

The South Carolina School of the Arts  
Department of Theatre and Dance Presents



**RICH  
ARD  
III**

BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

**Production Recording Dates:**

**Oct. 28 & 29, Nov. 3 & 4, 2020 - 7:30pm**

**Five Part Audio Podcast November 2 & 9, 2020**

**Free Online - Visit [richard3.schoolofthearts.com](http://richard3.schoolofthearts.com)**



# Richard III Synopses

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## Background

In one of the many installments of the Wars of the Roses, England's most infamous civil war, the York family has claimed the throne from the House of Lancaster. Richard, the Duke of Gloucester, the title character of our play, is the youngest of three sons of York. His older brother, Edward, currently holds the throne, but is very ill. Richard, who some say is deformed of body and mind, desires the throne for himself and uses every situation to that end. We should also note that, oddly enough, Queen Margaret, of the fallen House of Lancaster, has been given freedom to roam the halls of the palace, which she does like some deranged prophetess.

## Act I

As the play begins, Richard, Duke of Gloucester, encounters his brother, George, Duke of Clarence, who is being sent to prison by their older brother, King Edward. Richard pretends to be sympathetic to Clarence, but later arranges for his murder to ease his own pathway to the throne. In the next scene, Richard encounters Lady Anne Neville, who he desires to be his wife for political purposes. Even though he killed her husband and arranged for the death of her Father-in-Law, King Henry VI of Lancaster, he convinces Anne to marry him somehow with his silver tongue. Next, in a hall of the palace, King Edward's wife, Queen Elizabeth, expresses her concerns about Richard's aspirations for power, but the wily Duke claims that this is all nonsense and rumors. Unknown to all, as this conversation unfolds, Queen Margaret is hidden in the shadows. When the time is right, she reveals herself to curse them all. As the Act ends, murderers hired by Richard to kill his brother, Clarence, go about their dark business in the Tower of London.

## Act II

Understanding that he is seriously ill and possibly close to death, King Edward seeks to foster peace between the factions in his family and the royal court. Arriving late to their conference, Richard pretends to be open to peace but then blames Edward for the death of their brother, Clarence, even though he was the one who arranged for the murder. Edward, in great despair, dies shortly afterwards. The grieving Queen Elizabeth does not know how to proceed, but her family members, Rivers, Grey and Dorset encourage her to bring her son, Prince Edward, to London in order to preserve the royal lineage. Unfortunately, Lord Buckingham, one of Richard's allies, arranges to separate the young prince from his family on his way to London so they cannot protect him. Later, in another room of the palace, Queen Elizabeth and the Duchess

## Richard III Synopses (Cont.)

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### Act II (Cont.)

of York discuss their concerns. Prince Edward's brother, young York, is delightfully oblivious and playful. A messenger arrives with the news that Richard has had Elizabeth's family members, Rivers and Grey, imprisoned at Pomfret. With their safety threatened, the Queen and the Duchess decide to go into hiding in a church with young York.

### Act III

At this point in the play, Richard moves forward aggressively with his plans to take the throne. He greets the young prince Edward as the boy arrives in London and reunites him with his brother, young York, playing the loving uncle despite their suspicions of the young boys. Richard arranges to house the princes in the Tower of London where he plans to dispose of them later. After they are led away, Buckingham and Richard ask their accomplice, Catesby, to determine where the loyalty of Lord Chamberlain William Hastings lies. Catesby goes on a mission to Hastings's estate where he finds that Hastings would rather die than see Richard become King. Next, the scene changes to the Prison at Pomfret, where we learn that Richard has arranged for Queen Elizabeth's family members, Lord Rivers and Grey to be put to death.

The play continues in a conference room in the Tower of London where nobles are gathered to plan the coronation of the young Prince Edward. Richard uses the occasion to claim that Lord Hastings has treasonously bewitched him, causing him to be deformed. When none of the nobles oppose him, Richard demands the Lord Chamberlain's head. Now, with Hastings out of the picture, Richard must explain his absence to the rest of the government including the Lord Mayor of London. Accordingly, Richard, Lord Buckingham and their henchmen, Catesby and Ratcliffe, act out a great scene on the Tower walls pretending that Lord Hastings is attacking them with an army in order to convince the Mayor of Lord Hastings' treason. Finally, as the act ends, Richard must convince the people of London to crown him King. He encourages Buckingham to give a speech claiming that the young princes are illegitimate. When the people are unconvinced, he puts on a show of piety and refuses the crown until they demand that he agree to be King.

### Act IV

At the beginning of the act, the Duchess of York, Lady Anne and Queen Elizabeth receive the news that Richard is usurping the throne. Elizabeth is denied access to the young princes and expresses her fears for them. Lord Stanley arrives and orders Lady Anne to Westminster Cathedral to be

## Richard III Synopses (Cont.)

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### Act IV (Cont.)

crowned Queen. As the story continues, Richard tests Buckingham to see if he will support his plan to have the young princes killed. Buckingham hesitates, which angers Richard. He then asks his henchmen to find a murderer for hire.

As time passes, we learn that there is a rebellion against Richard being led by Henry Tudor, Earl of Richmond. We also learn that Queen Elizabeth's son, Dorset, has joined his forces. Richard realizes that he must marry Queen Elizabeth's daughter to secure his ties to the throne, so he puts out the word that Lady Anne is "sick" which means that he will have her killed. He also enlists a murderer named Tyrrel to dispose of the princes in the tower. Buckingham decides to ask Richard for the lands promised to him as a price for continuing to do his bidding, but the angry Richard ignores him. Buckingham realizes that he had better join the rebellion while he is still alive. Next, as the women of the palace grieve their losses, Richard interrupts them. Ironically, he asks for the hand of the young princess Elizabeth now that Lady Anne is dead. After scorning him, Queen Elizabeth seems to agree to the plan, although it is likely done out of a need for survival, and with a plan to mislead him. Finally, as the act comes to an end, Richard grows increasingly erratic as he learns of the enemy forces that are gathering to overthrow him.

### Act V

Now, the play takes us into the thick of battle. Richard's forces have captured Buckingham, and they put him to death without a word from his old ally. Next, at a camp near Tamworth, we meet Richard's opposition, Richmond Earl of Tudor, and feel the momentum of the forces building behind him. Soon, we are taken to Bosworth Field where Richard is setting up camp. Richard retires for the night, and, in a split soundscape, we hear Richmond at prayer and Richard tossing and turning with terrible nightmares. The ghosts of all those whom Richard has killed come to visit him in his dreams, pronouncing curses on him, but blessings on his enemy, Richmond. It seems that old Margaret's prophecies are finally coming to pass! As morning comes, the two commanders give speeches to their troops to inspire them. Finally, in the powerful conclusion to the play, Richard meets Richmond in battle. No summary is better than Shakespeare's words; so, for that, we encourage you to listen to the ending of the podcast!

## Director's Notes

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You have probably heard the famous line, "A horse, a horse! My kingdom for a horse!" but did you know that *Richard III* was written much earlier than *Hamlet* and is one of Shakespeare's most frequently performed and studied pieces? The "Richard" of the play's title is arguably the most grotesque yet charismatic protagonist of Shakespeare's canon. He has fascinated audiences for hundreds of years with his Machiavellian rise to power. The plot of the play could be described as Richard's slow seduction of those around him who are oblivious, fearful or ambitious. Seemingly good people sit by as he plays his ruthless game. In this podcast production, we create a rich soundscape to draw you into late 15th Century London during the Wars of the Roses.

The podcast will be divided into five parts that will be recorded live with a small studio audience. You are one of those audiences and we welcome you here tonight! Please understand that what you are getting tonight is a behind-the-scenes look at the creation of the podcast. It may be necessary for us to stop tonight and rerecord a section of dialogue or check a recording level. You are truly in on the process! After you hear the live recording, our designers will take the sound file, add music and sound effects, balance all the voices and create the final podcasts to be released on our website. Those podcast release dates are: Episodes 1-3 (Acts I, II, III) on November 2nd and Episodes 4-5 (Acts IV & V) on November 9th. There will also be a number of podcast extras such as interviews, character descriptions etc. available to make the experience that much richer. We hope you will help us spread the word about this podcast series. Our hope is that it will spread beyond the AU Community and be a help to teachers, students and Shakespeare lovers across the country.

## Cast (In Order of Appearance)

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Richard III.....	Noah Thomas
Clarence/King Edward IV.....	Sam Perry
Brakenbury/Narrator, Episode I.....	Lydia Seremba
Hastings.....	Tristan Dupee
Lady Anne.....	Laurel Moran
Rivers/Narrator, Episode III.....	Michaela Newton
Queen Elizabeth.....	Lydia Clark
Buckingham.....	Nathan Trementozzi
Queen Margaret/Stanley/ Narrator, Episode V.....	Christian Woodall
First Murderer.....	Garrett Grounds
Second Murderer.....	Liam Brenzel
Duchess of York.....	Alexis Morehead
Young York.....	Claire Mann
Bishop of Ely/Lord Mayor.....	Lynzë Randlett
Prince Edward.....	Susana Brucker
Catesby.....	Hollyann Gardner
Ratcliffe.....	Addie Wiggins
Tyrrel.....	Josh Beck
Richmond.....	Austin Dowling
Dorset/Second Guard/ First Messenger/Narrator, Episode II.....	Trae Dubay
Grey/Captain Blunt/Second Messenger/ Second Guard/Narrator, Episode IV.....	Seth Furr
Herbert/Third Messenger/Gentleman.....	Annalee Armour

# Richard III Character Descriptions

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## Queen Margaret

Widow of King Henry VI, the king before Edward IV. Her husband, Henry VI, along with her children, were murdered by Richard's family. She hates Richard for the actions his family did to her and Richard's desire to destroy the house of Lancaster. In a highly charged scene, she curses the members of the House of York and its supporters for what they have done to her family.



## Duchess of York

Mother of King Edward IV, Clarence, and Richard, grandmother to Richard of York and Prince Edward. She is highly protective of Queen Elizabeth and her children. She curses Richard's actions throughout the play.



## King Edward IV

The King of England. He is Clarence and Richard's older brother, married to Queen Elizabeth, and father to Young Elizabeth, Prince Edward, and Richard of York. Initially involved in the scheme to overthrow the Lancasters, during his reign, he seeks peace between the two factions.



## Clarence

Also known as George, Duke of Clarence. The middle child between Edward IV and Richard. Richard disposes of him to ease personal access to the throne. He leaves behind his wife and two children, not mentioned in the play.



## Richard

Also known as the Duke of Gloucester. He is the youngest child with a passionate and villainous desire to become king. As Shakespeare wrote him, his deformed body represents his deformed soul. He manipulates each situation for personal political benefit; he will stop at nothing to gain the throne and rid England of the Lancaster regime.



## Buckingham

Richard's cousin and the ever-loyal accomplice to Richard's schemes. His characteristics often reflect those of Richard himself, but eventually, Buckingham reaches his limits on how far he will go to make Richard king.

# Richard III Character Descriptions (Cont.)

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## Queen Elizabeth

Also known as Lady Gray. She is the wife of King Edward IV and mother to Young Elizabeth, Prince Edward, and Richard of York. Richard views her as an enemy because she is the mother to three heirs of the throne, and she vocally objects to his rise to power.



## Young Elizabeth

Oldest child of King Edward IV and Queen Elizabeth and niece to Richard. She does not speak in the play but is utilized as a political pawn. She is married to Richmond after the events of the play for the political purpose of uniting the York and Lancaster houses.



## Prince Edward

Middle child of King Edward IV and Queen Elizabeth and nephew to Richard. He is the rightful heir to the throne after King Edward IV's death. Richard has him disposed of to gain easy access to the throne.



## Richard of York

Youngest child of King Edward IV and Queen Elizabeth and nephew to Richard. Richard has him disposed of to gain easy access to the throne.



## Dorset

Son of Queen Elizabeth, from a previous marriage, and a member of Elizabeth's court. The only member of the Dorest-Rivers-Gray trio to survive Richard's schemes.



## Rivers

Brother of Queen Elizabeth, from a previous marriage, and a member of Elizabeth's court.



## Gray

Son of Queen Elizabeth, from a previous marriage, and a member of Elizabeth's court.



## Lady Anne

Widow of Prince Edward, son of King Henry VI and Queen Margaret. Anne despises Richard for the harm he has brought onto her family, but for political reasons, she is persuaded to marry him.



# Richard III Character Descriptions (Cont.)

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## Ratcliffe

A close confidant to Richard and accomplice to his plan. He carries out the execution of Rivers, Gray, and Vaughn. He is not killed by Richard, but dies in the battle at the end of the play.



## Catesby

A close confidant to Richard and accomplice to his plan. He too is not killed by Richard, but dies in captivity after the battle at the end of the play.



## Tyrrel

The murderer Richard hires to carry out the deaths of Richard of York and Prince Edward. Tyrrell murders the two boys in the Tower of London.



## Stanley

Also known as the Earl of Derby. He is the step-father of Richmond. Carefully watched by Richard, he seeks to assist Richmond in regaining the throne for the house of Lancaster.



## Richmond

The foil to Richard, he represents everything Richard is not. He is a member of the Lancaster family and challenges Richard's ascension to the throne.



## Hastings

A lord in Edward IV's court. He trusts Richard to a degree, but also remains loyal to the dead king. He would prefer to see the young Prince Edward ascend to the throne. Richard eventually has him killed (via a false charge of treason) to ease his usurpation of the throne.



## Brakenbury

A close friend of Richard and Lieutenant of the Tower where Clarence and the young princes are killed. He follows the letter of the law. He is killed in the battle at the end of the play.



## Lord Mayor of London

A pawn in Richard's plot to become king.

# Production Team

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Director .....	Robert Homer-Drummond
Assistant Director.....	Davy Grace McGuirt
Stage Manager .....	Alison Duffy
Technical Director .....	Dalton Cole
Director of Production .....	Cara Wood
Sound Supervisor/Original Music.....	Mark Eshenbaugh
Post-production Sound Editor .....	Ryan Oliver
Scenic Designers .....	Regan Densmore, Hannah Henriques
Lighting Designer.....	Jenna Grigsby
Sound Assistant.....	Joshua Senter
Dramaturg .....	Lynzë Randlett
Assistant Stage Manager .....	Hannah Henriques
House Managers.....	Areanna Kroll, Addie Wiggins, Lindy McCloy
Theatre & Dance Department Manager .....	Wayne Gropp
Theatre & Dance Marketing Coordinator.....	Dr. David Sollish
Marketing Team Leader.....	John Verzwylvelt
Marketing Team .....	Grayson Anthony, Christina Boothe Kelsey Crews, Alison Duffy & Abigail Parker Brown
Box Office Manager.....	Lynn Guthrie
Light Board Operator .....	Abbigail Askew
Promotional Graphic Designers .....	Nathan Spainhour, Ashley Stone
Print Services.....	Caroline Cothran, Kristin Fereira

# The South Carolina School of the Arts Staff

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Dean.....	David Larson
Associate Dean .....	Jo Carol Mitchel-Rogers
Chair, Department of Music.....	David Perry
Chair, Department of Art.....	Michael Marks
Chair, Department of Theatre & Dance.....	David Sollish
Administrative Assistant .....	Lynn Guthrie
Rainey Fine Arts Center Technical Director.....	Cory Rutledge



## Oxford Theatre Scholarship

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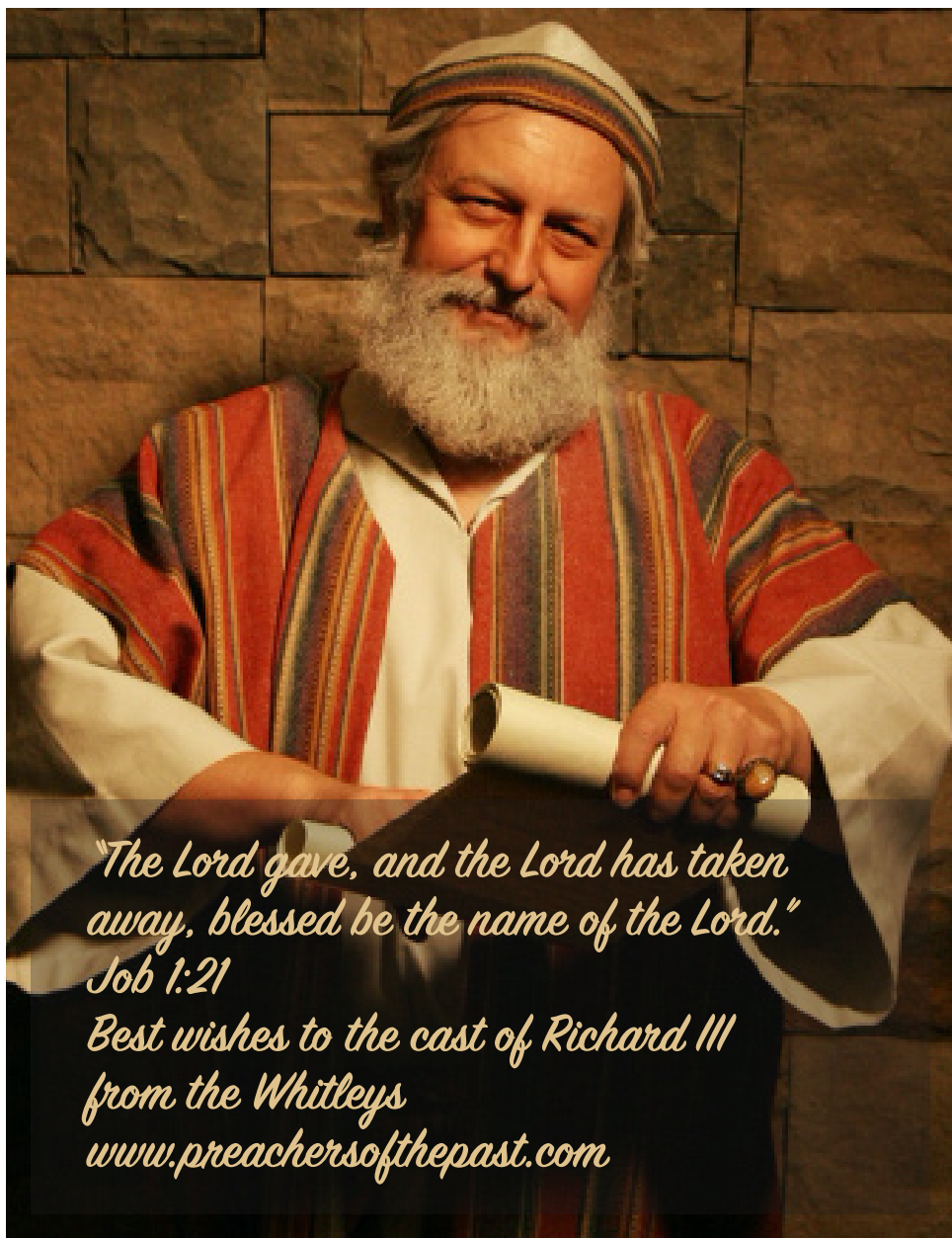
Each of our productions is entered into the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (KCACTF). Through this event, two students are chosen per production to compete with other students in the KCACTF Irene Ryan Acting Competition. With each competition, registration, hotel, food and travel expenses are needed for the students. Ms. Denise Oxford sponsors the students who attend the competition. Without her generosity, students would be unable to participate. Thank you, Ms. Oxford, for your kind donation to our department, which allows us the opportunity to take part in KCACTF.



**The  
Kennedy  
Center**

This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KCACTF representative and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, directors, dramaturgs, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Last year more than 1,500 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.



*"The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord."*

*Job 1:21*

*Best wishes to the cast of Richard III  
from the Whitleys*

*[www.preachersofthepast.com](http://www.preachersofthepast.com)*

## Special Thanks

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Special thanks go out to Dr. Evans Whitaker, Dr. Ryan Neal, Campus Safety, Jody Bryant and the Guest Services Team, and the AU Facilities Team for enabling and coordinating the campus aspects of this production. We also want to thank Mark Eshenbaugh for going above and beyond!

*The*  
**WOMEN**  
*of*  
**LOCKERBIE**

**RICH  
ARD  
III**

**DANCE  
SHOW  
CASE**

**XANADU**

*Spring Dance  
Concert*

*Sunday*  
IN THE  
PARK WITH  
*George*

## **The 2020–2021 Theatre & Dance Season**

### **The Women of Lockerbie**

**By Deborah Brevoort**

**Directed by Mary Nickles**

Sept. 23–26, 2020 @ 7:30pm

### **Richard III**

**By William Shakespeare**

**Directed by Robert Homer-Drummond**

Audio Podcast Starting Nov. 2, 2020

[richard3.schoolofthearts.com](http://richard3.schoolofthearts.com)

### **Dance Showcase**

Nov. 19–20, 2020 | 7:30pm

### **Xanadu**

**Book by Douglas Carter Beane**

**Music & Lyrics by Jeff Lynne & John Farrar**

**Directed by Dr. David S. Sollish**

Feb. 10–13, 2021 @ 7:30pm

Feb. 13 @ 2:00pm

### **Spring Dance Concert**

Mar. 18–19, 2021 @ 7:30pm

### **Sunday in the Park with George**

**Book by James Lapine**

**Music & Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim**

**Directed by Dr. David S. Sollish**

Apr. 16–18, 2021 @ 7:30pm