



**BRAVE SPIRITS THEATRE
ARCHIVE**

PRESS RELEASE
Richard III
2012

Director: Charlene V. Smith

Artistic Director: Charlene V. Smith
Resident Dramaturg: Claire Kimball

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Brave Spirits Theatre Performs *Richard III*.

PRESS NIGHT: Thursday, June 21

For press tickets, please contact bravespiritstheatre@gmail.com

CONTACT

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For more information, visit our website at www.bravespiritstheatre.com.

RICHARD III

Brave Spirits Theatre is proud to announce their third production, William Shakespeare's *Richard III*.

Bloody thou art, bloody will be thy end.

Ten actors take on 48 roles in William Shakespeare's epic tale of power, ambition, and curses. Though England thinks its civil war has finally come to an end under the reign of King Edward IV, his youngest brother, Richard, feels differently. Born a cripple and raised an outcast, Richard determines to make the crown his own. As Richard's campaign of violence spins out of control, the powerless are left to pick up the pieces. One of Shakespeare's earliest plays, *Richard III* contains impressive language and the theatrical boldness of a young playwright.

Richard III will perform Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights at 8pm, and Saturday matinees at 2pm, from June 21 – July 7. Press night is Thursday, June 21, 2012, at 8pm. The performances will take place at the Atlas Performing Arts Center in their Lab Theatre I, located at 1333 H Street, NE, Washington, DC 20002 (www.atlasarts.org). Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for students and seniors. Tickets are on sale through the Atlas PAC website.

The cast is made up of actors from across the DC region with extensive experience in Shakespeare and early modern drama. They have worked with the American Shakespeare Center, the Shakespeare Theatre Company, Taffety Punk Theatre Company, Orlando Shakespeare Theater, Chesapeake Shakespeare Company, and the Baltimore Shakespeare Factory. The cast includes Jenna Berk, Tina Renay Fulp, Jim Gagne, George Grant, Rachel Hynes, Jessica Lefkow, Jack Powers, Victoria Reinsel, and Ian Blackwell Rogers, and stars Travis Blumer as Richard III.

CAST INFORMATION

Jenna Berk (Clarence, Dorset, Ratcliffe, Cardinal Bouchier, Page): THEATRE: *Happy and Gay* (1st Woman) at NuSass Productions; *New Play Festival* (various) at Young Playwrights Theater; select London credits include: *Henry V* (Nell Quickly, Alice) at the Merely Players; *The Trojan Women* (Woman of Troy) at Saviour Theatre Company; *The*

Laramie Project (Rebecca, Reggie, Sherry) at Wild Oats Productions; *Robin Hood* (Queen, Little Bassett) at Pyramid Panto; *Nothing Lasts* (Ida) at Canal Café Theatre; *If I Were You* (Maggie) at Old Red Lion Theatre; *The Last Thing to Go* (Catering Staff) at Theatre 503; *Two Little Dickie Birds* (Lisa, Boy Aged 5) at RADA; staged reading of *Baal* (Emilie) at Love&Madness; TRAINING: BA in English and Drama, University of Virginia; BA Honors in Professional Acting, LAMDA.
<http://web.me.com/jennaberkl/>

Travis Blumer (Richard III): THEATRE: *An Ideal Husband* (Ensemble), *The Merchant of Venice* (Ensemble), *Julius Caesar* (Ensemble) at Shakespeare Theatre Company; select New York credits include: *Dance Dance Revolution* (Officer McKnife) at Les Freres Corbusier; *Beyond Therapy* (Ensemble) at Williamstown Theatre Festival; TRAINING: BFA in Drama, NYU's Tisch School of the Arts; Stella Adler Studio.

Jim Gagne (Hastings, Citizen 2, Scrivener, Norfolk, Urswick): THEATRE: *Jack the Ticket Ripper* (Jack), *Gianni Schicchi* (Gherardo) at Georgetown Theatre Company; *A Thing for Redheads* (Stanley) at Calliope Arts; *We Won't Pay, We Won't Pay* (Luigi) at Hub Theatre; *Heart of a Dog* (Sharikov), *Fool for Love* (Martin) at Spooky Action Theater; *Box and Cox* (Cox) at New Old Theatre; *Cymbeline* (Ensemble) at dog & pony dc; *Uncle Vanya* (Laborer) at Everyman Theatre; *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Demetrius), *Our Town* (Howie Newsome) at National Players, Tour 55. TRAINING: BFA, Hartt School at the University of Hartford. Jim also serves as the Resident Teaching Artist at the Shakespeare Theatre Company.

George Grant (Buckingham, Surrey) THEATRE: *The Tempest*, *Othello*, *Peer Gynt*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *All's Well That Ends Well* at Shakespeare Theatre Company; *The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail*, *Cloud Nine* at Catalyst Theatre Company; *The Revenger's Tragedy*, *Measure for Measure* at Washington Shakespeare Company; *Anansi the Spider*, *Anansi the Spider Returns* at Imagination Stage; *Night of the Iguana* at Milwaukee Chamber Theatre; *Enemy of the People* at Goodman Theatre. DIRECTING: *Am I Black Enough Yet?* at Catalyst Theatre Company; *Bulletins from Fatland* at Horizons Theatre Company and more in academia; TEACHING: Teaching Artist at the Shakespeare Theatre Company and TheatreLab; Visiting Professor of Theatre at Howard University and Lawrence University; TRAINING: BA in Theatre, Lawrence University; MFA in Classical Acting, Shakespeare Theatre Company's Academy for Classical Acting at GW.

Melissa Hurt (Voice and Movement Coach) has worked as an actor, director, dramaturg, producer, college professor, voice and speech trainer, and makeup artist in Washington DC; Baltimore, MD; Richmond, VA; Dodge City, Kansas; Eugene, Oregon; and Sydney, Australia. Melissa freelances as a voice, speech, and movement trainer, yoga teacher, and public speaking coach. She is a certified trainer in the Lessac voice, speech, and movement work. She is pleased to have worked with Brave Spirits Theatre.

Rachel Hynes (Duchess, First Murderer, Grey, Oxford, Pursuivant): THEATRE: *Home Alone*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *My Body Lies Over the Ocean*, *True North*,

Jotta Olla, Main Event at Helsinki Syndrome; *Computer*, *Spade Cooley's Nightmare* at HKPG; *Tale of a Tiger*, *You Have Made a Story on My Skin* (Solo Shows), *Fall Off Night* (Heidi Parker) at Macha Monkey; *Meathook: A Melodrama* (Debbie), *DOB* (Shivvonne, Nurses) at Open Circle Theater; *The Tempest* (Ariel) at Seattle Shakespeare Company; *Hamlet* (Hamlet) at Open Circle Theatre. TRAINING: MFA Lecoq-Based Actor Created Theater, Naropa University in conjunction with LISPA (London International School of Performing Arts), Classical Actors Training Program (Shakespeare Theatre), Co-Artistic Director (Helsinki Syndrome), Founding Member (HKPG), Curator (*Physical: A Night of Innovative Physical Theatre*).

Casey Kaleba (Fight Director) is a Certified Teacher with the Society of American Fight Directors. He has staged violence for nearly three hundred productions: recent work includes *Double Indemnity* at Round House Theatre, *The Taming of the Shrew* at Folger Theatre, *Sleuth* at Olney Theatre Center, *Really Really* at Signature Theatre, and *The Merry Wives of Windsor* at Shakespeare Theatre Company. He teaches at the Shakespeare Theatre Company and Round House Theatre; is a company member with Rorschach Theatre; and has been a guest artist in Sweden, Canada, and throughout the United States. www.toothandclawcombat.com

Bess Kaye (Queen Elizabeth, Second Murderer, Lovell, Herbert, Ghost of Prince Edward): THEATRE: *Romeo and Juliet* (Lady Capulet) at Vpstart Crow; *Macbeth* (Fight Choreographer), *Twelfth Night* (Olivia), *The Winter's Tale* (Hermione, Clown), *The Comedy of Errors* (Luciana) at Baltimore Shakespeare Factory; *The Smell of the Kill* (Debra), *Antigone* (Antigone) at Montgomery Playhouse; *The Winter's Tale* (Emilia), *Much Ado About Nothing* (Ursula) at Virginia Shakespeare Festival. TRAINING: BA in Theatre, College of William and Mary.

Jessica Lefkow (Margaret, King Edward IV, Richmond, Archbishop of York) has directed, performed, coached, and taught theater across the United States, Europe, and Asia. THEATRE: *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Eunice Hubbell) at Gulfshore Playhouse; *Beertown* (Lara Pickel-Cooper), *Courage* (Yvette, Ensemble) at dog & pony dc; *Much Ado About Nothing* (Leonato), *Julius Caesar* (Cassius), *King John* (Queen Eleanor) at Taffety Punk Theatre Company; *Wit*, Asian Tour (Dr. Vivian Bearing) at American Community Theatre Hong Kong; *Borderline* (Susan) at Yatrik Theatre Company. TRAINING: BFA Acting, Catholic University of America; Improvisational Study with Gary Austin Workshops; Clown Intensive with Dody DiSanto. Jessica currently teaches for Young Playwright's Theater. She is a co-conspirator with dog & pony dc, and a proud member of SAG-AFTRA. www.jessicalefkow.com

Jack Powers (Brakenbury, Catesby, Citizen 1, Young Prince Edward, Bishop of Ely): THEATRE: *On the Waterfront* (Terry Malloy) at American Century Theatre; *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Oberon, upcoming Fall 2012), *Hamlet* (Hamlet), *Don Quixote Book II* (Ensemble) at Maryland Renaissance Festival; *Carol's Christmas* (Wayne) at Pinky Swear Productions; *Hamlet: Reframed* (Guildenstern) at Grain of Sand Theatre. TRAINING: BA in Theatre, Muhlenberg College.

Victoria Reinsel (Lady Anne, Rivers, Young Richard Duke of York, John, Blunt): THEATRE: *Blood Wedding* (Bride) at Constellation Theatre Company; *Much Ado About Nothing* (Margaret) at Taffety Punk Theatre Company; *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* (Julia, Co-Director) at Brave Spirits Theatre; *Cymbeline* (Arviragus, Helen) at Chesapeake Shakespeare Company; *Much Ado About Nothing* (Hero), *Titus Andronicus* (Lavinia), *The Merry Wives of Windsor* (Anne Page, Rugby, William), *Henry IV, Part 1* (Lady Mortimer, Peto), *The Rehearsal* (Cloris, Pallas, Luna), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (First Fairy/Moth) at American Shakespeare Center; *Julius Caesar* (Soothsayer), *Twelfth Night* (Ensemble) at Orlando Shakespeare Theatre; *Pericles* (Marina) at Mary Baldwin College (MFA Production directed by Tina Packer); TRAINING: MFA and M.Litt in Shakespeare in Performance, MBC; BA in Theatre/Literature, Marlboro College; Shakespeare & Company; British-American Drama Academy. www.victoriareinsel.com. Victoria is a co-founder of Brave Spirits Theatre.

Ian Blackwell Rogers (Stanley, Mayor, Tyrrel, Citizen 3): THEATRE: *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* (Launce, Duke, Antonio) at Brave Spirits Theatre; *Macbeth* (Macbeth), *Twelfth Night* (Malvolio), *As You Like It* (Touchstone), *The Winter's Tale* (Leontes) at Baltimore Shakespeare Factory; *Public Enemy* (Robert), *The Plague* (Prefect), *The Chairs* (Orator, Old Man understudy), *The Insect Play* (Otakar, Parasite, Ant) at Scena Theatre; *A Thing for Redheads* (Peter), *Jack the Ticket Ripper* (Playwright) at Capital Fringe Festival; *The Three Musketeers* (Athos, Richelieu, Buckingham) independent production; *Tom Jones* (Tom Jones), *What Ho, Jeeves!* (Bertie Wooster), *The Canterbury Tales* (Reeve) at Lumina Studio Theatre; *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* (Peter, Aslan, etc.) at Adventure Theatre; TRAINING: Summer Training Congress, American Conservatory Theater, San Francisco.

Charlene V. Smith (Director) THEATRE: *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* (Silvia, Lucetta, Co-Director), *What, Lamb! What, Ladybird!* (Solo Performance) at Brave Spirits Theatre; *Much Ado About Nothing* (Beatrice), *The Comedy of Errors* (Emilia, Assistant Director) at Baltimore Shakespeare Factory; *Macbeth* (Witch 1, Porter) at Push/Pull Theatre Company; *Measure for Measure* (Isabella), *Julius Caesar* (Portia), *The Spanish Tragedy* (Director) at Rude Mechanicals; *A Long Day's Journey Into Night* (Assistant Director) at Virginia Shakespeare Festival. TRAINING: London Dramatic Academy; BA in Theatre and English, College of William and Mary, Phi Beta Kappa; M.Litt candidate in Shakespeare in Performance, Mary Baldwin College. www.charlenevsmith.com. Charlene is a co-founder of Brave Spirits Theatre.