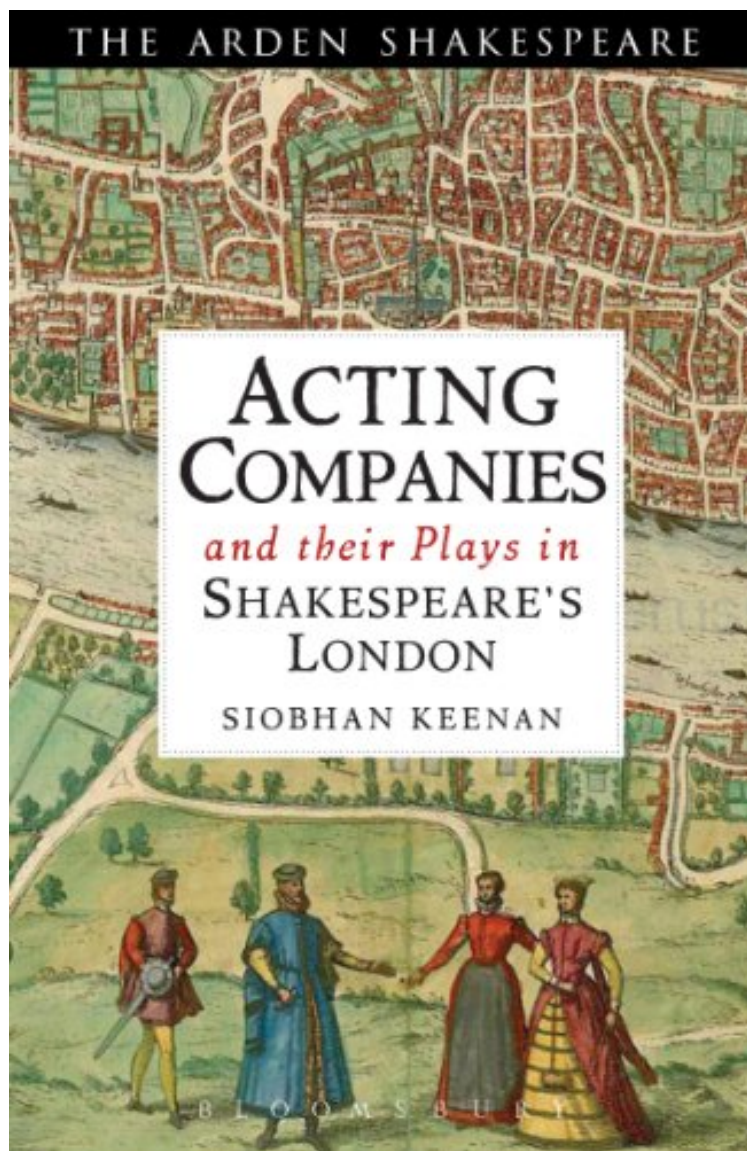


Acting Companies and their Plays in Shakespearersquo;s London (Arden Shakespeare)

Siobhan Keenan

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before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Acting Companies and their Plays in Shakespearersquo;s London (Arden Shakespeare):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Misleading Title for a Fascinating Book on Theatrical PracticeBy Curtis DawI found this a fascinating look at the way the theatrical companies of London influenced the process of

making (and often revising) plays during the Elizabethan and Jacobean periods. My only hesitation is that the title seems to imply a focus on the repertoires of individual companies. That is not really the case. Instead, the book focuses more on the ways the profession, in general, shaped plays, in general.

Acting Companies and their Plays in Shakespeare's London explores the intimate and dynamic relationship between acting companies and playwrights in this seminal era in English theatre history. Siobhan Keenan's analysis includes chapters on the traditions and workings of contemporary acting companies, playwriting practices, stages and staging, audiences and patrons, each illustrated with detailed case studies of individual acting companies and their plays, including troupes such as Lady Elizabeth's players, 'Beeston's Boys' and the King's Men and works by Shakespeare, Jonson, Middleton, Brome and Heywood. We are accustomed to focusing on individual playwrights: *Acting Companies and their Plays in Shakespeare's London* makes the case that we also need to think about the companies for which dramatists wrote and with whose members they collaborated, if we wish to better understand the dramas of the English Renaissance stage.

CHOICE Outstanding Academic Title 2015“Contemporary scholarship on Shakespeare, Elizabethan theater, and early modern culture can seem overwhelming in scope, esoteric in content, and impenetrable in presentation. Keenan's accessible, concise volume is not in that mold ... Each chapter also offers a specific case study in which Keenan meticulously applies the concepts of the chapter to a specific play. Keenan impresses on readers the vitality and significance of acting companies in relation to this celebrated period of theater. This book will be indispensable for those exploring Shakespeare and his contemporaries. Summing Up: Essential. Academic readers at all levels, professionals, general readers.” S. B. Skelton, Kansas State University, CHOICE About the Author Siobhan Keenan is a Senior Lecturer at De Montfort University, Leicester, UK.