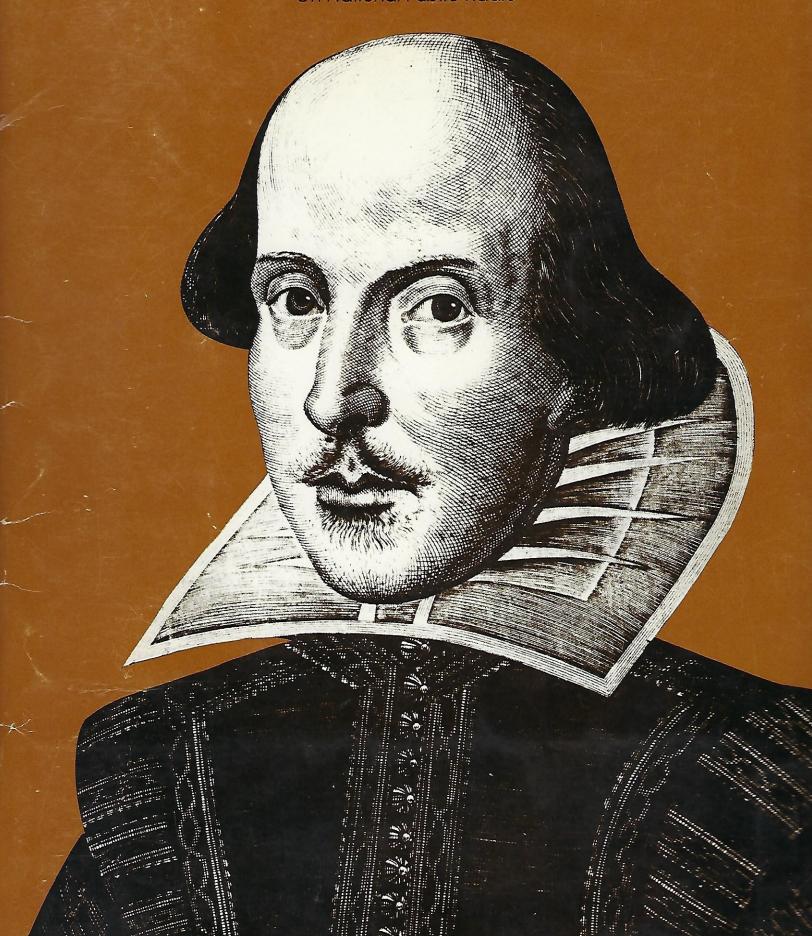
## THE SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAI

On National Public Radio



THE SHAKESPFARE FEST

Washington, D.C.

Contact: Richard Spring (202) 785-5357

PUBLIC RADIO'S "SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL" EXPLORES THE MAN, HIS WORK, AND HIS LEGACY

Washington, D.C., January 18, 1979 -- Frank Mankjewicz. president of National Public Radio, today announced the NPR Shakespeare Festival, one of the most innovative and comprehensive projects ever undertaken by public radio. Designed to coincide with the telecast on public television of "The Shakespeare Plays" beginning in February, NPR's three-month Festival encompasses a variety of programs of diverse lengths which deal with the life, the work, and the legend of William Shakespeare in an American context.

"This is the first time there has been such a coordination of resources about Shakespeare on a national scale," said Mr. Mankiewicz. "The project will create a unique package of Shakespearean resources and will allow public radio and television to work closely together to the best advantage of each. Further, it will allow both to contribute important elements to formal and informal education. We hope this project will serve as a model for future public broadcasting endeavors."

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add two - NPR's Shakespeare Festival

- NPR'S RECITAL HALL will present music from Shakespeare's time featuring the New York Consort of Viols including works by William Byrd and Tobias Hume.
- --- VOICES IN THE WIND highlights the Festival with a program featuring interviews with actors, directors, musicians and operatic stars discussing Shakespeare -- plus a special radio tour of the Folger Shakespeare Library.
- --- MODULAR PROGRAMMING

Modular features of varying lengths and a wide range of subject matter are being produced especially for The Shakespeare Festival. Some are being presented as part of NPR's ongoing "Modular Arts Service." Among the issues explored are: the use of English in the 16th century; the way we use phrases from Shakespeare's plays in everyday language; the unique features of Elizabethan theatre; a computer study of the Bard's grammar; even thoughtful speculation on the continuing controversy of authorship.

In addition to these programs distributed by NPR, a number of local public radio stations are planning their own programs to fit into the context of The Shakespeare Festival. To help them in their programming effort, NPR will be preparing resource lists of additional programming and music of that era which will be distributed to its member stations.

NPR's Shakespeare Festival, which begins in February, includes a number of elements. Major programming produced for the Festival includes:

- --- WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE A PORTRAIT IN SOUND: a two-hour, four-part popular dramatization of the author's life and times. Written by William Luce with David Fox-Brenton and starring Joan Hackett, Julie Harris, Arthur Hill, and David Warner, this NPR series takes its audience into the Elizabethan world of England's most famous writer. Norman Luboff enhances the atmosphere with an original score composed for the series.
- -- PROLOGUES TO SHAKESPEARE: six half-hour programs produced by NPR member station WQED/Pittsburgh. Each program, hosted by Dr. Ralph Allen, Director of Theater at the University of Tennessee, will analyze the themes, characters, language, imagery, and stagecraft of each of the plays to be broadcast by public television. The programs will include discussions by leading academicians such as Maynard Mack, the eminent Shakespearean scholar, and noted Shakespeare actors including Sir John Gielgud, Anthony Quayle, and Eva Le Gallienne.

## --- SPECIALS:

The San Diego Opera's production of Ambroise Thomas's opera HAMLET, starring baritone Sherrill Milnes and soprano Ashley Putnam.

A live two-hour broadcast of English Renaissance music from the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, D.C. featuring the Folger Consort resident ensemble.

BEHIND THE SCENES: THREE VIEWS OF SHAKESPEARE -- a series of three lectures by eminent Shakespearen scholars presented by the Friends of WNET/le in cooperation with the Folger Shakespeare Library and the New York Fublic

In addition to these unique offerings, material relating to Shakespeare and his times will be broadcast in continuing NPR series.

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On National Public Radio 2025 M Street, N.W. Washington, D.C.

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"WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE - A PORTRAIT IN SOUND"

Written by William Luce with David Fox-Brenton Original Music and Musical Direction by Norman Luboff Directed by Charles Marowitz Technical Director: Tom Voegeli Casting by Bonnie Timmerman Project Director: Devi Shah

Executive Producer: Robert Montiegel

(In Alphabetical Order) JOAN HACKETT....Lucy Wedgwood (Part 1)
A Wench (Part II)
Queen Elizabeth I (Part III) JULIE HARRIS.....Aunt Margaret (Part I)

Juliet (Part II)

Winifred Burbage (Part IV) ARTHUR HILL.....Narrator DAVID WARNER.....Shakespeare With 

DAVID DUKES.......Nicholas Breton (Part I)

Thomas Hill, Robert Greene (Part II)

Lord Mayor (Parts II & III)

Actor I, Attendant (Part III)

Hal, Dr. Eldridge (Part IV)

JACK GWILLIM. ...Old Man (Part I)

Ben Jonson (Part II)

Edmund Tilney (Part III)

Henry Goodspeed (Part IV)

MARIAN MERCER. Anne Hathaway (Parts I & IV)
Landlady, Wench II (Part II)
Lady Shrewsbury (Part III)