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This production is made possible by the following program partners,

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Your tax-deductible gift to CYS will help us continue providing Shakespeare learning programs and performance opportunities for young artists across Chicagoland.

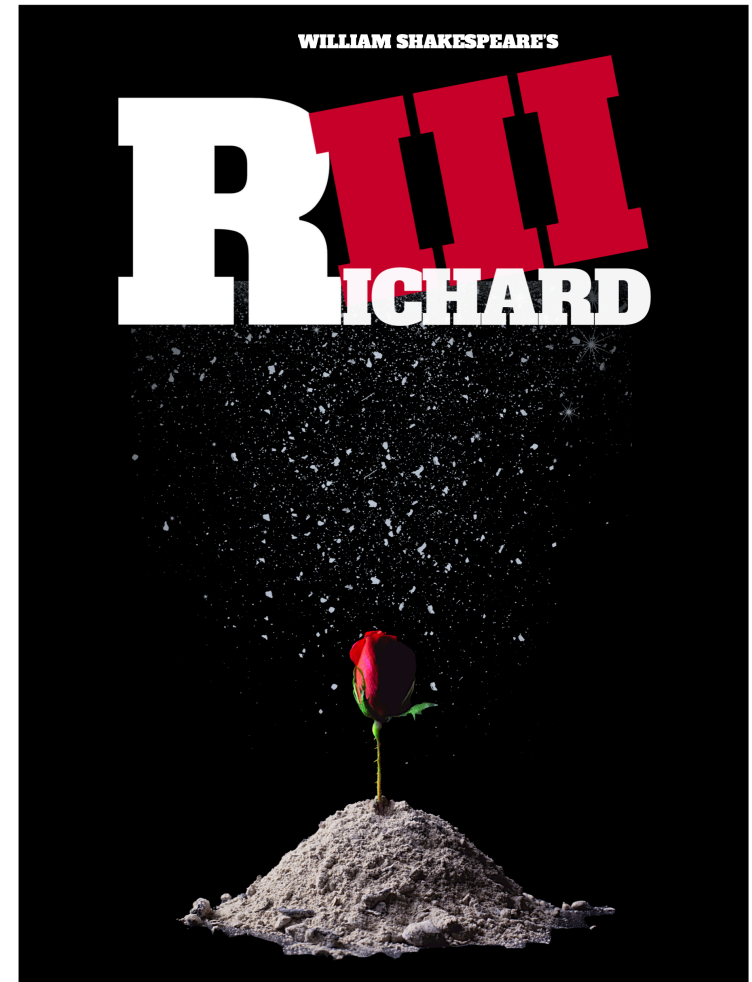
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CHICAGO YOUTH SHAKESPEARE PRESENTS



JANUARY 24 - FEBRUARY 9, 2020

FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS AT 7:30PM

SUNDAYS AT 3:00PM



THE ENSEMBLE

Richard, Duke of Gloucester, Sonia Zartman
George, Duke of Clarence / Ratcliffe, Siah Berlatsky
Brakenbury / Grey / Young York / Messenger, Saul Garza
Hastings / Blunt / Tyrrel, Katie D'Ambrosio
Buckingham, Caelan Reeves
Lady Anne / Dorset / Oxford, Enama Samuels
Queen Elizabeth, Dar Anderson
Rivers / Bishop of Ely / Mayor / Messenger, Andrew Feingold-Fisher
Stanley / First Murderer / Boy, Olivia Pastor
Queen Margaret, Lily Linz
Edward IV / Cardinal / Sir Christopher / Messenger / Page, Ara Bonsignore
Catesby / Second Murderer / Girl, Dream Drummer
Duchess of York / Norfolk, Esther Segal
Prince Edward / Richmond / Messenger, Kira Imowitz

Understudies: Lauren Marut (Elizabeth, Duchess), Kevin Johnson (Richard, Hastings), Sarah Bell (Queen Margaret), Siah Berlatsky (Buckingham), Esther Segal (Ratcliffe), Enama Samuels (Stanley), Olivia Pastor (Lady Anne)

CONTRIBUTING ARTISTS & STAFF

Sarah Liz Bell, Artistic Staff
 Joseph Blakey, Artistic Apprentice
 Sophia Carlin, Visiting Youth Artist
 Kevin Johnson, Fight Choreographer / Contributing Artist
 Eva Oney, Lighting & Sound Design / Production Manager
 Jeremy Ohringer, Visiting Guest Artist
 Ashleigh Pastor, Production Photography
 Olivia Pastor, Costume Design
 Evelyn Reidy, Director of Communications / Lead Artistic Staff
 Manon Spadaro, Artistic Director

To view cast and contributing artists bios, please visit:

<http://bit.ly/RIIIArtists> or scan the QR Code



THE PLAY

Richard III is the final play in Shakespeare's tetralogy about the War of the Roses, a bloody power struggle for the English throne between the Houses of York and Lancaster that lasted over 30 years. Like many of Shakespeare's villains, (and other notorious tyrants throughout history), Richard is a master manipulator. He climbs his way to the top on a ladder of lies, deception, and murder — forsaking family, friends, God, and country in the process. With so much political intrigue, family drama, and backstabbing (both literal and metaphorical!) to keep track of, we have provided a handy "RIII Cheat Sheet" with a short timeline of events in the play, along with some characters to look out for.

Runtime: 1 hr 45 min.

There will be one 10-minute intermission

OUR PROCESS

CYS Ensemble productions reflect a uniquely collaborative process that puts young artists in the driver's seat. Staff and visiting artists provide training, guidance, and direction, while giving our young actors and contributing youth artists the opportunity to make creative discoveries and decisions together. *Richard III* is Shakespeare's second-longest play, with an original cast of over 50 characters. In our production, 14 amazing young performers will courageously take on this behemoth of a story. We hope you enjoy the show!

ABOUT CYS

Chicago Youth Shakespeare (CYS) is six-year-old nonprofit organization dedicated to putting Shakespeare in the hands of teenagers. CYS provides innovative educational outreach programs and performances that connect young adults across Chicagoland with Shakespeare and with each other. We are committed to providing a safe space for students of all backgrounds, and to fostering a diverse community of creative and compassionate global citizens.

The CYS Ensemble is our flagship program and the city of Chicago's only professional youth Shakespeare company. Featuring the collaborative work of a diverse ensemble of talented young artists, CYS productions seek to reimagine Shakespeare's stories through a contemporary and undeniably youthful lens. To learn more about CYS programs and events, please visit:

chicagoyouthshakespeare.org

RIII Cheat Sheet

- When the play begins, the House of York is in power, **King Edward IV** sits on the throne, and the warring factions are at peace, at least for the moment. **Richard, Duke of Gloucester**, is not content, though. Determined to gain the crown from his brother Edward, Richard sets up his other brother, **George, Duke of Clarence** to be imprisoned for treason.
- Richard next moves to seduce **Lady Anne**, even though he killed her husband, (Prince Ned, son of **Queen Margaret**) and her father-in-law, (King Henry VI). Queen Margaret, who has technically been banished from England following Richard's murder of her husband King Henry VI, sees Richard's treachery and curses the nobles who still associate with him.
- King Edward orders his wife's **Queen Elizabeth's** family and his own family and friends to reconcile, and Richard plays the part, counterfeiting happiness at the reconciliation. However, he also delivers the news that their brother Clarence has been executed hastily by Edward's order (although the assassination was actually carried out by **two murderers** hired by Richard).
- Following Clarence's death, the sickly and guilt-ridden Edward dies, establishing Richard as Lord Protector over his two young sons until the older Prince is old enough to rule. This is much to the dismay of Edward's widow, Queen Elizabeth and her family members **Rivers and Grey**.
- With the help of his loyal side-kick, the **Duke of Buckingham**, Richard has his nephews (often referred to as the **Two Princes**) confined to the Tower of London, presumably for their safety.
- To further his plan, Richard orders the executions of Elizabeth's relatives, Rivers and Grey, along with **Lord Hastings**, a faithful friend of Richard's that he nevertheless distrusts. Meanwhile, Buckingham spreads rumors about the legitimacy of Edward's sons, implying they are not the true sons of King Edward, and ultimately persuades the **Lord Mayor** and the wary citizens of London that Richard should be king. While Richard, pretending to be a holy and pious man, originally denies the crown, he is "convinced" by Buckingham and accepts the role.
- Following his coronation, Richard continues to worry about the **Earl of Richmond's** growing popularity and claim to the throne. Richard spreads rumors that his wife Lady Anne is gravely ill, and orders Buckingham to oversee the execution of the young princes in the Tower. This is the last straw for Buckingham, who attempts to raise an army against Richard, but is ultimately captured and also killed.
- After Anne's death, Richard attempts to solidify his title by marrying his young niece, Elizabeth of York, (daughter of Edward IV and Queen Elizabeth). What he doesn't know is that Elizabeth has secretly promised her daughter to Henry, Earl of Richmond, in hopes that Richmond will ascend the throne and her daughter will be his Queen. Both Elizabeth and Richard's mother, the **Duchess of York**, curse Richard and pray for his demise, inspired by the curses of Queen Margaret.
- Richmond's forces advance and the two armies meet at Bosworth. Richard is joined by loyal followers **Stanley, Ratcliff, and Norfolk**. The night before the battle Richard is haunted by the ghosts of his victims, who promise his defeat and Richmond's victory. Richard dies in battle and Richmond is named **King Henry VII** of England. The play ends with Henry's announcement that he will marry Elizabeth of York, uniting the Houses of Lancaster and York once and for all.