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RICHARD III COMES TO THEATRE ROW, HOLLYWOOD

Why does tyranny triumph? Why does a free land give itself over to evil ruler? On April 27, at Oh My Ribs (next to the Complex), theatreANON's *Richard III: Hour of the Tyrant* will seek to answer those questions. This marks a radical edit of one of Shakespeare's most popular plays. Appropriately enough, this marks the Chinese Year of the Pig (King Richard's personal badge was a boar, or wild pig)

Richard III chronicles the rise and fall of an evil king. In this play actors as well as audiences have found a favorite villain—someone who shares his plots, gloats over his crimes with his only confidantes, the audience. They become his co-conspirators.

Uncut, the play is four hours long, whereas this production clocks in at under one hundred minutes. Scenes and lines end up re-arranged, some characters cut while others fused together. Likewise speeches from other Shakespeare plays (such as *Julius Caesar* and *Henry V*) have been transplanted, mostly to further explore some of the female characters.

Why such a radical edit? “Mostly to expand and focus,” said editor/director David MacDowell Blue. “Shakespeare had to cater to Tudor propaganda to get his works put on, but those topics don't really mean anything to us now. Better to focus on what remains universal in the text, but put into as sharp relief as possible! I keep asking—why did Richard win? Richard's reign is a symptom, not a problem. The central problem remains.”

The director/dramaturg went on to note how Shakespeare productions in the last two years reacted to current events, especially the election. Over a dozen different *Macbeths* for example. Likewise we've seen *King John*, *Richard II*, *Coriolanus* and *Julius Caesar*—all plays dealing with poor leaders, the damage they do to both the state and the individual souls unlucky enough to fall into their orbit. “Richard falls into this category easily, not least because the Censors insisted the king whom the Tudors overthrew had to have been a monster. And in this play, he is. We don't care about technical claims to the throne five centuries ago. But we do care, very much, about how to protect ourselves against tyranny.”

Blue is probably best known in Los Angeles as a theatre critic via his blog Night Tinted Glasses. He did co-direct *Carmilla* at Zombie Joe's in NoHo in 2014, as well as several staged readings and in the past his directing credits include Shaw's *Heartbreak House* and Shakespeare's *King Lear* as well as *The Public Eye* by Peter Shaffer, *Dirty Linen* by Tom Stoppard as well as numerous staged readings. He graduated from the University of West Florida with a BA and from the National Shakespeare Conservatory in New York.

Libby Letlow stars in the gender-bending title role. Joining her are Georgan George as the mad Queen Margaret, Claire Stephens as Richard's brother Clarence, Thomas P. Hanrahan as King Edward, Lauren Simon as their mother the Duchess Cecily, Sahil Kaur as Richard's love interest Lady Anne, Jordan Graham as Lord Hastings, Ayako Karasawa as Queen Elizabeth with Danny Hackin as her brother Lord

Dorset, LaMont Hendrix as the Duke of Buckingham, Paula K. King as the Archbishop (a combination of all the priests in the original play), Daniel Adomian as King Henry (and the Prince of Wales, and the Apothecary) with Ian Jesse Lasky and London Murray as Tom and Dierdre (all the soldiers, messengers, assassins, etc. wrapped up into just two characters) and finally Travis McHenry as Tyrell.

This marks the first full stage production by a new group, theatreANON! Last year it had a reading of an original play, *The Deep Kind* by Blue, and plans on a concert reading of another original play, *Masoch and DeSade* by Omen Kaine, in Fall 2019. theatreANON! is the brainchild of novelist/musician Omen Kaine, whose artistic journey on both coasts led him to seeking out the Los Angeles theatre scene.

Richard III: Hour of the Tyrant

Written by William Shakespeare

Edited and directed by David MacDowell Blue

Produced by theatreANON!

Producer: Omen Kaine

Stage Manager: Geo Niki

Combat Choreographer: Michaela Slezak

Costumer: Maryann Van De Car

Synopsis

In the wake of a civil war for England's throne, the new King's youngest brother—reviled or at best tolerated by most of the court—successfully schemes to seize the throne for himself. Along the way we see some hint of what has made him the man he is, the opportunity he rejects of a different path, and why he succeeds against the vast majority who oppose him.

Location

OhMyRibs Theatre
6468 Santa Monica Blvd.
Hollywood CA 90038

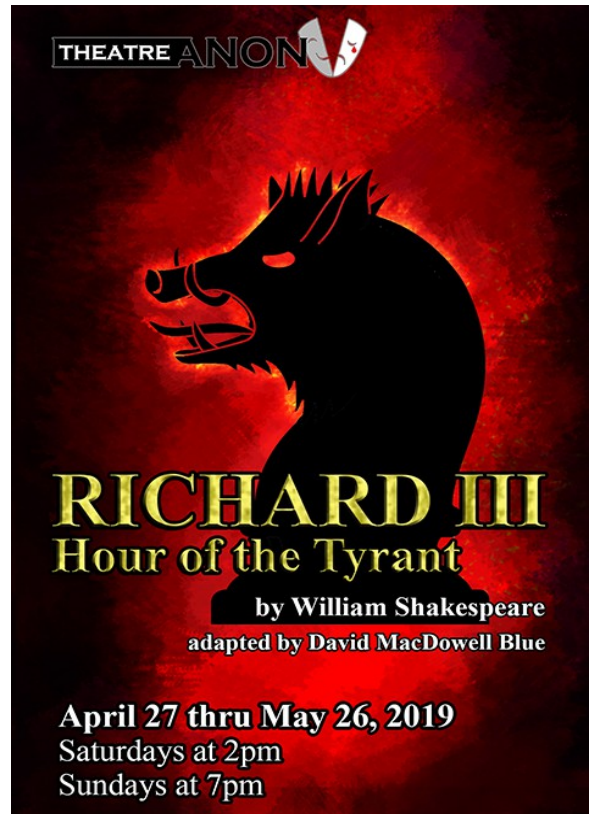
Dates and Times

Saturday, April 27, 2019 at 2pm (OPENING)
Sunday, April 28, 2019 at 7pm
Saturday, May 4, 2019 at 2pm
Sunday, May 5, 2019 at 7pm
Saturday, May 11, 2019 at 2pm
Sunday, May 12, 2019 at 7pm
Saturday, May 18, 2019 at 2pm
Sunday, May 19, 2019 at 7pm
Saturday, May 25, 2019 at 2pm
Sunday, May 26, 2019 at 7pm (CLOSING)

Ticket Prices and Information

\$15 each

<https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4194985>



Contact

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<https://theatreanon.blogspot.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/TheatreAnon>

OhMyRibs Theatre (323) 207-8243 <http://www.ohmyribs.com>