

Winter 2024

THE MAKING OF A PLAYWRIGHT

Edward III

Synopsis: Edward III is one of the most consequential kings of England, establishing it as a military force and conquering France. The play starts with his campaign in Scotland, and his attempted wooing of the Countess of Salisbury. The king learns valuable lessons in character and then attempts to conquer France in the second half of the play. His son, the charismatic Black Prince, plays a huge role in the battles.

Discussion Topics:

- The Countess of Salisbury scenes establish a unique voice which is reflected in many other Shakespeare scenes. What are some of the touches that make it Shakespearean?
- The Black Prince is a charismatic figure who is referred to in other history plays, most notably Richard II. How does the play portray the warrior king and the warrior prince, both by themselves and in relation to each other?
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*A short presentation on Marlowe's plays, especially Edward II will precede the discussion.

Online Text Links:

<https://internetshakespeare.uvic.ca/Library/Texts/Edw/>

<https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/1770>

Carnegie-Stout Public Library also has paper copies of the play.

NOTE: There is no filmed version of Edward III. Folger does not have an entry for the play.

Other Resources to Consider:

Edward II by Christopher Marlowe

World Without End by Ken Follett

Discussion: Jan. 14, 2024 @ 2 PM

Carnegie-Stout Public Library 360 W 11th Street, Dubuque, IA