



BBC Radio International Shakespeare's Restless World

BBC Radio International's innovative series of programmes in which Neil MacGregor, former Director of the British Museum, uses artefacts from William Shakespeare's time which are held at the Museum to explore how Elizabethan and Jacobean playgoers made sense of the turbulent and rapidly changing world in which they lived.

This series is a co-production with the British Museum.

Each programme's duration is 15 minutes. The total series duration is 5 hours.

England Goes Global

A silver medal celebrating Sir Francis Drake's circumnavigation of the world reflects how this event changed the way people viewed the world.

Communication and Conscience

The communion cup that Shakespeare may well have used sheds light on the dramatic religious changes that came in the aftermath of the Reformation.

Snacking Through Shakespeare

A fork found on the site of the Rose Theatre helps explain what people were eating.

Life without Elizabeth

The implications of a portrait painted to justify Elizabeth I's position in the succession.

Swordplay and Swagger

The essential accoutrements of any self-respecting gentleman illustrate the extent of violence in Elizabethan London - both onstage and off.

Europe: Triumphs of the Past

How Henry V's battle gear reflects the Elizabethan view of English history.

Ireland: Failures in the Present

A rare woodcut offers an insight into the troubles and tragedies of Elizabethan Ireland.

City Life, Urban Strife

The life of London's apprentices and Shakespeare's groundlings told through a rare woollen cap.

New Science, Old Magic

Dr John Dee's mirror, a highly polished disk of black obsidian, reflects the Elizabethan fascination with cosmology and astrology.

Toil and Trouble

The differences between Scottish and English witches are revealed by a model ship, made to be hung in a church.

Treason and Plots

A tabloid history of Shakespeare's England, told via contemporary accounts of murder plots.

Sex and the City

A delicate glass goblet reveals the twin seductions of Venice - its sought after luxuries and its equally sought after women.

From London to Marrakech

Sunken gold from West Africa sheds light on England's complex relationship with the Moors.

Disguise and Deception

A pedlar's trunk reveals deception and religion, cross-dressing and travelling salesmen.

The Flag that Failed

The problems of uniting Scotland and England and in creating a Great Britain are encapsulated in a set of designs for a common flag.

A Time of Change, a Change of Time

A rare domestic clock reveals the changing relationship Shakespeare's audiences had to time.

Plague and the Playhouse

A series of early 17th-century proclamations reveals the impact and reach of the 1603 plague outbreak.

London Becomes Rome

A set of coronation designs reveals the depth of classical knowledge in Shakespeare's time.

The Theatres of Cruelty

A human eyeball in a silver setting provides a striking insight into the theatre of cruelty in Elizabethan and Jacobean Britain.

Shakespeare Goes Global

How a folio of collected plays in 1623 began the creation of a global phenomenon.

END

(LA 08/07/2016)