

# Richard III

## *Cast*

*Earl of Richmond* ..... *Charles Simpson*  
*Earl Rivers* ..... *Gavin Muir*  
*Marquess of Dorset* ..... *Jamie Glover*  
*Sir William Catesby* ..... *Nicholas Murchie*  
*Sir James Tyrrel* ..... *Steve Hodson*  
*Sir James Blunt* ..... *Trevor Martin*  
*Sir Robert Brakenbury* ..... *Arthur Cox*  
*Sir Richard Ratcliffe* ..... *Ben Martin*  
*First Murderer* ..... *John Hollis*  
*Edward, Prince of Wales* ..... *Jay Barrimore*  
*Richard, Duke of York* ..... *George Miller*  
*King Richard III* ..... *David Troughton*  
*Duke of Buckingham* ..... *Philip Voss*  
*Lady Anne* ..... *Saskia Wickham*  
*Queen Margaret* ..... *Margaret Robertson*  
*Queen Elizabeth* ..... *Sonia Ritter*  
*King Edward IV* ..... *Stephen Boxer*  
*Duke of Clarence* ..... *John McAndrew*  
*Lord Stanley* ..... *David Yelland*  
*Duchess of York* ..... *Mary Wimbush*  
*Lord Hastings* ..... *Christian Rodska*  
*Other parts played by: Peter Marinker, Cameron Powie,*  
*Helena Rice, Colin Salmon and David Tennant*

## *Play description*

### ACT I

Scene 1. Despite the end of England's civil war, with Edward IV's accession to the throne, his brother Richard longs for power. Clarence, the second of the three brothers, is being escorted to the Tower; Richard makes an empty promise to petition Edward on his behalf. Edward's health is failing and Richard reflects that since he is the youngest he will only win the crown if Clarence dies before Edward.

Scene 2. Richard finds the Lady Anne mourning over the body of Henry VI, whom he murdered, shortly after killing Anne's husband, Henry's son, Prince Edward. At first she is abusive, but he insists that he killed only in order to marry her and persuades her to accept his ring.

Scene 3. Richard accuses the Queen and her kin of turning the King against Clarence. Unobserved, Henry VI's widow Margaret watches with bitter satisfaction, before emerging to curse the Queen and Richard. Richard organizes the murder of Clarence.

Scene 4. In the Tower, Clarence dreams that he has drowned and is accused of treachery by the ghosts of those he has wronged. Using Richard's commission, two murderers gain access to Clarence.

Despite his pleas for mercy he is killed and his body is dumped in a butt of malmsey wine.

### ACT II

Scene 1. The ailing Edward attempts to restore peace by having Queen Elizabeth and her kinsmen swear friendship with Hastings and Buckingham. When Richard reports Clarence's death, Edward is devastated, believing himself responsible.

Scene 2. The old Duchess of York mourns Clarence, hinting darkly to his two children about Richard's involvement. Queen Elizabeth enters grieving the death of King Edward. It is agreed that her son Edward must be brought immediately from Ludlow for coronation. Buckingham and Richard are determined "to part the queen's proud kindred from the prince."

Scene 3. Citizens express deep concerns about the accession of a child to the throne.

Scene 4. Queen Elizabeth and the Duchess of York are horrified to learn of the arrests by Richard and Buckingham of Rivers, Grey and Sir Thomas Vaughan. Elizabeth decides to seek sanctuary with her youngest son the Duke of York.

#### ACT III

Scene 1. Prince Edward arrives in London with Richard and Buckingham. The Duke of York is removed from sanctuary and the princes go to lodge at the Tower until the coronation. Richard sends Catesby to Hastings to ascertain his reaction should Richard become king.

Scene 2. Lord Stanley (Derby) sends a message to Hastings urging him to fly, but Hastings remains unperturbed. He tells Catesby that he would rather lose his head than consent to Richard's usurpation of the crown.

Scene 3. Grey, Rivers, and Vaughan go to their execution.

Scene 4. Richard summarily accuses Hastings of treachery before ordering his execution.

Scene 5. Following Hastings' execution, Richard and Buckingham are quick to forestall public opposition by enlisting the Lord Mayor's support and speaking publicly of Edward's debauchery, tyranny, and illegitimacy.

Scene 6. A scrivener is appalled by Hastings' execution and the evil times.

Scene 7. Having failed to win the crowd's support for Richard, Buckingham stages a scene for the Mayor, aldermen and citizens in which Richard ostentatiously walks in prayer, whilst Buckingham implores him: "...take on the charge/And kingly government of this your land." Richard at first professes himself not worthy, but finally, and apparently reluctantly, agrees.

#### ACT IV

Scene 1. At the Tower, Queen Elizabeth, the Duchess of York, and Anne, now Richard's wife, are prevented from visiting the young princes by Brakenbury, who acts under orders from "the king." They are horrified when Anne is summoned to Westminster to be crowned Richard's queen.

Scene 2. Richard is suspicious when Buckingham fails to condone immediately the suggested murder of the young princes. He hires Tyrrel to organize the assassination and plans to consolidate his position further by marrying King Edward's daughter Elizabeth. When Buckingham reminds Richard that he has promised him the earldom of Hereford, he is rebuffed. Alarmed, Buckingham flees to Wales.

Scene 3. The princes and Anne are dead, Clarence's son has been imprisoned, his daughter safely married and Richard determines to go to Elizabeth "a jolly thriving wooer." Ratcliffe announces that Buckingham is gathering Welsh forces.

Scene 4. Queen Elizabeth and the Duchess of York are mourning the deaths of the princes when Margaret enters. Crazy with grief, the women survey the butchery of their loved ones. Despite her anguish, Elizabeth agrees to convey Richard's proposal of marriage to her daughter. Richmond is on his way to England from Brittany, with Buckingham's support. Richard is frightened and suspicious and insists that Derby leave his son with him when he goes to muster forces. Arms are being taken against Richard all over the country. Buckingham is taken prisoner and Richmond lands in Wales.

Scene 5. Fearing for his son's safety, Derby must conceal his support for Richmond. A message from Queen Elizabeth reveals her agreement to Richard's courtship of her daughter as a ruse: she supports a match with Richmond.

#### ACT V

Scene 1. Buckingham is led to his execution.

Scene 2. Richmond rallies his troops.

Scene 3. The two sides prepare for battle on Bosworth Field. As Richard and Richmond sleep, the ghosts of Richard's victims appear foretelling his defeat and Richmond's victory.

Scene 4. Even after having lost his horse, Richard fights valiantly.

Scene 5. Richmond slays Richard and declares: "We will unite the White Rose and the Red."

## ***Track list***

### **Disk 1**

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

### **Disk 2**

Track 1	Act II	Scene ii
Track 2	Act II	Scene iii
Track 3	Act II	Scene iv
Track 4	Act III	Scene i
Track 5	Act III	Scene ii
Track 6	Act III	Scene iii
Track 7	Act III	Scene iv
Track 8	Act III	Scene v
Track 9	Act III	Scene vi
Track 10	Act III	Scene vii
Track 11	Act IV	Scene i
Track 12	Act IV	Scene ii

### **Disk 3**

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