

'ANONYMOUS' film release

A major cinema release about Edward De Vere, Earl of Oxford as the true author of the plays of William Shakespeare will certainly raise the profile of the Authorship Question.



On the set (l to r): Rhys Ifans, Vanessa Redgrave, Roland Emmerich, Joely Richardson and David Thewlis

Director: Roland Emmerich

Writer: John Orloff

Stars: Rhys Ifans, Vanessa Redgrave, David Thewlis, Sir Derek Jacobi and Mark Rylance.

Released: 28 October 2011

STOP PRESS

The first UK showing of the film will be at the BFI London Film Festival, 25, 26 and 27 October.

http://www.bfi.org.uk/lff/films/galas_special_screenings/1626

A major cinema release about Edward De Vere, Earl of Oxford as the true author of the plays of William Shakespeare will certainly raise the profile of the Authorship Question. Described as 'a political thriller set against the backdrop of the succession of Queen Elizabeth I and the Essex Rebellion against her', the film is sure to prove controversial in a number of ways.

The most controversial aspect of the film for Oxfordians is the decision by the director to incorporate the Prince Tudor theory into the plot. We will be publishing reviews of the film once it has been released both here and in the DVS newsletter, however the DVS has agreed to the following statement in order to make clear at the earliest our position on this issue.

THE DE VERE SOCIETY and the film "ANONYMOUS"

The film "Anonymous", which features Edward de Vere, 17th Earl of Oxford and his authorship of plays under the pseudonym "William Shakespeare", is due to be released in September 2011. Unfortunately, it introduces the untenable theory that Oxford only used the pseudonym because he was the unacknowledged son of Queen Elizabeth, and by an incestuous relationship with her fathered Henry Wriothesley, Earl of Southampton. The DVS will be publishing evidence, both here on the website and in the DVS Newsletter, that this theory is untenable.

The purpose of the De Vere Society is to sponsor the claim that Edward de Vere (1550 - 1604) is the best candidate for using the pseudonym Shakespeare, while William Shakspere of Stratford (1564 - 1616) wrote none of the works that are frequently attributed to him.

And, though the Society welcomes all who have an interest in what is known as the "Shakespeare Authorship Question", it seeks to maintain rigorous academic quality and avoid the illogical, unfounded speculation that afflicts some aspects of Shakespeare scholarship.

In particular, the Society considers that the following items do not meet those standards, have no validity, and are irrelevant to the question of the real Shakespeare's identity.

- The part of the film "Anonymous" which tries to link the Shakespeare Authorship Question with the possibility that Queen Elizabeth had one or more adulterous relationships that resulted in the birth of Edward de Vere and/or the Third Earl of Southampton,
- Publications which, in denial of logic and evidence, propagate such notions,
- Publications, including this film, that appear to base the concept of Edward de Vere being the writer Shakespeare on such notions.

Live debate on the BBC



On Friday 2nd September Elizabeth Imlay, Chairman of the DVS, debated the film 'Anonymous' live on the BBC Breakfast show with Professor Stanley Wells of the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust.

Unfortunately, the BBC have not made the programme available on iPlayer from its website and copyright issues prevent the DVS from uploading the clip. However, DVS member Malcolm Blackmoor has circulated a DVD of the clip to DVS committee members along with this commentary:

"A few minutes ago the main BBC Breakfast programme had its report on Anonymous with

Elizabeth, magnificently calm and collected, against the huffing & puffing Stanley Wells sporting a wondrously stained T shirt - possibly BBC coffee.

"The presenters doing the interview certainly responded better to Elizabeth calmly providing evidence both for Oxford and against PT and were noticeably less enthusiastic about Wells who attempted his expected dismissive tactics.

"When Elizabeth mentioned the Stratford based Shakespeare industry he protested about 'the usual slur'.

"Of course these few minute long encounters are too short for anything in depth but Elizabeth was a model of trained interviewee technique in delivering facts against waffle.

"Wells relies on 'There's overwhelming evidence that Shakespeare was written by Shakespeare because his name's on it. The reply to that needs to be 'But who was he?'

"Wells is too conceited to have any interest in interview technique and is therefore easily made to look desperate - especially with the coffee stains."

We will continue to publish more details about the film as they emerge, but there are a number of interesting links already available.

[Anonymous - press conference videos with cast members](#) (YouTube video)

Internet Movie Database listing:

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1521197/>

Also on the Internet Movie Database, a vigorous debate has begun on its forum for this film. One poster has asked why so few Oxfordians are participating on this forum (it is, indeed, dominated by posters dismissing the Oxfordian position) so here's your chance to get involved.

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1521197/board/threads/>

German scholar **Kurt Kreiler** has published an extremely detailed website (in English) which refutes, point by point, each strand of the Prince Tudor theory contained in the film 'Anonymous'. The website is a tie-in to his book, 'Anonymous Shake-speare, The Man Behind'.

<http://www.anonymous-shakespeare.com/>

Time Out interview with Roland Emmerich

<http://www.timeout.com/film/features/show-feature/10122/on-the-set-of-roland-emmerichs-anonymous.html>
