



EASY READ AND VISUAL STORY

**Richard,My Richard**

Written by Philippa Gregory

Co-produced by THEATRE ROYAL BURY ST EDMUNDS and SHAKESPEARE NORTH PLAYHOUSE

In association with DANIEL SCHUMANN

This is a full synopsis of the show with matching photographs and details for anyone who may benefit from knowing the story and details ahead of time.

Please note that this guide will contain spoilers.

For more information regarding accessing the building, please visit <https://theatreroyal.org/your-visit/access/>

**Content Warning**

At points during the production, there will be:

Loud sudden noises or music

Flashing lights

Stage haze

Scenes depicting violence

Characters expressing anger, fear, sadness, threat

Characters moving through the audience

The scenes in which these happen will be clearly identified within this pack.

We do have a small stock of ear-defenders available for those who would like to use them.

**Please also note:**

Throughout the show, several members of the cast will be playing more than one role.

The roles of each of our company are labelled clearly next to their name within this pack.

**Performance Times**

This show is 2 hours and 20 minutes long including the interval.

Act One: 1 Hour

Act Two: 1 Hour

**Cast**

Tom Kanji – History

Kyle Rowe – Richard

Jennifer Matter – Queen

Laura Smithers – Margaret

Matt Concannon – Edward and Thomas Stanley

Tori Burgess – Anne and Henry

Mary Savage – Elizabeth and the Prince

Tyler Dobbs – George and Buckingham

**Production Team**

Writer – Philippa Gregory

Director – Katie Posner

Assistant Director – Joey Colasante

Producers – Zoe Fox and Siobhan Noble

Assistant Producer - Bridget Mulroy

Designer – Richard Kent

Movement Director – Annie-Lunnette Deakin-Foster

Lighting Designer – Philip Gladwell

Lighting Programmer - Luca Panetta

Sound Designer – Beth Duke

Sound Associate – Rose Farbrother

Costume Supervisor – Alice Roberts

Dramaturg – Sarah Dickenson

Production Manager – Andy Stubbs

Company Stage Manager – Jon Calvert

Deputy Stage Manager – Becky Brown

Assistant Stage Manager – Tabitha Dodds

Photography – Tom Soper

Videography – Dan Cole Media

**Characters**



**History**

The man who knows everything.



**Richard**

Battle hardened. He is young, handsome, and one of the gilded Plantaganet youth who thinks they are bound to win at everything.



**Edward**

Brother to Richard. Tall and famously handsome. He’s hugely charming and determined and he and his wife Queen Elizabeth passionate and demonstrative.



**George**

Brother to Richard. Handsome gentleman, married Isabel for the chance of winning the throne, is eaten up with ambition and hatred of Queen Elizabeth.

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**Anne**

Tough and astute. Childhood sweetheart of Richard III, she seizes the chance of marrying him and getting away from the Lancaster side at the battle of Tewkesbury 1471 when she is 15.



**Queen Elizabeth**

Formidable and famously beautiful, wife to Edward. An absolute enemy of Richard III. She is hugely ambitious and determined and unscrupulous but she has a redeeming and passionate love for her husband the man (as well as the king) and for her sons, and for her daughters.



**Margaret**

Elizabeth’s rival, enemy, and equal, some-time friend. A devout Roman Catholic Margaret knows that God speaks to her personally and has called her to put her son Henry on the throne for the Lancaster side of the family. She has devoted her life (two subsequent marriages) to positioning herself so that she can put Henry on the throne.



**Buckingham (Henry Stafford)**

A spiteful entitled teenager with sudden access to power. Hugely resentful, having been raised at court by Elizabeth Woodville who has profited from his guardianship and given him in marriage to her very much older sister. He is in a state of impotent fury until Margaret Beaufort shows him a way to be revenged on the Yorks and (he thinks) to take the throne from himself.



**Elizabeth of York**

Young and beautiful and she leaps into love with Richard as into a full life – after months in the darkness of sanctuary. She was raised as such an adored daughter and princess that her father failed to complete the arranged marriages which would have taken her away from England, so she is one of the few women in the play who have a strong sense of themselves as a valued woman.

**Thomas And William Stanley**

Brothers who manage a brilliant family tradition of joining opposite sides in any English battle so that the Stanleys are always on the winning side. They are so familiar and so close that they finish each other’s sentences and rarely need to speak at all. STANLEY is terrified that Richard has discovered the plot with Margaret and does – indeed – dive under the table. The Stanley brothers don’t care who wins at BOSWORTH but they want maximum profit, and it is better for them to save HENRY TUDOR than RICHARD.

**Set**

**For this performance our auditorium has changed into a staging configuration called ‘In the Round’.**

**This means that the audience will be sat surrounding the stage.**



**Please note: Within the show, actors will enter the auditorium in different manners to how they would usually.**

**Richard (Played by Kyle Rowe) will first appear from below the auditorium**

**History (Played by Tom Kanji) appears within the audience at certain moments in the play. These are commented on within the breakdown below.**

**Act One**

History introduces himself to the audience as Richard emerges from his grave. Richard does not realise what has happened to him, thinking he is still King of England. History shows him the record of his life and death and explains what has happened since as well as Richard’s bad reputation. Richard defends himself and History promises to review the record of his life.

*NOTE: loud sudden noises, music, flashing lights, characters moving through the audience throughout, characters expressing anger, stage haze / dry ice throughout.*

Richard’s brothers (Edward and George) enter, followed by Anne, who is angry that Richard has killed her father. However, she soon suggests that they marry and they have a private wedding. Edward kills the king so he can become King himself. To help the audience understand, History explains how everyone is connected to each other and who has killed who to gain power.

*NOTE: music, loud sudden noises*

Edward’s wife is pleased to be Queen, but is upset that her father and brother have been killed and that Anne is connected with their murderer. A hooded messenger appears and George discovers that his wife, Anne’s sister, is dead. He fears that the Queen has cursed her and insults her, so King Edward locks him in a tower and sentences him to death. Hooded figures depict drowning him.

NOTE: music, sound effects, characters expressing anger, fear and threat, scene depicting violence.

Margaret explains how her son could have a claim to the throne. King Edward is dying and makes his last requests, including that his brother Richard become guardian of his son until he is old enough to be King. The Queen wants her son to be crowned against her husband’s will and her son argues with Richard for his right to be King. Richard swears to crown him eventually, but puts him in a tower in the palace with his brother. He explains to History that this was to keep them safe rather than imprison them.

*NOTE: character moving through audience, music.*

Anne is sick and claims the Queen has cursed her. Meanwhile, Elizabeth, the Queen’s daughter, says she will marry anyone to protect her brothers. She considers marrying Margaret’s son, Henry Tudor, even though she does not trust Margaret.

*NOTE: characters expressing anger, fear and threat, music*

**Act Two**

Richard gives a speech as King. Meanwhile, Margaret and Buckingham plot to kill the princes in the tower, thinking that Richard will be blamed. Richard defends himself to History, explaining that he had no motive to kill the princes as he was already King. He then tells the Queen that her sons have mysteriously vanished from the tower and she curses whoever took them. Buckingham is killed, then Margaret is arrested by her own husband under suspicion.

*NOTE: characters moving through the audience throughout, loud noises, music, stage haze throughout.*

Richard’s son dies, and Anne, who is sick, tells Richard that he should remarry when she dies to gain an heir. She suggests Elizabeth, who then dresses in Anne’s robes. When Anne dies, Elizabeth marries Richard. History reminds Richard of the Battle of Bosworth; which Richard cannot remember as he knows it by another name.

*NOTE: music, loud noises.*

Richard puts on armour ready to fight, saying he was not afraid. We hear the sounds of battle as it is represented on stage by Richard tearing at the flags on poles. He remembers his death, and asks about his burial. History promises to honour him and grants him rest in peace.

*NOTE: loud noises, music, fight scene, characters expressing anger, fear, threat and sadness*