



What the press are saying about Manga Shakespeare:

“Critically-acclaimed”

The Times (August 2007)

“These artists demonstrate how vividly manga techniques and pacing can convey motion and emotion... the appetite for manga culture in this country shows no signs of abating... a Japanese export has become the future of comics.”

The Times (October 2007)

“This 'manga Shakespeare' hybrid is unlikely – but makes absolute sense. The Japanese comic, or manga, is in another way, it highly visual medium... as SelfMadeHero has discovered, it shares similarities with Shakespeare's theatre, relying heavily on recurring image and highly expressive gestures.”

The Observer (October 2007)

“Comic book Shakespeare is not dumbing down but will help breathe new life into his great classics”

Sunday Express (September 2007)

“the narratives crackle with energy and tease new insights from the silences behind the words... an exciting new way of bringing Shakespeare vividly alive”

Globe Quarterly (Autumn 2007)

“Last March SelfMadeHero brought out a line of Shakespeare manga to wide acclaim”

New York Times (September 2007)

“suddenly Will doesn't seem so daunting anymore”

The New York Post (July 2007)

‘In many ways...manga and Shakespearean tragedy are perfectly suited. The Japanese form makes explicit some of the bard's abiding concerns: passionate love leads to violence, men defend their honour, families are defied and social mores corrupted....

‘The manga versions are ...visually appealing, intelligently adapted, and demonstrate that Shakespeare is a writer for every age. A cartoon version of Shakespeare is in some ways truer to the original than reading the text alone; the visual element was always supposed to be part of the experience.’
– *Financial Times*



FTmagazine



‘Artists Sonia Leong and Emma Vieceli use the dynamic flow of manga to give Shakespeare's plots an addictive page turning energy... before they've even hit the shops, the books are causing a buzz online among manga enthusiasts Manga is booming, fuelled by the popularity of Japanese computer games and an infectious sense of 'Japan cool'. – *The Independent*

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“The manga versions are... visually appealing, intelligently adapted, and demonstrate that Shakespeare is a writer for every age. A cartoon version of Shakespeare is in some ways truer to the original than reading the text alone; the visual element was always supposed to be part of the experience.”

– **Financial Times (March)**

“This new series does in book form what film director Baz Luhrmann did on screen – make Shakespeare cool and accessible to a younger generation... Just as Leonardo DiCaprio made Shakespeare sound like urban American dialect, so it seems entirely plausible that Japanese mobsters should shout ‘Have at thee coward!’ before launching into a street fight... [the] artists use the dynamic flow of manga to give Shakespeare’s plots an addictive page turning energy.”

– **Independent on Sunday (March)**

“Let’s face it, reading the Bard’s stuff can be a tough slog for kids but put it in a comic book, and suddenly Will doesn’t seem so daunting... As far as the texts go, Manga Shakespeare seems like an excellent starting point or first-time Bard readers of any age.”

– **New York Post (July)**

“Manga’s edgy cool is the perfect companion to Shakespeare’s grand themes. You get graphic visions of the greatest words ever written, so the plays open up to you: after that, the full text is much more accessible. Shakespeare’s words may be intimidating at first, but what those words mean remains true to this day – these sharply drawn, intelligent versions will show you why. Glorious”

– **Etc magazine (Autumn)**

“From Italian operas to children’s picture books and hit feature films, over the centuries Shakespeare’s plays have appeared in all kinds of different guises. Now Shakespeare is being radically reinvented once again: this time, as manga. “To many British teens, manga, with its crazy hairstyles, vivid emotions and complicated storylines, seems exotic and different: a world away from the compulsory study of Shakespeare in school English lessons.”

– **Jiji Press (March)**

“Sonia Leong’s illustrations are striking and engaging, giving the transplanted story and immediacy and urgency words are respected, and so too is the original.”

– **Mail & Guardian (South Africa)**

“In many ways... manga and Shakespearean tragedy are perfectly suited. The Japanese form makes explicit some of the Bard’s abiding concerns: passionate love leads to violence, men defend their honour, families are defied and social mores corrupted...”

– **Financial Times (March)**

Published titles in 2007:

Romeo and Juliet, Hamlet

[published March 2007]

The Tempest, Richard III

[published September 2007]

Forthcoming manga titles (teen fiction):

A Midsummer Night’s Dream

[published February 2008]

Julius Caesar, Macbeth

[published May 2008]

As You Like It, The Merchant of Venice

[published September 2008]

Much Ado About Nothing, Taming of the Shrew

[published February 2009]

Othello

[published February 2009]

Forthcoming graphic novels (adult fiction):

Nevermore Edgar Allan Poe

[published November 2008]

The Trial Franz Kafka

[published February 2008]

The Master and Margarita Mikhail Bulgakov

[published February 2008]

Picture of Dorian Gray Oscar Wilde

[published September 2008]

Crime and Punishment Fyodor Dostoevsky

[published September 2008]