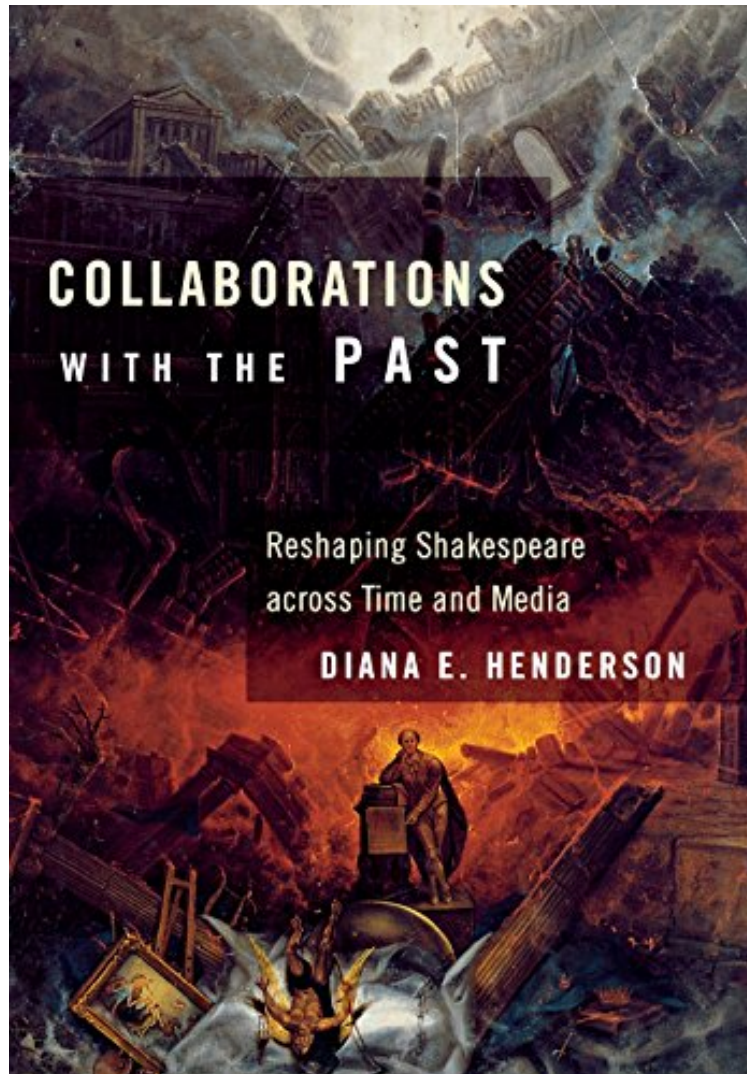


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## Collaborations with the Past: Reshaping Shakespeare across Time and Media

*Diana E. Henderson*

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**Diana E. Henderson : Collaborations with the Past: Reshaping Shakespeare across Time and Media** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Collaborations with the Past: Reshaping Shakespeare across Time and Media:

"Like the artists studied here, we pick and choose our Shakespeares, and through that labor another story emerges. Frozen in time on the page or screen, some of those collaborations continue to speak, but denuded of their immediate moment and surroundings; we are left to supplement the traces. In recovering that past, the present takes on greater clarity and contrast. But the proof must be in the telling. A writer lifts a pen. Enter the multiple forces—political and economic, psychological, formal, and technical—that serendipitously transform imagination into memory. Let the collaborative play begin."—from the Introduction

Focusing on key writers, actors, theater directors, and filmmakers who have kept Shakespeare at the center of their endeavors over the past two hundred years, *Collaborations with the Past* illuminates not only the playwright's work but also the choices and responsibilities involved in re-creating culture, and the ingenuity and peril of the artistic process. By concentrating on rich yet problematic instances of Shakespeare's reanimation in such quintessentially modern forms as the novel and film, from Sir Walter Scott's *Kenilworth* to Kenneth Branagh's *Henry V*, Diana E. Henderson sketches a complex history of the pleasures and difficulties that ensue when Shakespeare and modern artists collaborate. Working with texts across the entire range of Shakespeare's career, Henderson demonstrates through detailed analyses of novels including *Jane Eyre* and *Mrs. Dalloway* as well as filmed, televised, and staged performances that art (even in the newest media) cannot avoid collaborating with the past. Only by studying that collaborative process can we comprehend Shakespeare and Anglo-American culture.

"*Collaborations with the Past* is a thought-provoking analysis of Shakespeare's role in key periods of English cultural history, from the Romantics, represented by Sir Walter Scott, through to present-day film, television, and stage productions of *The Taming of the Shrew* and *Henry V*." —of *English Studies*

"The most probing and productive collaborations with Shakespeare, the English past, and the 'woman's part' recorded in these pages are arguably those undertaken by Diana E. Henderson herself, in a performance made the more compelling by the unusual blend of intelligence and sheer scholarly panache with which it is tendered." —*Comparative Drama*

"*Collaborations with the Past* rises above many other books on Shakespearean reworkings. Diana E. Henderson is remarkably thoughtful as she investigates the historical and cultural forces that influence authors' collaborations with Shakespeare." —*Choice*

"Engagingly written, impeccably researched, and theoretically sophisticated, *Collaborations with the Past* is essential reading for those interested in tracing how and why various cultural producers have struggled to lay claim to Shakespeare. Diana E. Henderson's close readings attend in often breathtaking detail not only to literary and cinematographic subtleties of the specific works under discussion but also to the various historical contexts within which these uses of Shakespeare function. This is 'deep reading' at its very finest." —Douglas M. Lanier, University of New Hampshire

"Diana E. Henderson's highly intelligent book maps the complexities arising from the trajectories Shakespeare's reputation takes as it moves from modernity to postmodernity. By tracing how the processes of collaboration operate 'in between' Shakespeare and his present-day rewriters, the collisions she explores offer a fresh look at the particular anxieties of influence entailed in 'working with Shakespeare.'" —Barbara Hodgdon, University of Michigan

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About the Author Diana E. Henderson is Professor of Literature at MIT. She is the author of *Passion Made Public: Elizabethan Lyric, Gender, and Performance* and the editor of *A Concise Companion to Shakespeare on Screen*.