

The Hollow Crown

Shakespeare's Globe

Upstart Crow

The Church Street Townhouse

TREND

Just William

Doublets on the catwalk, 16th-century emojis and a splash of Benedict Cumberbatch. The Bard is back

We might have fancied Joseph Fiennes in *Shakespeare In Love*, but in our hearts we've always felt that if Shakespeare was alive today, he'd be more like the dorky Shakespeare played by David Mitchell in Ben Elton's new sitcom *Upstart Crow*. The BBC2 comedy is just a tiny slice of Bard-related fun to be had this month, which marks 400 years since the poet's death.

Show time

Fresh from playing Hamlet, Benedict Cumberbatch is taking on Richard III in *The Hollow Crown* (BBC2) – think lots of chainmail, great acting and bad hair. CBBC's *Horrible Histories* is devoting a special to Shakespeare's early life, starring Tom Stourton, and David Tennant is hosting BBC2's *Shakespeare Live!* on 23 April. With theatre, dance and rap, it will honour William's lyrical skills and include a 'ShakespeareMe' event online, inviting viewers to match emojis with their favourite quotes. Purists, look away now.

Style files

Meanwhile, in the fashion world, it's all gone a bit 'night at the Globe'. Fendi's Tudor-themed SS16 collection featured ruched pastel leather doublets, Emilia Wickstead sent out models in Sir Francis Drake-esque puffball shorts, and the dresses at JW Anderson and Erdem were finished with theatrical leg-o'mutton sleeves – 'apparel oft proclaims the man,' as Bill himself would put it.

Culture club

If all this is making you crave live theatre, but you don't fancy sitting through a three-hour tragedy, spice things up with 'Shitfaced Shakespeare' at the Leicester Square Theatre, where *A Midsummer Night's Dream* will run each night with one actor in an advanced state of drunkenness. Then visit Shakespeare's birthplace, Stratford-Upon-Avon and stay at The Church Street Townhouse – don't forget to pack your battered copy of *The Tempest*.

Dress, £85, Topshop

FENDI

JW ANDERSON

Dress, £245, Topshop Unique x Net-a-porter.com

Shakespeare Live!

Shakespeare In Love

'Shitfaced Shakespeare'

ERDEM

ERDEM