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MONMOUTH COLLEGE LITTLE THEATRE



Presents



R I C H A R D

III

by William Shakespeare

MARCH 3 - 4 - 5 - 7, 1960

BACKGROUND ON
RICHARD III

The War of the Roses was basically a struggle for the throne of England between two powerful families, both of which were descendants of Edward III. The symbol of the House of Lancaster was the red rose, that of the House of York the white rose — thus the struggle became known as the War of the Roses.

After the death of Richard II, Edward's grandson, the House of Lancaster held the rule through Henry IV, V, and VI. At the beginning of this play, Anne Neville is the widow of Edward, Henry VI's son, who has been killed in battle by the Duke of Clarence. Edward IV, of the House of York, has been ruling for more than twenty years and is dying. He has two young sons and an unmarried daughter. He also has two younger brothers — George, the Duke of Clarence; and Richard, the Duke of Gloucester. Before Richard can assert any claim to the throne, he must dispose of all the male descendants of Edward IV, his older brother (the Duke of Clarence, and the Duke's children) all of whom have previous claim.

The Earl of Richmond, who is Richard's strongest foe, is the grandson of Henry V's widow and a descendant of the House of Lancaster. When he eventually marries Elizabeth (the unmarried daughter of Edward IV referred to above), the two warring houses are finally united, and Richmond becomes Henry VII — the paternal grandfather of Shakespeare's Queen Elizabeth.

PROFESSOR BERNICE L. FOX,
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

SYNOPSIS OF RICHARD III

Act I

Richard, Duke of Gloucester, "cheated of feature by dissembling nature", is determined to be King of England. To reach his goal he must eliminate his dying brother, King Edward, Edward's children, and his older brother George, the Duke of Clarence. (Scene ii) Anne, widow of a Lancastrian prince, is courted by Richard, a York, while she laments over her husband's coffin. After Anne has left, Richard comes upon his brother George bound in chains with escort to the tower by the King's command. Richard tells George, the Duke of Clarence, that it is the Queen who is responsible for his imprisonment and bids him be patient for he, Richard, will plead for his release. Richard then encounters Hastings who has just been released from the tower. Hastings is told by Richard that it was the Queen who had him imprisoned. Hastings reveals to Richard that King Edward is dying. (Scene iii) Richard, persistent in his courtship, beguiles Anne with honeyed words so that she consents to his attention in spite of the fact that it was Richard who killed her husband. (Scene iv) In the presence of the Queen and her allies Richard declaims for the benefit of Lords Stanley, Buckingham and Hastings that the Queen is responsible for the King's attitude toward Clarence and Hastings. Feigning a Christian attitude and a child-like innocence Richard proclaims he would never desire the throne. The assembly is summoned to the King, leaving Richard behind to instruct the murderers he has hired to kill Clarence. (Scene v) Clarence is murdered.

Act II

(Scene i) The dying King Edward asks that the nobles make peace with each other and with the Queen. This done, Richard enters and swears his friendship to all present. When, however, he reveals that Clarence is dead, Edward is overcome with grief. Left alone Richard persuades Buckingham that the Queen and her allies are to be held responsible for Clarence's death. (Scene ii) King Edward is dead. The Queen and Richard's mother lament. Buckingham persuades the assembly to bring the prince to London for the coronation. Before departing with the rest Buckingham tells Richard that he plans to separate the Prince from the Queen. (Scene iii) The Queen with her other son, the Duke of York, is sent to sanctuary upon hearing that Richard and Buckingham have ordered the death of her brothers.

Act III

(Scene i) The Prince is welcomed to the castle. Hastings arrives with Stanley and explains that the Queen has taken sanctuary. Buckingham orders the Prince's brother, the Duke of York, be brought to the castle for he does not deserve sanctuary. Left alone Richard promises Buckingham a rich reward if he will persuade the citizens that Edward's two sons are illegitimate, so that he, Richard, will be the only legal heir to the throne. A messenger, Catesby, arrives and informs Richard that both princes are now in the tower. Catesby is sent by Buckingham to see if Hastings and Stanley will stand behind Richard as contender for the throne. (Scene ii) Catesby finds Hastings against Richard's contention. Stanley dreams that Richard has turned against both he and Hastings, but Hastings refuses to take the warning. (Scene iii) A council for the coronation of the prince is abandoned when Richard sentences Hastings to death for being a traitor. (Scene iv) Before the citizens Buckingham feignedly pleads with Richard to accept the crown. Richard pretends reluctance but accepts the gift and achieves his goal.

Act IV

(Scene i) Anne whom Richard has married goes unwillingly to be crowned Queen. Stanley sends Dorset, Edward's Queen's son by another marriage, to Richmond, heir to the throne of the Lancasters, and shows himself a false friend to Richard. Edward's widow goes to sanctuary; and Richard's mother to die. (Scene ii) Richard is crowned. To test Buckingham's loyalty he commands that the two children be killed. This is too much for the Lord. And as a result he is rejected by Richard without reward for his service. Richard then plots his wife's death so that he may marry Elizabeth, King Edward's daughter. He enlists the aid of a commoner to kill the children. (Scene iii) Buckingham flies to Richmond with letters from Stanley. (Scene iv) The Children are dead. Richard's throne is in danger. Richmond has landed with an army and Richard's enemies are in arms. News is received that Buckingham is captured. Richard sentences him to death.

Act V

(Scene i) Buckingham is led, disillusioned, to the block.
(Scene ii) Richard plans his attack.
(Scene iii) Richmond receives Stanley who has fled Richard in spite of his son's imprisonment.
(Scene iv) Richard dreams of death prophesied by the ghosts of his victims.
(Scene v) The battle begins.
(Scene vi) Richard dies at Richmond's hands.

RICHARD III

By

William Shakespeare

ADAPTED, DESIGNED, AND DIRECTED

BY

PARKER ZELLERS

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Richard, Duke of Gloucester.....*Parker Zellers
Duke of Buckingham.....*William Jahn
George, Duke of Clarence.....James Mudd
Lord Stanley.....Charles Edwards
Lord Hastings.....Terry Oggel
King Edward IV.....Lawrence Kuhn
Queen Elizabeth.....Mary Love
Lady Anne.....Patricia Hill
Duchess of York.....*Janette Sommers
Sir William Catesby.....David Couch
Sir Richard Ratcliff.....Raymond Walters
Henry, Earl of Richmond.....James McAllister
Earl Rivers.....Henry Rogers
Marquis of Dorset.....*Alan Campbell
Lord Grey.....Paul Kempin
Lord Lovel.....Gary Johnson
Duke of Norfolk.....*L. Victor Atchison
Prince of York.....Jane McAllister
Edward, Prince of Wales.....David Love
Archbishop of York.....Ronald Kenney
Tyrrel.....*Eugene Phillips
Murderer No. 1.....David Lauridsen
Murderer No. 2.....Donald Brannan
Duke of Ely.....Dennis Larson
Mayor of London.....Robert Patterson
Sir Robert Brackenbury.....Paul Amann
Stanley's Messenger.....Fred McDavitt
Guard.....Karl Cook
Ladies of the Court....Lynette Lyndrup, Juanita Teal, Jean Rasmusen,
Elizabeth Patterson
Soldier Messenger.....Stephen Smith
Monks.....Henry Rogers, Paul Kempin
Richmond's Officers....Willis Hubbard, Gordon Young, Jack Stankrauff
Citizens and Soldiers.....George Yeck, Dwight Smith, Karl Cook,
Eugene Dawson, Fred McDavitt, Jack
Stankrauff, Gordon Young, Willis Hub-
bard, Eugene Phillips, David Lauridsen.

* DENOTES MEMBERS OF NATIONAL COLLEGIATE PLAYERS

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT I

Scene 1: London. A street.
Scene 2: The same.
Scene 3: The same. A room in the palace.
Scene 4: The same. Another room in the palace.
Scene 5: The same. A prison cell in the Tower of London.

ACT II

Scene 1: London. A room in the palace.
Scene 2: The same. Another room in the palace.
Scene 3: The same. Another room in the palace.

ACT III

Scene 1: London. A street.
Scene 2: The same. Before Lord Hasting's House.
Scene 3: The same. A room in the Tower.
Scene 5: The same. A courtyard of Baynard's Castle.

INTERMISSION (10 MINUTES)

ACT IV

Scene 1: London. A room in the castle.
Scene 2: The same. Throne room in palace.
Scene 3: The same. Another room in the palace.
Scene 4: The same. Another room in the palace.

ACT V

Scene 1: Salisbury. An open place.
Scene 2: Bosworth Field.
Scene 3: Richard's Camp near Bosworth Field.
Scene 4: By King Richard's Tent.
Scene 5: Another part of field.
Scene 6: Another part of field.

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Vice-President..... Lawrence Kuhn
Secretary..... *Karen Sundberg
Business Manager..... Ronald Ihrig



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Directorial Assistance..... Robbin Lewis
Monmouth High School
Theatre Assistant..... William Jahn
Scenery and Lighting..... James Gibson
Lighting Assistant..... Ronald Ihrig
Music and Sound..... *William McKelvey
Original Drum selections..... David Lauridsen
Dueling Instruction..... Fred McDavitt
Costumes..... Hooker-Howe Costume Company,
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Make-Up..... Lawrence Kuhn
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Tickets..... Tamara Frazier, Ronald Ihrig
Program Cover..... Parker Zellers
Program..... Lawrence Kuhn

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Radio Station WRAM
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Monmouth College English Department
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FIRST NIGHTERS

March 2, 1960

SPONSORED BY

NATIONAL COLLEGIATE PLAYERS

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RICHARD III is probably the most challenging production ever to be presented at Monmouth; if not this then it is the largest. The cast members and production crews have put forth much effort to bring to you a quality production.

It has been five years since a Shakespearean play has been presented by Crimson Masque. We hope our efforts and your response will warrant the presentation of this type of drama more frequently.

On behalf of Crimson Masque I welcome you here tonight.

William Jahn,
President, Crimson Masque