

## Shakespeare at Yale Film Series

According to the illustrious, authoritative *Guinness Book of World Records*, Shakespeare has been the source for more films than any other author. While we cannot screen the more than 400 film and television adaptations of Shakespeare's plays, the Shakespeare at Yale film series features films that are either highly noted for their cinematic qualities, such as the film adaptations by Orson Welles, or rarely seen, as is the 1964 film *Hamlet at Elsinore*. All of the films in this series are screened in 35mm or 16mm, and many of the prints are part of the Yale Film Study Center Archive.

This series is jointly sponsored by the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, the Yale Film Study Center (courtesy of Paul L. Joskow), the Yale Center for British Art, the Yale Film Society, and Films at the Whitney.

### Schedule

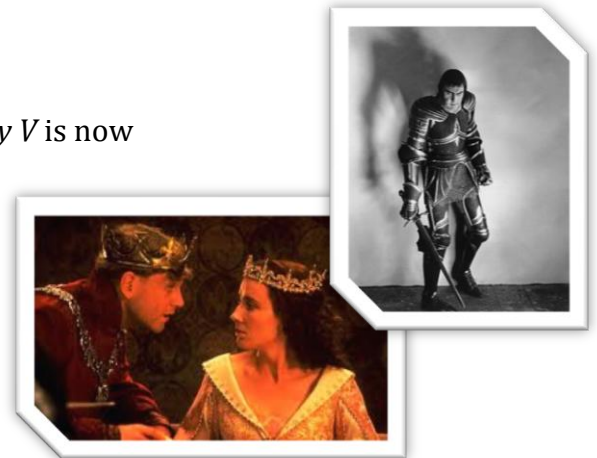
(all screenings take place in the Whitney Humanities Center auditorium)

Thursday, January 12, 7 pm

**Richard III** with John Barrymore (Short, 1929, 16mm)

**Henry V** (Kenneth Branagh, 1989, 35mm)

Kenneth Branagh's film adaptation of Shakespeare's *Henry V* is now considered a classic. Branagh wrote the screenplay, stars, and directs, offering a grittier version than Laurence Olivier's 1944 film. The film features a stellar British cast, including Derek Jacobi, Paul Scofield, Judi Dench, and Emma Thompson. Also screening: a short film presenting American stage and screen star John Barrymore performing a selection from *Richard III*. Both prints are from the Yale Film Study Center Archive.



Thursday, January 19, 7 pm

**Othello** (Orson Welles, 1952, 35mm)

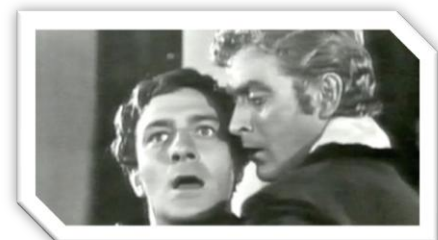
Professor Murray Biggs (Theater Studies and English, Yale) will introduce and lead a short post-screening discussion of Orson Welles's visually astounding film adaptation of *Othello*. Welles took three years to complete filming, shooting in Morocco, Venice, Rome, Paris, and other locations, wherever he could reassemble crew and actors, when money was available. The film stars Orson Welles as Othello and premiered at the 1952 Cannes Film Festival, winning the festival's highest prize—the Grand Prix du Festival International du Film.



Thursday, February 2, 7 pm

**Hamlet at Elsinore** (Philip Saville, 1964, 16mm)

Professor Deborah Margolin (Theater Studies, Yale) will introduce and lead a short post-screening discussion of *Hamlet at Elsinore*, a rarely seen BBC made-for-



television version of *Hamlet*. The film was shot at Elsinore Castle in Denmark and is the only sound version to have been filmed in this location. The film stars Christopher Plummer as Hamlet and features Michael Caine, Robert Shaw, Donald Sutherland, and Roy Kinnear. The film print at this screening was recently discovered in the Yale Film Study Center Archive and has not been projected for decades.

Tuesday, February 14, 7 pm

***Shakespeare in Love*** (John Madden, 1988, 35mm)

A special Valentine's Day screening and tour. Kathryn James, Beinecke curator of Early Modern Books and Manuscripts, will lead a 5:15 pm tour of *Remembering Shakespeare*, an exhibition at the Beinecke Library.



Thursday, March 1, 7 pm

***Romeo and Juliet*** (Paul Czinner, 1966, 16mm)

This 1966 color film version of the Royal Ballet's staging of Sergei Prokofiev's ballet stars Rudolph Nureyev and Margot Fonteyn in the lead roles. The film features the gorgeous costumes and elaborate sets from this celebrated production, but moreover, cinematically captures Kenneth MacMillan's choreography and the renowned dance partners Nureyev and Fonteyn at their best, particularly Nureyev, who was at his peak. The film print at this screening comes from the Yale Film Study Center Archive.



Saturday, March 24, 7 pm

***Ran*** (Akira Kurosawa, 1985, 35mm)

The Yale Film Society presents Akira Kurosawa's classic retelling of Shakespeare's *King Lear*. With the old warlord abdicating in favor of his three sons, "Ran" --which is Japanese for "chaos" or "revolt"-- is what ensues. This epic adaptation of *Lear* was Kurosawa's last major film and was hailed for its powerful imagery and use of color, its masterful pacing and evocative sound score. The film print at this screening comes from the Yale Film Study Center Archive.



Thursday, April 5, 7 pm

***Chimes at Midnight*** (Orson Welles, 1965, 35mm)

Professor Dudley Andrew (Comparative Literature, English, and Film Studies) will introduce and lead a short post-screening discussion of Orson Welles's *Chimes at Midnight*, which features the character of Falstaff, drawing upon five Shakespearean plays for its adaptation. Welles considered the film among his best work, claiming in a 1982 interview, "If I wanted to get into heaven on the basis of one movie, that's the one I would offer up." Welles stars as Falstaff with a stellar



supporting cast including John Gielgud, Jeanne Moreau, Margaret Rutherford, and Ralph Richardson as the narrator.