

Timeline of Shakespeare's Life and Works

- 1564 : • April 23 - Supposed birth of William Shakespeare
 - April 26 - William Shakespeare is baptized
- 1571 : • Possibly year William entered grammar school
- 1582 : • Shakespeare marries Anne Hathaway
- 1583 : • Birth of first child, Susanna
- 1585 : • Birth of twins, Hamnet and Judith
- 1592-93 : • Possible years *Venus and Adonis* written
- 1593 : • Composition of early sonnets
- 1593-94 : • *Rape of Lucrece* written
- 1594 : • Richard Burbage, William Kempe, William Shakespeare, act with the Lord Chamberlain's Men at Greenwich Palace
- 1595-96 : • Writing of *Romeo and Juliet* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*
- 1596 : • Henry Carey, Lord Hunsdon, the lord chamberlain, and patron of the Lord Chamberlain's Men dies; company comes under George Carey, second Lord Hunsdon
 - Shakespeare's son, Hamnet, dies at age 11
- 1596-97 : • *Merchant of Venice* written
- 1597 : • William Shakespeare purchases New Palace, a large Stratford mansion with surrounding grounds
- 1598 : • Shakespeare listed as principal actor in performance of Ben Jonson's *Every Man in His Humour*
- 1599 : • *As You Like It* and *Julius Caesar* written
 - Land for Globe Theater leased to shareholders in Lord Chamberlain's Men (including Shakespeare)
- 1600-01 : • *Hamlet* written
- 1603 : • *A Midsummer Night's Dream* is performed at Hampton Court
 - Queen Elizabeth dies and James I takes the throne and renames Lord Chamberlain's Men the King's Men
 - Shakespeare performs in Ben Jonson's *Sejourns*
 - Last recorded performance of career for Shakespeare

- 1604 : Othello / performed November 1 at Whitehall
- 1605 : Merchant of Venice performed twice at court
- 1606 : Macbeth is performed, possibly during King Christian IV of Denmark's visit to court
- 1607 : Hamlet is performed on the British ship *Dragon* at Sierra Leone
- 1608 : William Shakespeare, Richard and Cuthbert Burbage, Tom Evans, John Hemminges, Henry Condell, and William Sly lease Blackfriars Theatre for a 21 year term
- 1609 : Shakespeare's sonnets published
- 1612-13 : Shakespeare's men perform at wedding of Elizabeth (James I's daughter) and Frederick V
- 1613 : The Globe Theater burns down during the first performance of Henry VIII
- 1614 : The Globe reopens
- 1616 : William Shakespeare dies / burial recorded at the Holy Trinity Church on April 25
- 1623 : Anne Hathaway Shakespeare dies
- 1623 : John Hemminges and Henry Condell, Shakespeares fellow actors, compile and publish 36 of his works in the First Folio (earliest collected edition of Shakespeares plays)