Theatre in Video Series

While the texts of plays can serve as lasting documents, the productions are ephemeral; a live performance is gone when the curtain falls. And yet the collaborative elements of theatre in performance—the work of the actors, directors, and designers—have tremendous scholarly and educational value long after a production closes. Now, with Alexander Street’s Theatre in Video Series, faculty, scholars, and patrons of the performing arts will be able to revisit great performances again and again, and these landmark events can become a permanent part of the curriculum.

Theatre in Video expands your library’s existing collection of video recordings, while minimizing the challenge of damaged or lost DVD copies and saving shelf space. From beginner to advanced levels, Theatre in Video serves teaching, learning, and research needs.

Theatre in Video: Volume I

Theatre in Video: Volume I brings together hundreds of the world’s most important plays, documentaries, interviews, and instructional materials in more than 500 hours of streaming video. These definitive performances, by leading actors and directors, have been painstakingly licensed from a wide range of copyright holders. From celebrated productions of Shakespeare to rare, in-depth footage of the work of Samuel Beckett, the collection covers a wide range of 20th century theatre history. Interviews with directors, designers, writers, and actors, along with excerpts of live performances, deliver an authentic, behind-the-scenes look at hundreds of productions.

Key materials include:

- Recent Shakespeare’s Globe Theatre productions of Romeo and Juliet and As You Like It, produced by Opus Arte.
- Ninety-eight seminal performances from the Broadway Theatre Archive, including such titles as Antigone, Tartuffe, Cyrano De Bergerac, The Seagull, and Death Of A Salesman.
- Staged concerts and musicals including Kiss Me, Kate, Company, and The Pirates of Penzance.
- The groundbreaking American Film Theatre series featuring 14 performances including plays by Albee, Pinter, O’Neil, Osborne, Ionesco, Chekhov, and more, and directed by Tony Richardson, Peter Hall, John Frankenheimer, and Laurence Olivier, among others.
- Orson Welles’ production of King Lear from 1953.
- Exclusive access to the historical Creative Arts Television catalog, including interviews, excerpts, and performances relating to the work of Peter Brook, Thornton Wilder, Jerzy Grotowski, Arthur Miller, Sam Shepard, Lorraine Hansberry, Bertolt Brecht, The Living Theatre, RSC, Commedia Dell’Arte, Noh Theatre, Kabuki, The Group Theater, and much more.
Theatre in Video: Volume II

Volume II brings together 250 additional hours of classic and contemporary plays and documentaries. With a greater focus on new and international productions, Theatre in Video: Volume II offers a simple way for libraries to acquire highly valued and often difficult-to-find performances. Users can view the works of widely studied playwrights and theatre artists from around the globe, including many new performances from Theatre Arts Films, the BBC, and TMW Media Group. This collection is a must-have for any Performing Arts department, as well as for English departments studying narrative, structure, and literary adaptation, or scholars of History, Psychology, Linguistics, Cultural Studies, Sociology, and related areas.

Key materials include:

• Visionary Broadway director Julie Taymor’s acclaimed production of A Midsummer Night’s Dream.
• Four recent productions from the Stratford Shakespeare Festival, including Antony and Cleopatra, King John, King Lear, and The Tempest.
• A recent production of The Soap Myth from the National Jewish Theater Foundation along with its corresponding making-of documentary, I Will Refuse to Bubble.
• Performances from the Salzburg Festival, produced by Arthaus Musik including Jedermann and Was Ihr Wollt (Twelfth Night).
• Over three dozen film adaptations of classic and contemporary plays from the BBC, from such playwrights as Shaw, Strindberg, Ibsen, Wilde, and Shakespeare.

How will you use it?

Theatre in Video allows educators and researchers to bring a new perspective to performance studies and production history. Users can:

• Bookmark specific scenes, monologues, and staging examples and then include those online links in papers and course reserves. Class assignments and published papers take on a new dimension.
• Conduct comparative analysis, showing various interpretations of the text and technical and cultural differences among the presentations of multiple productions of Shakespeare’s plays.
• Cross-search and make side-by-side comparisons of the stage work of legendary directors and actors.
• Explore interviews with directors, designers, writers, and actors, along with excerpts of live performances, illustrate the development of the texts and the productions.
• Examine documentary histories of such varied subjects as the history of the Globe Theatre; the life of playwright Edward Albee; the study and performance of Shakespeare around the world; the making of Black Theatre as a movement; the role of theatre in Ancient Greece; the design innovations of Natalia Goncharova & Alexandra Exter; and other topics.
• Gain theatrical skills from basic technical theatre safety, combat for the stage, and makeup application, to the directing process, acting in period pieces, and much more, with instructional materials.

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