

CONTENTS

TEXTUAL NOTE	ix
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	x
ABBREVIATIONS	xi
LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS	xiii

Introduction 1

Chapter One Shakespeare's Medieval World 9

Remembered worlds	12
Continuities	16
The shape of life	22
The shape of death	28
The world of language	34

Chapter Two Total Theatre 42

Remembering the religious drama	54
Shakespeare and the cycle plays	64

Chapter Three Staging the Unstageable 72

Presenting the play	74
Immaterial beings	80
Imagining place	89
Time	97

Chapter Four The Little World of Man 103

Language and personification	108
Man and the universe	111
Moral interludes and dramatic structure	115
Dumbshows, emblems and allegorical action	125
Three types: king, shepherd and fool	131

Chapter Five

The World of Fortune 139

The falls of great men 141

Tragedies from the medieval world 156

Chapter Six

Romance, Women and the Providential World 170

Heroines, inheritance and happy endings 179

Beyond the natural 187

The last plays 192

Pericles 196

Chapter Seven

Shakespeare's Chaucer 204

A Midsummer Night's Dream 211

A note on Bottom and the ass 219

Troilus and Cressida 221

The Two Noble Kinsmen 227

NOTES 235

BIBLIOGRAPHY 257

INDEX 265