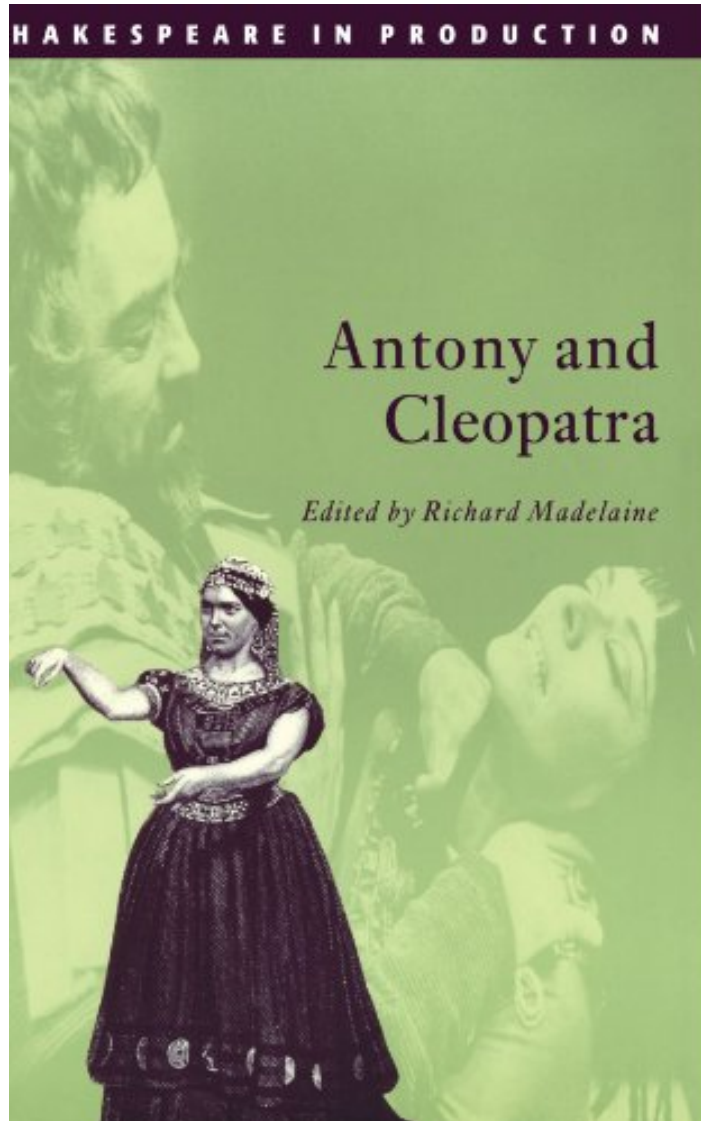


[PDF] Antony and Cleopatra (Shakespeare in Production)

## Antony and Cleopatra (Shakespeare in Production)

*William Shakespeare*

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**William Shakespeare : Antony and Cleopatra (Shakespeare in Production)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Antony and Cleopatra (Shakespeare in Production):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A masterful ending to the greatest ever series in Roman historical fiction By AnnaravenMcCullough's whole "Masters of Rome" series is a must-read for historical fiction buffs; this last book in the series isn't quite on the same amazing levels reached by previous ones, but still soars far above most books in the genre. 10 of 11 people found the following review helpful. A Discerningly-edited Edition By James R.

McCall This is a review of a specific edition of Shakespeare's "Antony and Cleopatra" - namely the New Cambridge edition of 1990, edited by David Bevington. The book is a good size, and the print is easy to read. There are about 70 pages of front matter in this edition, and, on each page of the play, copious notes. Following the play's text, there is a discussion of general editorial choices and approaches, supplementing the specifics covered in notes. The front matter dutifully took up the sources of the play, its dating, structure, stage history, and a number of other topics. I found it occasionally a bit heavy going, as, in many sections, any straightforward statement seemed to be buried under a pile of citations from various critics. This was by no means always the case, and in such things as stage history I found the discussion brisk but entertaining. The text was thoroughly annotated - too thoroughly for my taste. It did not get tedious, as in the Arden editions, but still, too many notes were devoted to specific editorial decisions, and too many supersized with references to other plays. I guess there is some interest in this, and one does not have to read the notes one does not want to, but it does tend to slow one down. This is good though, if one wants to delve. Moreover, virtually every word or passage that might cause difficulty is discussed and interpreted, which is certainly what one wants. In summary, I would say this edition is well worth having: it gives one most of the information one could conceivably need, does some interpretation, and explains the text helpfully. It does not include a transcription of Shakespeare's main sources (although this is done piecemeal in the notes), nor a plot and scene summary. These would have been nice, but are not necessary.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. An Enduring Accomplishment Concluded By Gregory F. Taylor What a wonderful way to wrap up one of the greatest stories in history! McCullough begins just after the violent end of the Gracchi and concludes with the irrevocable end of the Republic. In between she has brought to life some of the most fascinating characters in world history: Gaius Marius, Lucius Cornelius Sulla (Felix!) and, of course, Julius Caesar. This is historical fiction come to glory! Working with minimal facts and well-reasoned extrapolations, she gives us fully realized characters acting within the limits of what is known. Everything that we know of Marius and Sulla would fit comfortably within a hundred pages, but she gives us an unforgettable 2000 before these characters take their preordained exits. With Mark Antony, she has vastly more to work with, since much that was written at the time survives, and many later writers focussed on this era. It is no mean achievement to make Octavian, the ultimate survivor, into a sympathetic character, and she endues Antony with nuance and spirit. Cleopatra is, perhaps necessarily, more of a blank slate, given how little is known of her thoughts and background, but the book brings her vividly to life. I truly hate to see the series finished, and would welcome a volume dealing with Augustus.

Richard Madelaine explains how the challenging complexity of Shakespeare's Antony and Cleopatra has at different times inhibited or promoted its success on the stage, and accounts for the remarkable resurgence of performances in the past twenty years. His introduction and commentary, presented alongside the New Cambridge edition of the text, provide the most detailed, extensive and up-to-date history of the play on stage and screen, in and beyond Britain. In the process he reveals not only the rich plurality of possible readings of the play, but also changing attitudes to Shakespeare.

"...Richard Madelaine's volume...offers tantalizing glimpses of performances of the past." Shakespeare Bulletin From the Back Cover "Antony and Cleopatra has the strangest stage history of any of Shakespeare's major tragedies. Richard Madelaine explains how the play's challenging complexity has at different times inhibited or promoted its success on the stage, and accounts for the remarkable resurgence of performances in the last twenty-five years. The introduction provides the only detailed, extensive and up-to-date history of the play on stage and screen, in and beyond Britain."--BOOK JACKET. "Making plentiful use of direct quotation from contemporary sources, Madelaine examines the ways in which cultural factors have shaped the performance of the play, and how actors have tackled the main parts, in particular the exotic eroticism of Cleopatra. In the process he reveals not only the rich plurality of possible readings of the play, but also changing attitudes to Shakespeare."--BOOK JACKET.