

The Colorado Shakespeare Festival

E D U C A T I O N O U T R E A C H

FAST FACTS

ON

QUEEN ELIZABETH

(1533-1603)

- ❖ Stand in line and wait your turn
 - ❖ Elizabeth was not first in line to succeed to the crown. She was actually third in line behind her half-brother, and half-sister Mary. She became queen only after Mary died from cancer without producing an heir.
- ❖ Dancing Queen
 - ❖ The portrayal of the Queen in the film *Elizabeth* is not entirely fictitious. It is known that she enjoyed dancing and even appears in a painting being lifted by her partner.
- ❖ Can't We All Just Get Along?
 - ❖ Elizabeth sought to ease tensions between the Catholic Church and Protestants. In spite of her efforts, the Pope issued a decree releasing her subjects from allegiance and pre-absolved anyone who might murder her.
- ❖ Married to her work
 - ❖ Elizabeth never married during her reign. She presented herself as a bride of the nation stating to Parliament in 1601, "There is no jewel, be it of never so high a price, which I set before this jewel; I mean your love."
- ❖ We are amused...
 - ❖ Elizabeth was an avid supporter of the theatre and the arts in general. It is reported that she attended the premiere of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.
- ❖ Good Queen Bess Now and Forever
 - ❖ Her reign was so glorious in the minds of the British people that the date of her accession to the throne was celebrated for two hundred years after her death.

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