

Jamie Barrio

Shakespeare's Ladies

William Shakespeare did an unprecedented thing when he wrote his women. He made them strong, smart, witty, capable, and the ones in charge. Could Shakespeare sense that times were changing and that women would eventually be seen as equals to men? Possibly, but the world may never know. Shakespeare wrote women who would talk, act, and sometimes dress like men. The best examples of strong women that Shakespeare created are Portia (Merchant of Venice), Viola (Twelfth Night), Beatrice (Much Ado About Nothing), Rosalind (As You Like It), and Katherine (Taming of the Shrew). In all of these works these women took on the role of a teacher of men. Perhaps this is one of the reasons some scholars believed the real "William Shakespeare" was a woman. No man had ever dared to create such individualized and respectable women who were there to teach a valuable lesson to their audiences. Women were not even allowed on the stage at this time! However, a woman was on the throne, and she was every bit as strong and willful as the ladies of Shakespeare. Perhaps her influence helped to create the wonderful

women we enjoy reading about in
the works of Shakespeare.