

Contents

Preface: Why Shakespeare? xiii

List of illustrations xvii

1 Shakespeare and Stratford-upon-Avon 1

2 Theatre in Shakespeare's time 18

3 Shakespeare in London 40

4 Plays of the 1590s 52

5 Shakespeare and comic form 67

6 Return to tragedy 81

7 Classical plays 92

8 Tragicomedy 100

Epilogue 108

Shakespeare's works: a chronology 116

Further reading 118

Index 121