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Editorial

All contents of this journal take as their subject some aspect of medieval and early modern drama and performance, and the articles, notes, and Issues in Review sections we publish typically focus on plays, players, and playing. Even so, the range of topics connected to this subject matter is remarkably wide-ranging. In this issue alone, readers will find articles that discuss manuscript records, international trade, court politics, performance as research, perfumed bodies, ballad singing, philosophy, and neurodiversity. Book reviews document additional work on bear gardens, translation, authorship, dramaturgy, religion, and sex. Arguably, the most important element that all this scholarship shares is an abiding interest in the the surprising and complicated ways that individuals and communities interconnect.

The editors of the journal will continue to work to foster and disseminate research on a variety of topics, and from a variety of voices, in early modern drama studies. Special thanks go out to Mark Beatrice Kaethler and Lauren Weindling, book review co-editors, for putting together such an exciting collection of reviews for this issue. As of 1 July 2026, Erin E. Kelly (an associate editor since 2011) will join Melinda Gough as co-editor, while Susan L. Anderson (an assistant editor since 2024) will move into the associate role. Our production editor Nicole Lamont is currently on parental leave; we send her our warmest congratulations and look forward to welcoming her back soon. In the meanwhile, we remain grateful to Jamie Paris for his acumen as assistant editor; to Navid Jalali, who as our editorial assistant provides crucial support with outreach and who has begun training in copyediting and production; and to Adam Becker, our publisher at Becker Associates, for excellence in typesetting as well as incisive guidance with respect to accessibility and digital dissemination.

Together, our team will help to guide *Early Theatre* to new ventures with support from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRCC) Aid to Scholarly Journals program. We are currently exploring the best ways to meet our goals of publishing more accessibly in both PDF and html formats, and of becoming an entirely open access journal by the end of 2028. Full open access aligns with our commitment to enable scholars at all stages of their