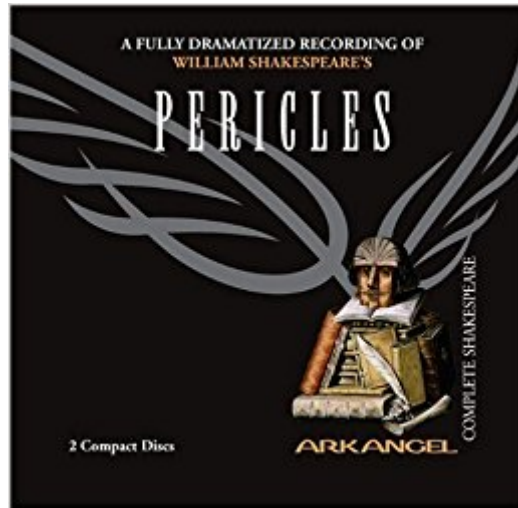




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Pericles (Arkangel Shakespeare)



Synopsis

[Full-Cast Audio Theater Dramatization. Sir John Gielgud plays Gower, and Nigel Terry is Pericles. Thaisa is played by Stella Gonet and Marina by Julie Cox.] This strange and powerful tale of loss and recovery is the first in the group of romance comedies created by Shakespeare at the end of his dramatic career. Pericles, Prince of Tyre, undergoes a tyrant's fury, storm, and shipwreck. He wins love and suffers loss, but what is lost may also be found. With the ancient poet Gower acting as narrator, we follow the adventures of Pericles from young manhood to maturity.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 1 customer review

Best Sellers Rank: #2,938,498 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #84 in [Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > \(S \) > Shakespeare, William](#) #292 in [Books > Books on CD > Poetry & Drama](#) #339 in [Books > Books on CD > Literature & Fiction > Poetry](#)

Customer Reviews

William Shakespeare (1564-1616), English poet and dramatist of the Elizabethan and early Jacobean period, is the most widely known author in all of English literature and often considered the greatest. He was an active member of a theater company for at least twenty years, during which time he wrote many great plays. Plays were not prized as literature at the time, and Shakespeare was not widely read until the middle of the eighteenth century, when a great upsurge of interest in his works began that continues today.

Shakespeare's romantic comedy offers strong vocal characterizations by notable classical actors. Sir John Gielgud brings the narrator Gower to life with articulation and clarity, and Nigel Terry excels as Pericles. The other 20 cast members maintain dramatic energy for the entire play. Pericles knows the answer to the king's riddle, but revealing it will endanger the hero, so he runs away. The play tells of the young man's tour of the world and his experiences, which include abduction by

pirates, visits to brothels, and the loss of his own daughter, until, of course, all is resolved. It's a pleasure to hear Shakespeare performed with such clarity and focus. M.R.E. Â© AudioFile 2006, Portland, Maine-- Copyright Â© AudioFile, Portland, Maine

This is the only recording of at the moment, although Harper has plans for a new one. This creaking plot might work in a good stage production; but although we know the first two acts, except for a line or two, to be by a hand other than Shakespeare's, the last three acts are bargain basement stuff. Still this is as good a reading as we are likely to get. (The old, out of print version on London/Argo label was quite eloquent.) The best thing about this version is the God-like voice of John Gielgud reading the narrator role of Gower. He sounds as ancient as the character is supposed to be. An unfortunate directorial decision leaves us without the "dumb shows" (which are simply read on the older recording without apology). Nigel Terry ("Excalibur") suffers well as the Odysseus-like hero and the rest of the excellent cast try hard to make things sound plausible. The electronic music does not help create any atmosphere but merely jars.

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