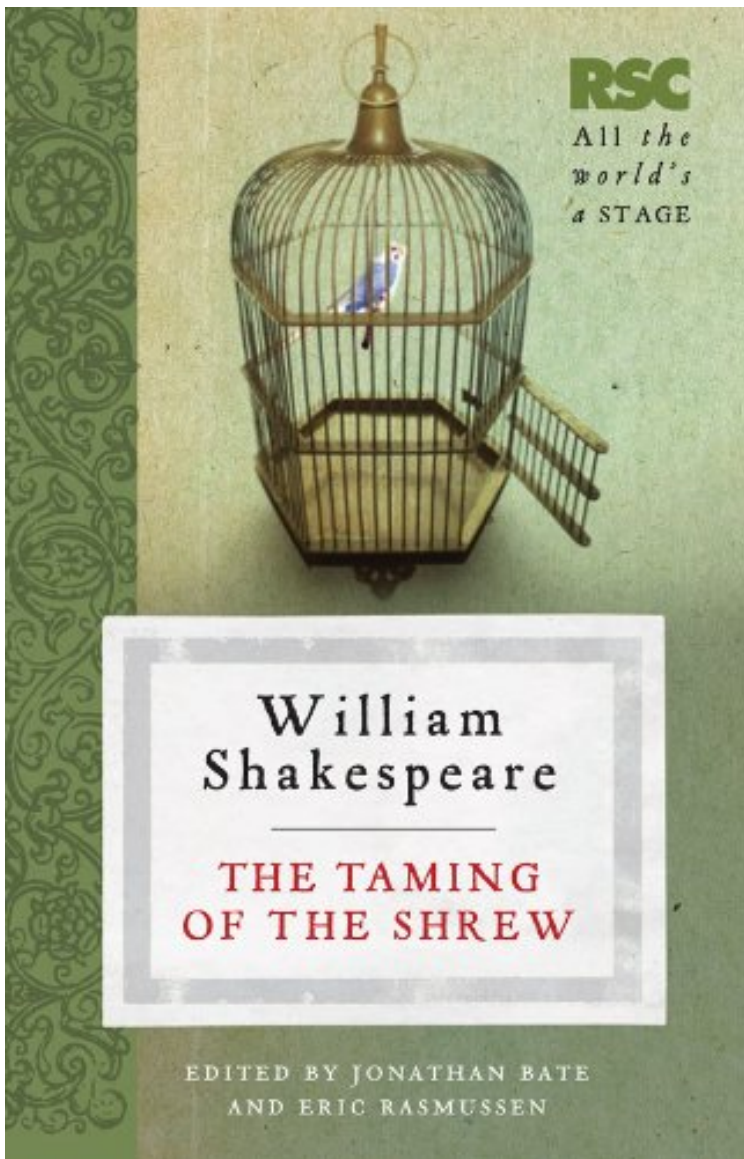


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The Taming of the Shrew



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Prsentation de l'diteurFrom the Royal Shakespeare Company a fresh new edition of Shakespeare's controversial comedy of the war between the sexes THIS EDITION INCLUDES: An illuminating introduction to *The Taming of the Shrew* by award-winning scholar Jonathan Bate The play - with clear and authoritative explanatory notes on each page A helpful scene-by-scene analysis and key facts about the play An introduction to Shakespeare's career and the Elizabethan theatre A rich exploration of approaches to staging the play featuring photographs of key productionsThe most enjoyable way to understand a Shakespeare play is to see it or participate in it. This unique edition presents a historical overview of*The Taming of the Shrew*in performance, recommends film versions, takes a detailed look at specific productions and includes interviews with two leading directors and an actress - Gregory Doran, Phyllida Lloyd and Michelle Gomez so that we may get a sense of the extraordinary variety of interpretations that are possible, a variety that gives Shakespeare his unique capacity to be reinvented and made 'our contemporary' four centuries after his death. Ideal for students, theatre-goers, actors and general readers, the RSC Shakespeare plays offer an accessible and contemporary approach to reading and rediscovering Shakespeare's works for the twenty-first century..co.ukOne of the most controversial and problematic of all of Shakespeare's plays, *The Taming of the Shrew* is a typical Elizabethan domestic comedy written around 1592. Petruchio, a gentleman of Verona, arrives in Padua and announces to his friends that "I come to wive it wealthily in Padua; / If wealthily, then happily in Padua". He soon finds that a group of men keen to marry Bianca, the younger daughter of rich old Baptista, are frustrated by her elder, "shrewish" sister, Katherine. There is much subsequent hilarity as Bianca's suitors make a bet with Petruchio that he cannot "tame" and marry Katherine. Despite Katherine's protestations, Petruchio goes ahead with the match, using deliberately unorthodox behaviour to confuse Katherine (including a scene where he starves her), claiming that "this is the way to kill a wife with kindness". The play culminates with a scene of Katherine's apparently spontaneous subjection to her husband's will, where she places her hand beneath her husband's foot, and tells the other wives present that "thy husband is thy lord, thy life, thy keeper". The play's gratuitous scenes of women being abused and vilified in the name of "comedy" has made many directors and critics very uncomfortable with the play, and many feminist critics have condemned contemporary productions of the play as reproducing certain 16th-century stereotypes concerning women who speak out against male authority. --Jerry Brotton *Revue de presse*'A triumphant addition to our times.' - Fiona Shaw, *The Times* --

Fiona Shaw, *The Times*