

German claims to have proof that bust...

Is this much ado about nothing... or the Bard?

STUDIES of a little-known London bust and a 17th-century death mask that German scholars claim portray the same person as William Shakespeare, it has been claimed.

Forensic imaging techniques have shown that the Davenant bust, housed in the Garrick Club, London's Garrick Club, is the same person as the death mask. The bust's facial features, in turn, are a "perfect match" with those of the death mask, which was discovered in 1842.

The new research used forensic imaging techniques to compare the bust with the death mask. The bust's facial features, in turn, are a "perfect match" with those of the death mask, which was discovered in 1842.



Melons for measure: A composite image of Davenant bust, left, with Shakespeare's death mask, right.

This week

Is this the Bard I see before me?

SOME nifty detective work on a little-known bust from London strongly suggests that a 17th-century death mask really is that of William Shakespeare.

Forensic imaging techniques have shown that the Davenant bust, which is housed in London's Garrick Club, is the same person as in portraits of Shakespeare. The bust's facial features, in turn, are a "perfect match" with the death mask (far right), which is owned by the German city of Darmstadt.



'Shakespeare's death mask', found in 1842 and linked to the poet due to its 16th-century likeness



Arrows show 17 points on the Dreenhout engraving said to match the Chardos and Pinner portraits

Is this the true face of Shakespeare?

A laser-scanned image of the death mask (in green) overlaying the Davenant bust, from the professor's book

DEATH MASK REVEALS A POTENTIALLY FATAL TUMOUR ON THE BARD'S LEFT EYE

Was Shakespeare killed by cancer?



German academic throws art world into turmoil after using police techniques to examine portraits of the playwright. Nigel Reynolds reports

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Heads it's the Bard

A MYSTERY over a death mask of Shakespeare may have been solved. Historians always denied the plaster cast found in Germany in 1842 was moulded from the Bard himself. But 3D tests comparing the mask with an engraving and two paintings of the playwright (pictured) led Mainz University researcher Hildegard Hammerschmidt-Hummel to the 'inescapable conclusion' that it was genuine.



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