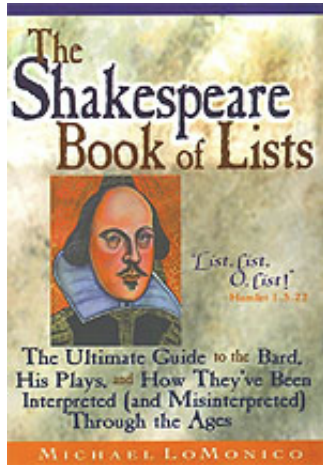




# Shakespeare

A Magazine for Teachers and Enthusiasts



The following excerpt featured in this issue of **Shakespeare** is taken from [The Shakespeare Book of Lists](#) by Michael LoMonico (**Shakespeare** magazine editor). ▶

## Playing King Lear

Jan Kott says that *King Lear* can be compared to “Bach’s Mass in B Minor, to Beethoven’s Fifth and Ninth Symphonies, to Wagner’s Parsifal, Michelangelo’s *Last Judgment*, or Dante’s *Purgatory* and *Inferno*.” Harold Bloom suggests that *King Lear* should only be read and not performed. “Our directors and actors are defeated by this play,” he says. “We ought to keep rereading *King Lear* and avoid its staged travesties.” Bloom notwithstanding, many of our greatest actors continue that long tradition of taking on the character that Shakespeare refers to

as “every inch a king.”

- Richard Burbage—1604
- David Garrick—1772
- Edwin Forrest—1826
- William Charles Macready—1838
- William Charles Macready—1851
- Tommaso Salvini—1884
- Henry Irving—1892
- Robert Mantell—1911
- John Gielgud—1940
- Donald Wolfitt—1943
- Laurence Olivier—1946
- William Devlin—1947
- John Gielgud—1950
- Michael Redgrave—1953
- Orson Welles—1953
- Charles Laughton—1959
- Paul Scofield—1962

- Frank Silvera—1962
- Morris Carnovsky—1963
- John Colicos—1964
- Lee J. Cobb—1968
- Eric Porter—1968
- Michael Hordern—1969
- Yuri Yarvet—1970
- Timothy West—1971
- James Earl Jones—1973
- Tony Church—1974
- Donald Sinden—1976
- James Earl Jones—1977
- Anthony Quayle—1978
- Peter Ustinov—1979
- Michael Gambon—1982
- Michael Hordern—1982
- Laurence Olivier—1983
- Mike Kellan—1984

- Anthony Hopkins—1987
- Patrick McGee—1988
- Michael Briers—1990
- Ruth Maleczech—1990
- Brian Cox—1990
- Richard Briers—1990
- Fritz Weaver—1990
- John Wood—1990
- Tom Wilkinson—1993
- Ben Thomas—1994
- F. Murray Abraham—1996
- Kathryn Hunter—1997
- Ian Holm—1997
- Alan Howard—1997
- Ted van Griethuysen—2000
- Timothy West—2002 ▶

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