings together nine essays on King Lear by distinguished scholars all of which were first published in *Shakespeare Survey* the leading journal devoted to Shakespeare studies A retrospective survey of criticism from 1934 to the present is followed by studies of the play s style and discussion of its background meaning and theatrical presentation The volume is illustrated with photographs of post war productions *The Tragedy of King Lear* William Shakespeare, 2005-08-11 This second edition of *King Lear* features a new introductory section by Jay L Halio **The History of King Lear** William Shakespeare, Gary Taylor, 2000 This new edition of Shakespeare s greatest tragedy is based on the quarto the version closest to his original manuscript Included are guides to appreciation of the play notes on staging and lighting and the play s first derivative **The Oxford Shakespeare: The History of King Lear** William Shakespeare, 2001-01-04 The Oxford Shakespeare offers authoritative texts from leading scholars in editions

designed to interpret and illuminate the plays for modern readers a new modern spelling text based on the Quarto text of 1608 on page commentary and notes explain meaning staging allusions and much else detailed introduction considers composition sources performances and changing critical attitudes to the play illustrated with production photographs and related art includes The Ballad of King Lear and related offshoots full index to introduction and commentary durable sewn binding for lasting use not simply a better text but a new conception of Shakespeare This is a major achievement of twentieth century scholarship Times Literary Supplement ABOUT THE SERIES For over 100 years Oxford World's Classics has made available the widest range of literature from around the globe Each affordable volume reflects Oxford's commitment to scholarship providing the most accurate text plus a wealth of other valuable features including expert introductions by leading authorities helpful notes to clarify the text up to date bibliographies for further study and much more *The History of King Lear: The Oxford Shakespeare* William Shakespeare, 2008-04-17 The Oxford Shakespeare offers authoritative texts from leading scholars in editions designed to interpret and illuminate the plays for modern readers a new modern spelling text based on the Quarto text of 1608 on page commentary and notes explain meaning staging allusions and much else detailed introduction considers composition sources performances and changing critical attitudes to the play illustrated with production photographs and related art includes The Ballad of King Lear and related offshoots full index to introduction and commentary durable sewn binding for lasting use not simply a better text but a new conception of Shakespeare This is a major achievement of twentieth century scholarship Times Literary Supplement ABOUT THE SERIES For over 100 years Oxford World's Classics has made available the widest range of literature from around the globe Each affordable volume reflects Oxford's commitment to scholarship providing the most accurate text plus a wealth of other valuable features including expert introductions by leading authorities helpful notes to clarify the text up to date bibliographies for further study and much more King Lear and the Gods William R. Elton, 2014-07-15 Many critics hold that Shakespeare's King Lear is primarily a drama of meaningful suffering and redemption within a just universe ruled by providential higher powers William Elton's King Lear and the Gods challenges the validity of this widespread optimistic view Testing the prevailing view against the play's acknowledged sources and analyzing the functions of the double plot the characters and the play's implicit ironies Elton concludes that this standard interpretation constitutes a serious misreading of the tragedy **King Lear** Kenneth Muir, 2015-04-10 Originally published in 1984 With selections organised chronologically this collection presents the best writing on one of Shakespeare's most studied plays The structure displays the changing responses to the play and includes a wide range of criticism from the likes of Coleridge Hazlitt Moulton Granville Barker Orwell Levin Stampfer Gardner and Speaight interspersed with short entries from Keats Raleigh Freud and others The final chapter by the editor elucidates his own thoughts on Lear building on his commentary in the Introduction which puts the collection in context *King Lear* Ann Thompson, 1988-06-03 King Lear is an enormous work in every sense Despite the misgivings and often

pertinent criticisms of earlier generations of critics it seems now to be accepted as the greatest monument of our culture the most revered play by the most revered writer in our language In this study Dr Thompson first analyses the many critical approaches to King Lear placing in context the formal historical social philosophical religious micro level and performance based approaches In her Appraisal section she investigates the phenomenon of The Greatness of King Lear surveying the wider issues of the status of classic texts and the formation and perpetuation of literary canons She also discusses arguments by critics who have questioned the high evaluation of King Lear and the arguments of contemporary critics whose approaches have the effect of displacing traditional evaluations altogether

The Oxford Shakespeare: The History of King Lear: The 1608 Quarto William Shakespeare, 2000-10-26 King Lear widely considered Shakespeare's most deeply moving passionately expressed and intellectually ambitious play has almost always been edited from the revised version printed in the First Folio of 1623 with additions from the quarto of 1608 Acting on recent discoveries this volume presents the first full scholarly edition to be based firmly on the quarto now recognized as the base text from which all others derive A thorough attractively written introduction suggests how the work grew slowly in Shakespeare's imagination fed by years of reading thinking and experience as a practical dramatist Analysis of the great range of literary and other sources from which he shaped the tragedy and of its critical and theatrical history indicates that the play felt as shocking and original to early audiences as it does now Its challenges have often been evaded notably in Nahum Tate's notorious adaptation During the twentieth century however deeper understanding of the conventions of Shakespeare's theatre restored confidence in the theatrical viability of his original text while the play has also generated a remarkable range of offshoots in film television the visual arts music and literature The commentary to this edition offers detailed help in understanding the language and dramaturgy in relation to the theatres in which King Lear was first performed Additional sections reprint the early ballad ignored by all modern editors which was among its earliest derivatives and provide additional guides to understanding and appreciating one of the greatest masterworks of Western civilization

King Lear Kevin J. Donovan, 2023-01-26 This volume documents the reception and interpretation of Shakespeare's tragedy King Lear by critics editors and general readers from the late 18th to the early 20th centuries Following an introduction which provides an historical account of the play's critical reception from the earliest times to the present day the volume presents a selection of original documents together with contextual head notes and biographical sketches of the authors and a rationale for their selection as well as a list of suggested further reading The chronological arrangement of the text excerpts engages the readers in a direct and unbiased dialogue whereas the introduction offers a critical evaluation from a current stance including modern theories and methods Thus the volume makes a major contribution to our understanding of the play and of the traditions of Shakespearean criticism surrounding it as they have developed from century to century

King Lear John Russell-Brown, 2009-09-14 An introductory guide to King Lear in performance offering a scene by scene theatrically aware commentary contextual

documents a brief history of the text and first performances case studies of key productions a survey of film and TV adaptations a sampling of critical opinion and annotated further reading Shakespearean Criticism Various,2021-06-23 Reissuing works originally published between 1984 and 1995 this set brings back into print early volumes from the Shakespearean Criticism Series originally edited by Joseph Price The books present selections of renowned scholarship on each play touching on performances as well as the dramatic literature The pieces included are a mixture of influential historical criticism more modern interpretations and enlightening reviews most of which were published in wide spread places before these compilations were first made Companions to the plays these books showcase critical opinion and scholarly debate King Lear Jeffrey Kahan,2008-04-18 Is King Lear an autonomous text or a rewrite of the earlier and anonymous play King Leir Should we refer to Shakespeare s original quarto when discussing the play the revised folio text or the popular composite version stitched together by Alexander Pope in 1725 What of its stage variations When turning from page to stage the critical view on King Lear is skewed by the fact that for almost half of the four hundred years the play has been performed audiences preferred Naham Tate s optimistic adaptation in which Lear and Cordelia live happily ever after When discussing King Lear the question of what comprises the play is both complex and fragmentary These issues of identity and authenticity across time and across mediums are outlined debated and considered critically by the contributors to this volume Using a variety of approaches from postcolonialism and New Historicism to psychoanalysis and gender studies the leading international contributors to King Lear New Critical Essays offer major new interpretations on the conception and writing editing and cultural productions of King Lear This book is an up to date and comprehensive anthology of textual scholarship performance research and critical writing on one of Shakespeare s most important and perplexing tragedies Contributors Include R A Foakes Richard Knowles Tom Clayton Cynthia Clegg Edward L Rocklin Christy Desmet Paul Cantor Robert V Young Stanley Stewart and Jean R Brink Shakespeare Survey Kenneth Muir,Jonathan Bate,Michael Dobson,2002-11-28 The first fifty volumes of this yearbook of Shakespeare studies are being reissued in paperback

Incest, Drama and Nature's Law, 1550-1700 Richard A. McCabe,2008-10-30 This is a full length study of incest in English Renaissance and Restoration drama Richard McCabe s comprehensive survey offers a literary history of this theme informed by an investigation of the intellectual background with particular emphasis on changing concepts of natural law and consequent reassessments of classical tradition It examines a wide range of theological philosophical legal and literary sources in the context of modern psychological and sociological theories of family development Extensive comparisons with classical models and contemporary European dramatists from Tasso to Corneille and Racine explore the volatile association between dramatic form and emotional content structural experiment and sexual ambivalence The centrality of the family to all human relationships and the mutual reflection of familial politics and the patriarchal state make incest a powerful metaphor for the ambivalence of all concepts of natural authority and for various forms of social and political revolt

Office and Duty in King Lear Alexander Thom, 2023-11-23 This book advances five original readings of Shakespeare's King Lear influenced by Giorgio Agamben but tempered by primary research into Jacobean literature law religion and philosophy To grasp Lear's encounter between politics and identity the play demands a wider understanding of the religious influence on political thought As Lear himself realises sovereignty is an extreme glamorous example of a deeper category sacred office Lear also shows duty intersecting with a hierarchy of bastards outlaws women waifs and monks This book introduces concepts like petit treason civil death and waivary into political theological studies complicating Agamben's models Goneril's treason shows the sovereign's consort and children are consecrated lives too Lear's crisis of self knowing stages a landmark critique of office The promise of his poignant speech before the prison is foreclosed by Shakespeare's invention an officer dutifully murdering Cordelia This book's conclusion through Hannah Arendt reconsiders Lear's persistent association with the Holocaust

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