

The Travesty of Richard III

Written*, produced, directed, performed and designed by
Ian Renshaw and Helen Manners

Costumes by
Helen Manners

Props and original music by
Ian Renshaw

Emergency direction by
Charlotte Bateup

*With a fair bit of input from
William Shakespeare

Our take on a classic Shakespearean tale...

The Bard's play, *The Tragedy of Richard III*, goes on for hours, is rich in historical complexity and requires a huge cast. Our interpretation, *The Travesty of Richard III*, goes on for an hour and a bit, is merely a tad confusing and has a cast of two.

What's going on?

It's the late 15th Century and the Royal Houses of York and Lancaster have been having a right barny for years, but now peace is on the horizon. Naughty Richard, Duke of Gloucester doesn't much like peace but does love a good bit of plotting, scheming and murdering. He also wants to claim the Crown of England - trouble is there's a whole load of pesky people in his way...

Who's who?

Played by Helen Manners

Queen Elizabeth Woodville: The wife of poorly-bad King Edward IV. They have three children - Teddy, Dick and little Lizzy.

Lady Anne Neville: A troubled young woman whose fiance and future father-in-law were slain by Richard; yet she ends up marrying him. As you do.

George, Duke of Clarence: The brother of Richard. He's a bit daft and things don't work out terribly well for him.

Lord Buckingham: The cunning, astute friend and ally of Richard. He's a bit trusting and things don't work out terribly well for him.

Richmond/Henry VII: Dashing and bold, Henry is Richard's nemesis and becomes the first Tudor king of England after his victory at the Battle of Bosworth. Hurrah!

Teddy and Dick: The famous "Princes in the Tower". Oh dear. Oh dear oh dear oh dear...

Some ghosts: Can't say whose ghosts - that'd be a spoiler..!

Played by Ian Renshaw

Queen Margaret d'Anjou: Powerless widow of King Henry VI. Watches everything and curses everyone. Generally cross. Disappointed in the lack of free booze.

Richard, Duke of Gloucester: The Yorkist son of Cicely, Duchess of York and brother of the reigning King, Edward IV, and the Duke of Clarence. Nasty chap.

Cicely, The Duchess of York: The elderly mother of Richard, Edward and George.

Edward IV: The reigning king. A benevolent, yet ailing man he is happily married to Queen Elizabeth Woodville.

The Murderer: A good-natured professional executioner who is delighted to meet George, the Duke of Clarence - and then kill him.

