

GENESIAN THEATRE PRESENTS

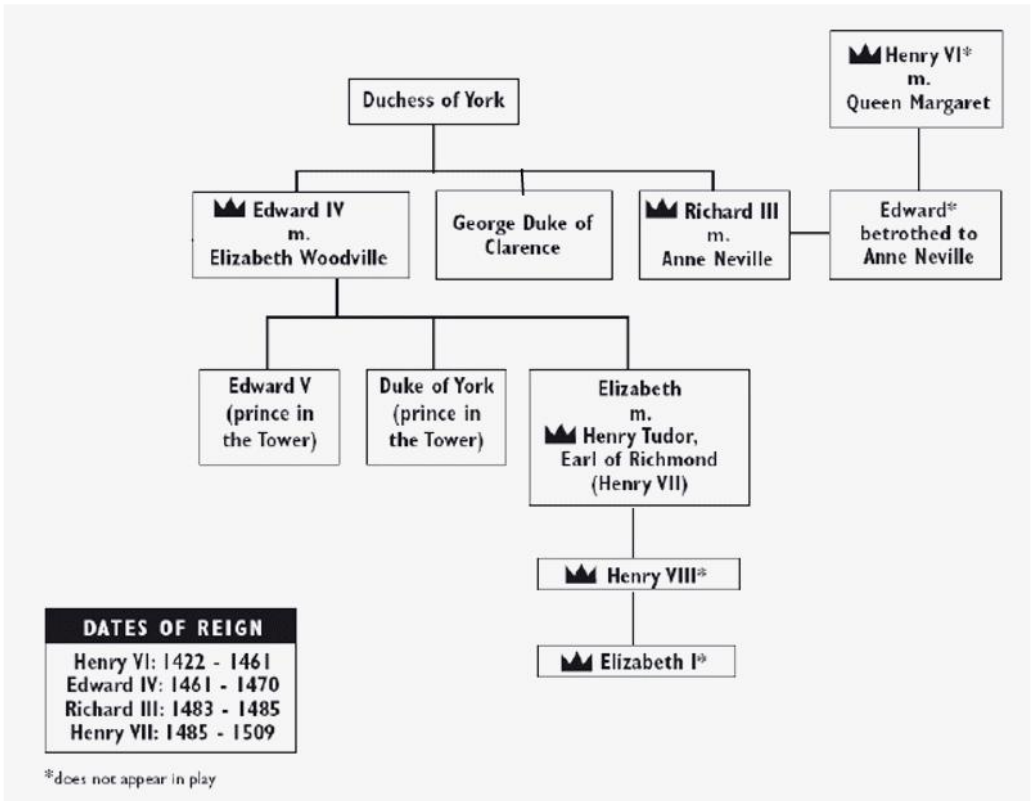
William Shakespeare's

Richard

III

Opening March 8th 2013

Richard III – The Last Plantagenet King



The Wars of the Roses were a series of dynastic battles fought over a thirty year period between the Yorks and the Lancasters, rival branches of the House of Plantagenet. The last of the Lancaster Kings was King Henry VI and the play begins when Henry has been defeated and replaced by Edward IV from the House of York.

Edward IV is married to the ambitious Queen Elizabeth who has elevated her own family to positions of power in court including her brother (Lord Rivers) and her son from a previous marriage (The Earl of Dorset).

At the opening of the play, Richard of Gloucester – the king's youngest brother – sets his sights on becoming king – but his two brothers and their children all come before him in the natural line of succession. The play charts Richard's rise to power and subsequent defeat in battle at the hands of Richmond – who was to become Henry VII, England's first Tudor king.

Richard III - Director's Notes

In late 2012 I was offered the opportunity to come back to Australia to direct *Richard III* for Genesian Theatre. At almost exactly the same time a body was unearthed under a Leicester car park, about thirty miles from my Northampton home. That body turned out to be the remains of Richard III. Sometimes there is a mysterious synergy in the universe.

Richard III was the last of the Plantagenet kings, the last English monarch to die in battle and one of the most controversial figures in English history. Shakespeare's play (the fourth part of the Wars of the Roses tetralogy – which also includes *Henry VI*, parts 1-3) has been criticised as historically inaccurate. This is hardly surprising given the sources available at the time and really rather misses the point, because it was never intended to be a history lesson. If you want to find out about the historical character, read a history book; if you want to see a thrilling depiction of the rise and fall of a tyrant, see Shakespeare's play. The play is a heady mix of tragedy, comedy morality tale and political thriller; it is touching, macabre, violent and tender in equal measure.

We have set our production in late 14th century England – a time, like the 1480s, when England is recovering from the ravages of a major war, a time of mourning and celebration. This is a period that feels familiar yet distant, a history that we can almost touch. It feels like an appropriate setting for our tale of the ravages of war and the rise and fall of a tyrant.

I am delighted to be back at Genesian after a decade away and thrilled that it's *Richard III* that has brought me back. Much has changed in the ten years since I last worked at this great little theatre, but what hasn't changed is the commitment, dedication and warmth of the Genesian family. It has been a privilege to work with so many talented people on this production and I hope that the fruits of our labour will engage and entertain you.

Gary

Gary Dooley is a writer, researcher and academic, currently based in Northampton, England. He has published two books on classical theatre for young actors. He has directed plays in Australia, England and the USA and specialises in the classics, particularly Shakespeare. This is his third major play for Genesian Theatre, where he also directed *King Lear* (2003) and *The Merry Wives of Windsor* (2002).



Roger Gimblett (*Richard, Duke of Gloucester*) Roger last appeared for the Genesians as Robert Scott in *Terra Nova*. Previous roles include Malvolio in *Twelfth Night*, Soames in *The Forsythe Saga*, Toad in *The Wind in the Willows* and Siegfried Sassoon in the WWI drama, *Not About Heroes*. The hump is not his own.



Daniel Hitchings (*Young York*) Daniel is new to the Genesians and to theatre itself. Having worked as a musician, magician and Lego designer he is thrilled to be exploring new creative avenues through this play.



Jenny Jacobs (*Duchess of York*) Jenny is a volunteer English teacher who over time has worked in children's and musical theatre and for the Genesians has performed in *Enchanted April*, *The House of Bernada Alba* and some great workshops.



Michael Jones

(*Brakenbury/Ratcliffe*) Michael hails from Nth. Queensland where he was raised on a diet of plays and musicals. This is his first play at the Genesians.



Lilianna Komljenovic (*Young Edward*) Lilianna feels privileged to be gracing the Genesian stage again after performing in *The Wind in the Willows*, *The Tempest*, *Great Expectations* and *Charley's Aunt*. The audience is encouraged to count the number of characters she plays in this classic.



Elizabeth MacGregor (*Queen Elizabeth*) Elizabeth hails from Adelaide, where she spent many years in plays, musical theatre and operetta. For the Genesians, she recently appeared as Myers in *Witness for the Prosecution*.



Patrick Magee (*Dorset/Murderer/Richmond/Ely*) This is Patrick's third play for the Genesians, and after travels and travails abroad he is back for good. When not taking up as many roles as possible he is working on his difficult second novel.



Dominic McDonald (*Buckingham*) Dominic has been an actor since before the demise of the red telephone box. When not seeking public validation he teaches film, and he tailors for the Navy.

Hailey McQueen

(*Lady Anne*) Since graduating with a Bachelor of Theatre Performance in 2002 Hailey has enjoyed many roles in theatre and film. This is her first performance with the Genesians.



Meg Mooney (*Queen Margaret*) Meg has performed for the Genesians since joining in 1997. Apart from theatre her other passion is writing and she is currently attempting to write a crime novel.



Mark Nagle (*Edward IV/Lord Mayor/Tyrrel/Blunt/Citizen*) After drama school and travels abroad Mark returned to Sydney some 20 years on. His last appearance at the Genesians was as General Tilney in Jane Austen's *Northanger Abbey*.



Sam Ryan (*Hastings*) This is Sam's second Genesian production having played Lt. Bowers in *Terra Nova*. Other productions he has appeared in include *Les Miserables* and *Cats* for MMS and *The Crucible*, *Don's Party* for LPAE and *Peter Pan* for Atmosphere.



Joanne Sanders (*Mistress Shore*) Joanne would like to set the record straight that Master William Shakespeare is her one and only true love. This is her first play with the Genesians.



Rod Stewart (*Stanley*) A member of the Genesians since 2008, Rod has appeared in five plays, the latest being *Witness for the Prosecutions*. He has had two of his works workshopped by the theatre and has another, *Vicki*, appearing in April this year.



Jordan Watt (*Duke of Clarence/Archbishop*) Jordan has the honour to be the only person to appear in all three Dooley Genesian Shakespeares. Other highlights have been Leon in *Speaking in Tongues* and the triple-gendered role in *Sylvia*. He moonlights as Barry Nielsen, the Genesian Theatre Director.



John Willis-Richards (*Rivers/Catesby/Executioner*) This is John's fifth show with the Genesians. He would like to dedicate this performance to his darling grandmother, whose love of fine theatre has been an inspiration.



PRODUCTION

Direction and Design	Gary Dooley
Assistant Director	Shane Bates
Costumes	Susan Carveth with Fiona Barry
Lighting Design	Timothy M. Carter
Sound Design	Michael Schell
Set Construction	Paul Gilbert, Grant Fraser, Gary Bates and members of the cast
Photography	Craig O'Regan
Graphic Design	Ross Oblea
Line Coach	Joyce Birch
Vocal Consultant	Del Dines

Acknowledgments – Matt at *Terry Wright Butchers* (knives), Darius at *AkdaShop* (gasmasks), Tom Massey (auditions), Sue Gillies (needlework consultant), Daniel and Lilianna (puppets), Mark Banks, Carlin Hurdis and Cameron Bates for help with lights, Owen Gimblett and Lip-How Chan and The Flash

CREW

Stage Manager	Macushla McGown
Lighting and Sound Operator	Mehran Mortezaei

CAST

Daniel Hitchings	Roger Gimblett
Michael Jones	Jenny Jacobs
Elizabeth MacGregor	Lilianna Komljenovic
Dominic McDonald	Patrick Magee
Meg Mooney	Hailey McQueen
Sam Ryan	Mark Nagle
Rod Stewart	Joanne Sanders
John Willis-Richards	Jordan Watt



About the Genesian Theatre

The Genesian Theatre Company is a non-professional group operating from an historic church in Kent Street in the heart of the Sydney CBD. We boast among our alumni numerous household names in Australian theatre and film such as Bryan Brown, Baz Luhrmann, Judi Farr, and John Bell. We are, however, just as proud of the hundreds of talented amateur actors, directors, designers, lighting and sound specialists who have contributed to Sydney's unique little theatre over the years.

Over the years the company has developed into a group providing a training ground for young actors and a place where those who love the theatre can meet, share and extend their knowledge of the performing arts. The Genesian Theatre is one of Sydney's most active theatre companies. In addition to six or seven main stage productions each year we run classes, workshops and many other activities.

Membership of the company is open to all people over the age of eighteen.

The building that houses The Genesian Theatre Company was originally St John the Evangelist Church and dates from 1868. It has served as both a church and a poor school until 1932 when it became the Kursaal Theatre, housing the Sydney Repertory Company. In 1938 it became the first Matthew Talbot Hostel. Since 1954 it has been the home of The Genesian Theatre Company, which was formed in 1944.

Membership

If your interest is in acting, directing, stage management, sound, lights, publicity, admin, etc, or if you just want to experience being a member of the group, we would welcome you as a member. You don't need to be experienced, we can provide training and can cater to different levels of involvement. Please see our web site for further information.

Coming next to the Genesian Theatre...

the
young
idea

by
Noel Coward

3rd May -
8th June 2013



Subscriptions are available
www.genesiantheatre.com.au