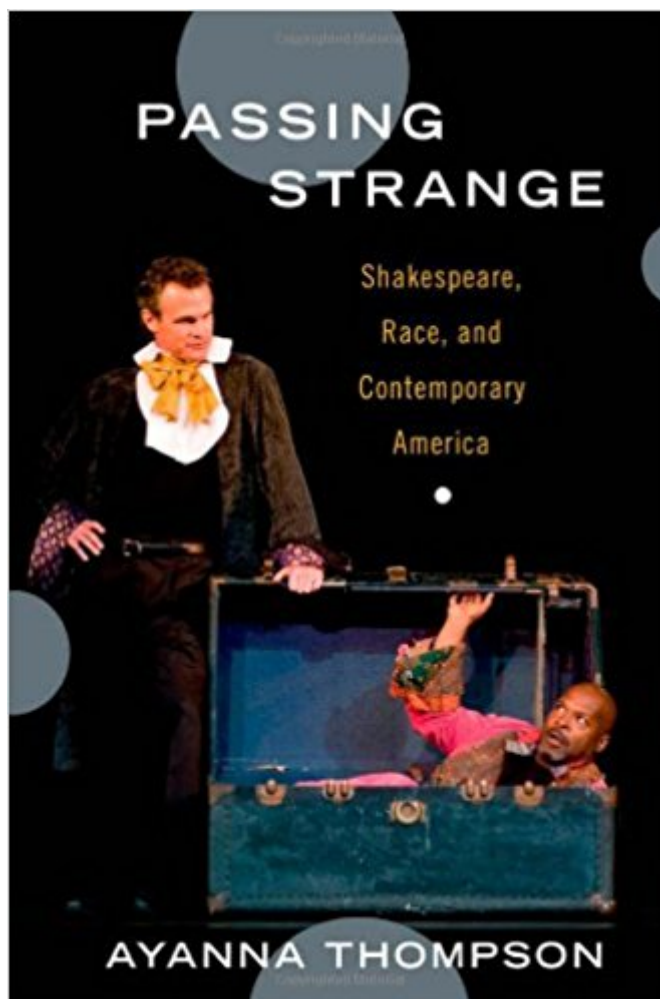


The book was found

# Passing Strange: Shakespeare, Race, And Contemporary America



## Synopsis

Notions, constructions, and performances of race continue to define the contemporary American experience, including America's relationship to Shakespeare. In *Passing Strange*, Ayanna Thompson explores the myriad ways U.S. culture draws on the works and the mythology of the Bard to redefine the boundaries of the color line. Drawing on an extensive--frequently unconventional--range of examples, Thompson examines the contact zones between constructions of Shakespeare and constructions of race. Among the questions she addresses are: Do Shakespeare's plays need to be edited, appropriated, updated, or rewritten to affirm racial equality and retain relevance? Can discussions of Shakespeare's universalism tell us anything beneficial about race? What advantages, if any, can a knowledge of Shakespeare provide to disadvantaged people of color, including those in prison? Do the answers to these questions impact our understandings of authorship, authority, and authenticity? In investigating this under-explored territory, *Passing Strange* examines a wide variety of contemporary texts, including films, novels, theatrical productions, YouTube videos, performances, and arts education programs. Scholars, teachers, and performers will find a wealth of insights into the staging and performance of familiar plays, but they will also encounter new ways of viewing Shakespeare and American racial identity, enriching their understanding of each.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 240 pages

Publisher: Oxford University Press; 1 edition (May 13, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0195385853

ISBN-13: 978-0195385854

Product Dimensions: 9.4 x 0.7 x 6.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: Be the first to review this item

Best Sellers Rank: #1,344,585 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #105 in [Books > Humor & Entertainment > Movies > Adaptations](#) #955 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Performing Arts > Theater > History & Criticism](#) #1749 in [Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Performing Arts > Theater](#)

## Customer Reviews

"A readable, argumentative discussion of race in a variety of works." --*Studies in English Literature*

1500-1900" Ayanna Thompson's exciting new book forges a much needed bridge between Shakespeare studies and the study of race. In addition to analyzing deftly contemporary productions of Shakespeare, *Passing Strange* steps outside of convention and insightfully considers contemporary films and other performances that merely reference the Bard. In so doing Thompson boldly interrogates how race politics can inform our understanding of Shakespeare as well as how Shakespeare can impact our understanding of race. This is an important new work for scholars, students, and practitioners alike." --Harry J. Elam Jr., Editor of *African American Performance and Theater History*" This terrific book marks an important step forward in Shakespeare scholarship. With skill and passion, Ayanna Thompson argues that the discussion of Shakespeare and race needs to move beyond the venerable Shakespeare-plus-theme model. By staging the relationship between contemporary race studies and Shakespeare in the American present as a spirited dialogue between true equals, *Passing Strange* demonstrates how fully matters of race matter in the ways we teach, perform, use, and watch Shakespeare." --Douglas Lanier, author of *Shakespeare and Popular Culture*" Shakespeare never fails to ignite our idealism while remaining the great poet of compromise, disappointment, and failed hopes. This book is a report on Shakespeare at the coalface of contemporary America. Carefully observing with clarity and compassion the way Americans see themselves in Shakespeare's mirror, Ayanna Thompson subtly unravels hypocrisies, confusions and complications across a range of noble and ignoble motives that are by turns illuminating, chastening, and sometimes hard-to-watch. Its radical inclusivity and clear-headedness make *Passing Strange* a cause for hope, and a model for artistic and social redemption." --Peter Sellars, theater director" Ambitious... Recommended." --Choice

Ayanna Thompson is Associate Professor of English at Arizona State University. She is the author of *Performing Race and Torture on the Early Modern Stage* and the Editor of *Weyward Macbeth: Intersections of Race and Performance* and *Colorblind Shakespeare: New Perspectives on Race and Performance*.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

*Passing Strange: Shakespeare, Race, and Contemporary America* Professional Soccer Passing Patterns: Passing Patterns That Develop Technical Ability, Increase Coordination of Player Movements, Establish Timing & Rhythm, Increase Passing Accuracy and Player Focus William Shakespeare's Star Wars Collection: William Shakespeare's Star Wars, William Shakespeare's The Empire Striketh Back, and William Shakespeare's The Jedi Doth Return The Shakespeare Stealer Series: The Shakespeare Stealer / Shakespeare's Scribe / Shakespeare's Spy Symmetric Passing:

Club passing rhythms for two, three, and four jugglers  
Passing the Road Test: Step by Step Guide  
to Passing Your Road Test  
Tiki Taka Passing Patterns & Exercises: Improving Players' Passing  
Speed & First Touch  
Passing Strange: The Complete Book and Lyrics Of The Broadway Musical  
Hell's Angels: A Strange and Terrible Saga: A Strange and Terrible Saga  
Strange and Ever After (Something Strange and Deadly Book 3)  
Strange and Schafermeyer's Pediatric Emergency  
Medicine, Fourth Edition (Strange, Pediatric Emergency Medicine)  
Passing for White: Race, Religion, and the Healy Family, 1820-1920  
The Great Shark Hunt: Strange Tales from a Strange  
Time (Gonzo Papers, Volume 1)  
The Complete Emily the Strange: All Things Strange  
The Great Shark Hunt: Strange Tales from a Strange Time  
The Life and Times of William Shakespeare  
(Shakespeare: His Work and World)  
Shakespeare's Original Pronunciation: Speeches and Scenes  
Performed as Shakespeare Would Have Heard Them  
Troilus and Cressida (Arkangel Shakespeare  
- Fully Dramatized) (Arkangel Complete Shakespeare)  
Romeo and Juliet (No Fear Shakespeare  
Graphic Novels) (No Fear Shakespeare Illustrated)  
Romeo and Juliet: Oxford School Shakespeare  
(Oxford School Shakespeare Series)

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)