

Is the Taming of the Shrew a Classic?

Taming of the Shrew, a play written by the well known author William Shakespeare. The story is of a man trying to make a fierce woman fall in love with him. Set in a contemporary time from when it was written, the story is now very outdated when it comes to modern beliefs and the roles of women in society. But is the Taming of the Shrew a Classic? Yes for multiple reasons. The first being the fact that it was written by Shakespeare, another being the longevity of the play, and the last and most important reason is that the story is relevant to multiple generations.

What does it mean to be relevant to multiple generations? It means that it is a story you can read or watch when you are young and enjoy it, and you could go back and re-read it when you're older and understand the story on a completely different level, while still enjoying it. The Taming of the Shrew follows this relevancy perfectly. A young child could go and watch a performance of The Taming of the Shrew at a live show such as Bard on the Beach and really enjoy it. Would they entirely understand the point of the story or it's commentary on the role of women in the time period? No, not at all, but they would still be entertained watching a Shakespearean comedy with a easy to follow narrative. For someone slightly older watching or reading the play, they can understand the many different levels that Shakespeare went to with this play. There are many questions about the play and about Shakespeare that can be asked when viewing from a more mature perspective.

But why is the Taming of the Shrew relevant to multiple generations? The fact that this play can be seen as misogynistic is something that actually makes it more relevant for older generations. It provokes questions that intrigue the older audience who want to know more about the Elizabethan era and Shakespeare's views on women. An older reader can learn significant amounts about the history of women in this time period just from watching this play. However, a younger audience can also understand the basics of women's roles at the time. A young child would understand the general rule for women was to conform to the needs of their husband. However most children wouldn't understand the outsider feeling Katerina had when she was classified as a Shrew. In general most kids wouldn't even understand what the term Shrew actually means. They would possibly just understand it as meaning an outsider. That lack of knowledge while still being able to enjoy the play, is why the Taming of the Shrew is a classic.

The Taming of the Shrew is a play that has been performed from when it was first written in the 1590s all the way up to today. However the way it has been performed has been changed multiple times over the course of history. In a more modern adaption of the original play, the movie 10 Things I Hate About You, the story is changed to be more politically correct to the time period. Kate isn't tamed the same way as she is in the original play, nor is she as different from the rest of the women. She's just a tough women that isn't interested in being in a relationship. An adaption like this shows how the underlying story of the Taming of the Shrew reaches to all generations.

The Taming of the Shrew was written in the late 1500s and is still a well known play today. Many adaptations have been made over the years comparing the original story to the roles of women at the times of the adaptation. Almost every version of the Taming of the Shrew is enjoyed by people of all ages. It's a story that has deep meaning and provokes much debate while still being enjoyable to watch for everyone. This play is a classic because of this wide spread of ages that are able to understand and enjoy the play.