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Introduction

This edition of the *YA Hotline* is about Shakespeare for teens. It examines a broad range of topics from Shakespeare’s influence on other literature to the use of online social media in Shakespearean theatres. On the whole, the message we want to convey to teachers and librarians is that Shakespeare still matters, and is both relevant and accessible to teens. The works of Shakespeare are not ancient theatrical relics, and treating them as such would be doing them, and teens, a disservice. In fact: “the worst thing you can do to any work written for the theatre is to lay it reverently on a shelf to be admired, out of reach of...hands that might want to play around with it. That’s what plays are for: playing with.” (Cimolino, 2010: 11). This issue of the *YA Hotline* will show how Shakespeare’s works are continually being ‘played with’ and reinterpreted through novels, graphic novels, musicals, movies and even Twitter. It will also discuss how teens themselves can connect with Shakespearean works, and will demonstrate that through learning the works of Shakespeare teens will not only gain knowledge about one of the greatest storytellers of all time, but will also develop a deeper understanding of human nature and themselves.

References

Cimolino, A. (2010). Who’s afraid of the brave new world? What does the digital revolution mean for the future of classical theatre? Retrieved from http://www.stratfordfestival.ca/uploadedFiles/Stratford/media/2010_Speeches/10_AC_whos_afraid_of_the_brave_new_world.pdf?n=7812