

Cast List (by order of appearance)

Charlie Bell—RICHARD, Duke of Gloucester, later King Richard III
Steve Burch—George, Duke of CLARENCE
Nic Helms—Sir BRAKENBURY; Lord RIVERS; LORD MAYOR of London
Angeline Morris—Lady ANNE; William Lord HASTINGS; Second Murderer
Hannah Clayton—Queen ELIZABETH; the Earl of RICHMOND
Cordelia Ross—Lord GREY; Duke of YORK; Boy, a page; Second Messenger
Mark Hulse—Duke of BUCKINGHAM
Deborah Parker—Queen MARGARET, First Messenger
Ashley Arrington—Sir William CATESBY
Hope McNamee—First Murderer; King EDWARD IV; Edward, PRINCE of Wales;
James TYRREL; Third Messenger
Exa Skinner—DUCHESS OF YORK
Tyler Sasser—Lord STANLEY, Earl of Derby

Adapted and directed by Angeline Morris
Assistant directed by Nic Helms
Poster by Angel Greene

The War of the Roses: A Brief Background

Shakespeare's plays *1, 2, and 3 Henry VI* and *Richard III* lay out the events during the War of the Roses. This famous conflict, set into motion a generation earlier by Henry Bolingbroke, Duke of Lancaster overthrowing the king, Richard II, led to a division among the nobility as to who the true heir to the throne should be: the House of Lancaster or the House of York. Both claim descentance from Edward III, who fathered several children. This leads to a civil war in England, as the Yorks (symbolized by a white rose) and the Lancasters (symbolized by a red rose) fight over the title. Chaos ensues. The Duke of York and one of his sons, Rutland, are both killed by Henry VI's queen, Margaret, who fights to protect her son Edward's claim to the throne. York's sons, Edward, George, and Richard, briefly defeat Margaret, and Edward is crowned king; his reign is short, however, as the Earl of Warwick, known as the Kingmaker, throws his support to Lancaster, marries his daughter Anne to Prince Edward, and overthrows the Yorks. Edward escapes, and eventually Henry VI is captured and placed in the Tower, where he dies under mysterious circumstances. Margaret is exiled to France, and Warwick and Prince Edward are killed. Edward takes as his queen a widow, known to history as Elizabeth Woodville; together, they oversee a peaceful England, which becomes a flourishing home for the arts.

Richard III begins during the waning days of Edward's reign. Shakespeare's Richard, heavily based on a piece of pro-Tudor propaganda written by Sir Thomas More, is evil and malevolent, willing to murder his nephews and his wife and marry his niece to secure his place on the throne of England. Interest in Richard III has never really died – scholars and authors remain fascinated by his life and legacy. This has only been increased by the discovery of Richard's remains in 2012 underneath a carpark in Leicester. This discovery allowed scientists and historians to discover that, contrary to Shakespeare's portrayal, Richard suffered from scoliosis, with one shoulder slightly higher than the other. His remains are now buried in Leicester Cathedral.

Scenes in *Richard III*

1.1 – RICHARD reveals his plans to the audience, and talks with his brother George, Duke of CLARENCE and his guard, BRAKENBURY, about Clarence's arrest.

1.2 – ANNE mourns the deaths of Henry VI and her husband, Edward, Prince of Wales. RICHARD appears and, after a lengthy conversation, convinces her to marry him.

1.3 – The royal court – Queen ELIZABETH, her brother RIVERS, her son from her first marriage, GREY, and the Duke of BUCKINGHAM – discuss their concern for the health of the king, EDWARD IV. RICHARD and HASTINGS appear, with Richard accusing Elizabeth for Clarence's arrest. MARGARET appears, and lays a curse on the members of the court before disappearing. CATESBY calls Elizabeth and the court to the king; RICHARD remains, meeting TWO MURDERERS he has hired to kill Clarence.

1.4 – CLARENCE tells BRAKENBURY of his horrible dream. Clarence falls asleep, and the TWO MURDERERS appear and give Brakenbury a note proving they were sent by the king. Brakenbury leaves, and the two murderers discuss whether or not to kill Clarence. Clarence wakes up and the murderers kill him, taking the body with them.

2.1 – EDWARD IV, who is sick, brokers peace among his court, and asks ELIZABETH, HASTINGS, RIVERS, GREY, and BUCKINGHAM to be friends. RICHARD appears and announces Clarence's death, which surprises everyone. Edward mourns his brother's death.

2.2 – The DUCHESS OF YORK and BUCKINGHAM talk about the king's illness. ELIZABETH, RIVERS, and GREY appear, and tell them that Edward has died. RICHARD and HASTINGS enter, and Richard appears to mourn the loss of his brother. Richard and Buckingham plan to bring the young PRINCE, now the new king, to London.

2.4 – ELIZABETH and the DUCHESS discuss their excitement about the impending arrival of the PRINCE. GREY appears and informs them that Rivers has been arrested. ELIZABETH makes the decision to go into sanctuary.

3.1 – The PRINCE, accompanied by RICHARD, BUCKINGHAM, and CATESBY, makes his entrance into London. HASTINGS appears and tells them that Elizabeth has taken sanctuary with the Prince's younger brother, the Duke of York. He quickly returns again with YORK, who reunites with his brother. The two princes are escorted to the Tower. Meanwhile, Richard, Buckingham, and Catesby try to sound out who might support Richard in his attempt to claim the throne.

3.2 – HASTINGS and CATESBY talk about the possibility of Richard taking the throne.

3.3 – RIVERS is executed

3.4 – HASTINGS, BUCKINGHAM, and STANLEY discuss the possible dates for the Prince's coronation. RICHARD and CATESBY appear; Richard declares that Elizabeth has used magic to wither his arm, and arrests Hastings for defending her. Hastings is then led to his execution.

3.7 – RICHARD and BUCKINGHAM plan a trick to convince the people of London to approve him becoming king. Buckingham is joined by the LORD MAYOR, who sends messages to Richard by CATESBY about his becoming king. Richard eventually appears, and agrees to be king.

4.1 – ANNE, ELIZABETH, GREY, and the DUCHESS run into each other as they all make their way to the Tower to visit the Prince and York. They are barred from entering by BRAKENBURY, who tells them they are not permitted in by Richard. STANLEY enters, and tells Anne that she is now queen and Richard is king; as Anne bemoans her state, Elizabeth tells Grey to flee to France, where Richmond, Stanley's stepson and a Lancaster heir, is in exile.

4.2 – RICHARD is now king; he tries to sound out BUCKINGHAM's support by asking him what he thinks of getting rid of the Prince and York, who are threats to his throne. Buckingham says he needs time to think; Richard summons a BOY, who tells him about TYRREL, a man willing to do anything necessary. STANLEY enters and tells Richard about Grey's escape to France. Richard asks CATESBY to tell people that Anne is sick and will likely be dead soon. Richard and Tyrrel plan the murder of the princes in the Tower, and Tyrrel departs. Buckingham returns, asking for the land and title Richard had promised him. Richard is engrossed in his own fears, and scolds Buckingham, who decides he must fight back.

4.3 – TYRREL tells Richard about the murder of the princes. CATESBY tells Richard that Buckingham has mustered an army and plans to fight against Richard.

4.4 – MARGARET appears and watches as ELIZABETH and the DUCHESS weep over the deaths of the princes. Margaret then confronts them, and points out the parallels between her story and their own, claiming it as a just revenge. Margaret leaves. RICHARD appears, and the Duchess curses him to die in battle. Elizabeth tries to follow the Duchess, but Richard holds her back, and tells her that he wants to marry her daughter, also named Elizabeth. Elizabeth finally leaves to go convince her daughter to marry Richard. STANLEY arrives, telling Richard that Richmond is sailing to England. Richard questions Stanley's loyalty. THREE MESSENGERS arrive with news from the battlefield. CATESBY also appears, to tell Richard that Buckingham has been arrested and Richmond has landed in England.

5.1 – BUCKINGHAM is executed

5.3 – RICHARD and CATESBY prepare for the Battle of Bosworth. RICHMOND and STANLEY do the same. Richard and Richmond fall asleep and are greeted by a procession of ghosts – CLARENCE, RIVERS, HASTINGS, the PRINCE, YORK, ANNE, and BUCKINGHAM – who have all been victims of Richard's actions. They each, in turn, curse Richard and bless Richmond. Richard wakes up and is horrified by his experience with the ghosts. Catesby returns to help Richard prepare for battle. Richmond wakes up refreshed and gives a stirring speech to his troops with Stanley by his side. Richard does the same for his troops. Richard is informed by a MESSENGER that Stanley refuses to come to his aid. The battle begins. Richard loses his horse, and Catesby goes to fetch another. Richmond and Richard fight; Richard dies. Richmond is crowned by Stanley and named the victor.

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RICHARD III



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