The English actor Ian McKellen, who set Broadway on its ear as Salieri in the play Amadeus, has put together a ninety-minute one-man show to demonstrate what the Bard has meant to him as an actor with the Royal Shakespeare Company. McKellen performs on a bare stage in the shirt and slacks you see above, but he manages to create a gallery of Shakespearean characters. He does Bottom, the weaver (you can compare his reading with Brian Glover’s in the full version of the Dream). And if you’re like us, you’ll find his Hamlet odd, his Falstaff surprising, his Juliet a revelation, and his Richard III absolutely riveting. A must-see for Bard watchers.

Ian McKellen
Acting Shakespeare
airs April 26
on most stations.