Contents

| Acknowledgements | | viii |
|------------------|--|------|
| 1. | The Institution of Theatre | 1 |
| 2. | Nebuchadnezzar's Tree | 19 |
| 3. | A Pleasure and a Profit: The Taming of the Shrew | 43 |
| 4. | Welcome to our Chamber: <i>The History of Richard III,</i> Sir Thomas More, Richard III | 52 |
| 5. | Calling Fools into a Circle: The Woman's Prize, The Two Gentlemen of Verona, The Merchant of Venice, As You Like It | 72 |
| 6. | The Only Man: A Midsummer Night's Dream and Hamlet | 97 |
| 7. | A Stranger to My Heart: King Lear | 112 |
| 8. | Tis Time: The Alchemist and The Tempest | 128 |
| Notes | | 143 |
| Index | | 167 |