

# Henry IV, Part Two

## *Cast*

*King Henry IV* ..... *Julian Glover*  
*Prince Hal*..... *Jamie Glover*  
*Falstaff*..... *Richard Griffiths*  
*Hostess Quickly* ..... *Elizabeth Spriggs*  
*Pistol*..... *Edward De Souza*  
*Rumor* ..... *Brian Cox*  
*Shallow*..... *Geoffrey Bayldon*  
*Northumberland* ..... *Peter Jeffrey*  
*Doll Tearsheet*..... *Eve Mathieson*  
*Warwick* ..... *Stephen Thorne*  
*Gower*..... *Ian Hughes*  
*Lady Percy* ..... *Jane Slavin*  
*Mowbray* ..... *Mark Bonnar*  
*Chief Justice* ..... *Christian Rodska*  
*Lady Northumberland*..... *Susan Brown*  
*Bardolph* ..... *Sidney Livingstone*  
*Mouldy* ..... *David King*  
*Poins*..... *Charles Simpson*

*Other parts played by: John Dallimore, Peter England, Paul Goodwin, Michael N. Harbour, John McAndrew, Nicholas Murchie, Chris Pavlo, Ben Porter, Paul Reynolds, Justin Salinger, Alisdair Simpson and Philip Whitchurch*

## *Play description*

### ACT I

Scene 1. The Earl of Northumberland learns that his son, Hotspur, has been killed in battle against the King. The royal army, under Prince John of Lancaster and the Earl of Westmoreland, is now advancing against Northumberland who considers joining forces with the Archbishop of York.

Scene 2. The Chief Justice reprimands Falstaff for his part in a robbery at Gadshill. He cautions Falstaff to keep his head low and bemoans the fact Prince Hal keeps such unsuitable company. Falstaff is on his way to join Prince John.

Scene 3. The Archbishop and others debate the wisdom of going into battle against the King before they are entirely sure of Northumberland's support. They reason that the King's forces are weakened by being divided between three campaigns and decide to take the risk and go ahead.

### ACT II

Scene 1. In her London tavern Hostess Quickly orders the arrest of Falstaff for debt. He nonetheless manages to wheedle another loan from her, as well as an invitation to dinner.

Scene 2. Hal and Poins disguise themselves and wait on Falstaff's table in order to see him "in his true colors."

Scene 3. Lady Northumberland and Lady Percy successfully entreat Northumberland not to go to war with the Archbishop, but to retire to Scotland and join the rebels only when it is clear they have the upper hand.

Scene 4. Falstaff, the Hostess and Doll Tearsheet are carousing together in Eastcheap when Falstaff's swaggering lieutenant Pistol arrives. He offends Doll and is thrown out. Poins and Hal hear Falstaff insulting the Prince. When they reveal their identities, Falstaff claims that it was loyalty that led him to speak ill of Hal to "the wicked" so that "the wicked might not fall in love with him." Peto calls Hal and Falstaff to arms against the rebels.

### ACT III

Scene 1. At the Palace of Westminster, King Henry reflects wearily on the sleepless nights a monarch suffers whilst his subjects slumber peacefully. He remembers how Richard II predicted the present break with Northumberland. Warwick tries to comfort him by telling him of the death of the rebellious Welsh chieftain Glendower.

Scene 2. Falstaff is in Gloucestershire recruiting soldiers for the King's army when he meets the garrulous Justice Shallow, a companion of his youth. Having inspected several candidates for his troop, he excuses most of them "for a consideration," keeping only a motley few.

#### ACT IV

Scene 1. In Yorkshire, the Archbishop hears that Northumberland will not join the rebels. Westmoreland arrives urging them to present their demands to Prince John and promising that, if reasonable, they will be granted. The Archbishop does as Westmoreland suggests. Mowbray is sceptical that they can achieve a lasting peace, but Hastings and the Archbishop believe that the King genuinely wishes for an end to conflict.

Scene 2. Prince John agrees to the rebels' terms, but no sooner has their army dispersed than he orders their arrest for treason.

Scene 3. Falstaff has taken a prisoner and turns him over to Prince John. The royal army is disbanded and John leaves for the court, where the King is "sore sick."

Scene 4. King Henry advises his younger son Thomas Duke of Clarence to foster Hal's love, so that when Hal is king, the brothers can present a united front against any opposition. Westmoreland announces the rebels' defeat. Harcourt tells how Northumberland and Lord Bardolph have been overthrown by the Sheriff of Yorkshire. Henry's health is deteriorating.

Scene 5. Hal comes to his father's sickbed. He sits alone, watching the King. Believing his father dead, he removes the crown from his pillow and leaves the room with a heavy heart. The King awakes and bitterly accuses Hal of desiring his death. The King is touched by his son's eloquent defense and calls him to his bedside. He speaks of the ignoble way in which he acquired the crown and of how "all my reign hath been but as a scene/Acting that argument." Now, with his death, it will pass to Hal "with better quiet," and, he prays "grant it may with thee in true peace live."

#### ACT V

Scene 1. Shallow presses Falstaff to stay at his house in Gloucestershire.

Scene 2. Warwick tells the Chief Justice of the King's death. They are gloomy at the prospect of the unruly Prince becoming king. The Chief Justice is particularly anxious having once imprisoned Hal for his unruliness. Hal, now King Henry V, enters and addresses them in dignified and sober tone. They are astonished: this is not the Hal they knew. The Chief Justice defends himself for having punished the Prince and Henry assures him that he has nothing to fear. His old wild self, he says, has died with his father.

Scene 3. Bardolph and Falstaff dine with Justice Shallow. Pistol arrives with the news of Henry IV's death, and exultant at their prospects now that their drinking companion is King of England, Falstaff rushes off to London promising high office to all his companions: "Blessed are they that have been my friends, and woe to my lord chief justice!"

Scene 4. Hostess Quickly and Doll Tearsheet have been placed under arrest.

Scene 5. Falstaff stands in a London street watching the coronation procession. He calls out eagerly, but the new King responds coldly: "I know thee not, old man," and warning him "Presume me not the thing I was." Falstaff insists that he will be sent for later, but the Chief Justice arrives and orders them all to prison. Prince John of Lancaster speculates that, within the year, the English will go to war in France.

## *Track list*

#### Disc 1

Track 1	Prologue
Track 2	Act I Scene i
Track 3	Act I Scene ii
Track 4	Act I Scene iii
Track 5	Act II Scene i
Track 6	Act II Scene ii
Track 7	Act II Scene iii

#### Disk 2

Track 1	Act II Scene iv
Track 2	Act III Scene i
Track 3	Act III Scene ii
Track 4	Act IV Scene i
Track 5	Act IV Scene ii
Track 6	Act IV Scene iii

#### Disk 3

Track 1	Act IV Scene iv
Track 2	Act IV Scene v
Track 3	Act V Scene i
Track 4	Act V Scene ii
Track 5	Act V Scene iii
Track 6	Act V Scene iv
Track 7	Act V Scene v
Track 8	Epilogue