

WHY WAS SHAKESPEARE SO FOND OF HECUBA?

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ABSTRACT

This article emphasizes the tragic theatrical potential of the mythological story of Hecuba, the Queen of the conquered Troy, who outlived to witness the death of her husband, the mighty King Priam, and all of their numerous children. Her story impressed great dramatists of all times, but the case studies I have chosen to discuss here are Euripides, Shakespeare, and Vișniec. Even if, unlike the other two dramatists, Shakespeare never wrote a play mainly inspired from Hecuba's story, he was obviously impressed with her predicament, which became his favourite comparative element whenever he dramatized cases of women in distress.

KEYWORDS: Hecuba, tragedy, Euripides, Shakespeare, Vișniec