

DISCOVERING SHAKESPEARE

ALSO BY JOHN RUSSELL BROWN

On Shakespeare

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Shakespeare's Plays in Performance
Shakespeare's Dramatic Style
Free Shakespeare

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The Duchess of Malfi (Revels Plays)

Discovering Shakespeare

A New Guide to the Plays

JOHN RUSSELL BROWN

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Preface

Readers who are familiar with professional scholarship and criticism will appreciate how much I have benefited in writing this book from the work of others who have studied Shakespeare's plays in performance. Other readers who work in theatre will recognise just as easily how much I owe to the actors, directors, designers and stage-staff with whom I have worked on productions and in workshops. I hope, too, that my students and colleagues at the University of Sussex and at the Folger Library, Washington D.C. will realise that I have shared my thoughts and methods of study with them, and gained by the exchange.

Indeed, in preparing this book, I have drawn on such a wide experience that I am quite unable to trace the beginning or development of each idea or start to acknowledge my innumerable debts. I cannot express adequately a gratitude of which I am constantly aware. By great good fortune, this new guide to Shakespeare's plays is a product of a long collaboration. It is wholly mine only in the writing.

Two particular debts I can, however, acknowledge and do so with grateful pleasure: to Penny Admiraal for typing out my first drafts and corrections; and to Derick Mirfin of Macmillan for guiding the book from typescript to its final form with uncommon vigilance and generosity.

JOHN RUSSELL BROWN

NOTE ON TEXTS

References to Shakespeare's texts in this book are to *The Complete Works* edited by Peter Alexander (Collins, London and Glasgow, 1951), save for those instances, clearly indicated, where a different edition is cited for particular comment.