

Julius Caesar

Cast

Julius Caesar *Michael Feast*
Brutus *John Bowe*
Mark Antony *Adrian Lester*
Cassius *Geoffrey Whitehead*
Portia *Estelle Kohler*
Octavius *Jonathan Tayler*
Calphurnia *Shirley Dixon*
Casca *Keith Drinkel*
Flavius *Bill Homewood*
Marullus *Will Keen*
Pindarus *Sean Baker*
Lucilius *Nicholas Murchie*
Artemidorus *Paul Goodwin*
Cinna the Poet *John Dallimore*
Soothsayer *David King*
Other parts played by: Scott Cherry, Theo Fraser Steele,
Gerard Logan and Chris Pavlo.

Play description

ACT 1

Scene 1. The common people of Rome have gathered in the streets to applaud Caesar. The tribunes Flavius and Marullus upbraid them for their fickleness, reminding them that they once gathered in the same way to cheer Pompey, whom Caesar defeated. The tribunes disperse the crowd; they hope that they can limit Caesar's growing power.

Scene 2. A great crowd has gathered in holiday mood. Caesar enters with his wife Calphurnia and various patricians, including Antony. A Soothsayer calls out, warning Caesar to "beware the ides of March." Caesar dismisses him as a dreamer. The patricians Brutus and Cassius watch the crowd go by. Cassius hints at his fear that Caesar wishes to take all power in Rome into his own hands. Brutus, though Caesar's friend, shares Cassius's anxiety; Caesar, meanwhile, confesses to Antony that Cassius makes him uneasy. Shouts from the people are heard. Casca arrives and tells Brutus and Cassius that three times the crown of Rome has been offered to Caesar: three times he has refused it, though each time with increasing reluctance. Brutus and Cassius agree to meet the next day to consider the course events have taken. Left alone, Cassius speaks of his plans to overthrow Caesar.

Scene 3. Casca and Cassius discuss the strange and unnatural happenings which have occurred in Rome and which Casca interprets as heavenly warnings against Caesar's excessive ambition. Both men are outraged that the Senate intends to crown Caesar the next day. Cassius reveals that a number of patrician Romans are prepared to resist. Cinna, a conspirator, wishes that Brutus would join their conspiracy.

ACT II

Scene 1. Brutus walks alone in his orchard considering the political situation. He is torn between personal affection for Caesar and his fear of tyranny. He acknowledges that the only way to rid Rome of Caesar is through his death. He is interrupted by Cassius, Casca and their fellow conspirators. Brutus agrees to join them, though he rejects Cassius's proposal that Antony, too, should be assassinated. Brutus's wife Portia has sensed her husband's unease. He refuses to tell her the reason for it until she proves her worthiness to share his secrets by stoically bearing the pain of a wound she has given herself.

Scene 2. The Ides of March: Calphurnia, terrified by ill omens, begs Caesar not to leave the house today. Caesar replies bombastically, but eventually agrees to stay. However, the conspirator Decius persuades him to go to the Capitol, saying that the Senate has decided to give him the crown, and might change its mind should he not appear.

Scene 3. Artemidorus waits to give Caesar a letter naming the conspirators.

Scene 4. Consumed with anxiety, Portia sends Lucius to the Capitol for news.

ACT III

Scene 1. As Caesar progresses towards the Capitol, the Soothsayer reminds him that the Ides of March are not yet over. Artemidorus implores him to read his letter, but is brushed aside. The conspirators are nervous of discovery. Caesar dismisses Metellus Cimber's petition to repeal the banishment of his brother; despite Brutus's intervention, Caesar's tone is arrogant: "Hence! Wilt thou lift up Olympus?" He is stabbed to death by the conspirators, who then bathe their hands in Caesar's blood, convinced that they have freed Rome from the threat of tyranny. Antony arrives; he promises allegiance to the conspirators, asking only that he might make a public funeral oration. To Cassius's dismay, Brutus agrees. Once alone, Antony gives vent to his horror at the murder and vows to avenge his friend.

Scene 2. In the Forum, Brutus justifies the assassination to the people, who shout their support. However, their mood swiftly turns to one of fury when they hear Antony's oration and learn that Caesar has been generous to the common people in his will. They rampage into the streets. Octavius, Caesar's nephew, has arrived in Rome and Brutus and Cassius have fled from the city.

Scene 3. Thirsting for vengeance, the mob murders a poet called Cinna merely because he shares his name with Cinna the conspirator.

ACT IV

Scene 1. Antony, Octavius and Lepidus are now allied against the conspirators. Antony is doubtful that Lepidus is fit for such power. Cassius and Brutus are levying forces.

Scene 2. In an army encampment Brutus and Cassius quarrel bitterly. They make it up and Brutus reveals that Portia, despairing at the course events have taken, has killed herself. Brutus and Cassius agree to encounter the enemy forces at Philippi in Macedonia. Left alone, Brutus is visited by Caesar's ghost, who tells him that they will meet at Philippi.

ACT V

Scene 1. The opposing leaders exchange angry words on the battlefield. Brutus and Cassius bid each other an "everlasting farewell."

Scene 2. Brutus sends instructions to his legions.

Scene 3. Mistakenly believing that his forces have been beaten, Cassius slays himself. Messala arrives with news that Octavius has been overthrown by Brutus and is devastated to find Cassius dead.

Promising Cassius that he will be mourned, Brutus continues with the battle.

Scene 4. Lucilius is taken prisoner, having been mistaken for Brutus.

Scene 5. The tide of battle has turned against Brutus. Realizing that all is lost, he runs upon his own sword, ending his life. Antony and Octavius enter victorious. Antony salutes Brutus's body, acknowledging that, "This was the noblest Roman of them all."

Track list

Disc 1

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

Disk 2

Track 1	Act III	Scene i
Track 2	Act III	Scene ii
Track 3	Act III	Scene iii
Track 4	Act IV	Scene I

Disk 3

Track 1	Act IV	Scene ii
Track 2	Act IV	Scene iii
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