

AA306: Shakespeare : text and performance
AA306/VCR7: Critical interventions

Producer: Jenny Bardwell

Contributor(s) in the clip:
Stephen Greenblatt
Kiernan Ryan

Clip transcript: AA306 Value of Shakespeare

Stephen Greenblatt:

...but I think that Shakespeare in lots of different ways, was anticipating precisely the use of his texts for all kinds of purposes other than the one strictly speaking for which the texts were originally written. That's why an older historicism that simply tries to track down the relation of the text to its immediate historical setting, doesn't get what the texts actually are even in their own historical relation which is much more open, much more vital and much more disturbing than they might at first seem.

Kiernan Ryan:

For William Morris the purpose of art was to educate our desire, to teach us to want more, to want better, to want different, than the world currently affords us, and Shakespeare can do that better than any other writer who's ever lived.