



Shakespeare for American Actors and Directors

Aaron Frankel

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(Book). Fear grips many American actors and directors faced with the opportunity to perform Shakespeare live. The challenges of Elizabethan British speech patterns, the thought of using verse for hours, the debate over staging a period piece versus "updating" the Bard of Avon all can cause psychogenic trauma on this side of the Atlantic. Let Broadway legend Aaron Frankel show the way in *Shakespeare for American Actors and Directors*. This book views Shakespeare's work through the lens of American performance, catering specifically to the learning sensibilities of American-bred talent. Its streamlined size and reader-friendly presentation make it a practical tool for actors and directors wishing to learn Bard-based performance tactics. Aaron Frankel plunges readers into the meanings of scenes so they can envision the interplay of characters and step into a role to experiment with ways to convey those meanings. He provides scene examples through which to apply performance techniques. To capture the spirit of the book in Frankel's words, "What is totally current is that Shakespeare's dramatic forte, which is the involvement of his characters with each other, and the core of American acting, which is actors affecting each other, make a perfect match."

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