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Published by Stilwell Darby & Co. Ltd., Advertising Contractors, 24 Old Burlington St., W.1 (Tel. No. RECent 8671, 5 lines). Printed by Horsley Bros. (T.U.), 646 Romford Road, E.12. THE CORRUPTIBLE CROWN

Two plays by Lydia Ragosin



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THE QUESTORS THEATRE

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April 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 at 7.45 p.m.

THE COLLECTION and **THE LOVER** Two plays by HAROLD PINTER

Directed by PETER JEFFERIES

Designed by ROBERT CRISP

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May 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13 at 7.45 p.m.

THE BEAUX STRATAGEM by GEORGE FARQUHAR

Directed by ALAN CHAMBERS

Designed by FRED PALMER

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THE CORRUPTIBLE CROWN

A CRY OF TREASON, a play about Richard III

Plays have been written before about Richard III, but over-shadowing them all has been Shakespeare's masterly and magnificent melodrama of evil. So outstanding and so vivid is this piece of theatre, so tremendous the impact of its central figure, that for all theatregoers, at least, the mention of the name Richard III conjures up an image of one of the most monstrous villains in history.

However superb a play, Shakespeare's "Richard III" is, to say the least, of very doubtful validity as history. Why should it be? Shakespeare's imagination was evidently fired by the picture of Richard he found in the pages of Holinshed and from this he fashioned a superb theatrical experience which has been shared by generation after generation. That Holinshed based his 'history upon Sir Thomas More and Polydore Vergil'; that Vergil was Henry Tudor's official historian, commissioned to write history from the Tudor point of view ; that More's source for his history of Richard was John Morton, Richard's implacable enemy, and himself one of the chief plotters of his overthrow ; that both More's and Vergil's histories have many gross inaccuracies and demonstrable distortions of fact, Shakespeare was not concerned with these things, and indeed could hardly have been aware of them.

Since then the historical truth of Richard, so different from the Shakespearean picture, has been amply restored. And it is this comparatively new idea of Richard which has fired the imagination of Lydia Ragosin to write "A Cry of Treason." Here we see a Richard who was loyal, just and merciful, impelled by events to accept the crown which was pressed upon him. A Richard who endeavoured to rule in accordance with principles of law and justice, who commanded great affection and loyalty from his people, but who was in the end defeated by the treason of the self seekers around him and by the enemies his generosity and mercy did not succeed in appeasing. We also see a Richard who was in conflict with himself, who became obsessed with a sense of his own guilt for having broken faith with his brother, Edward, and who therein displayed a fatal weakness. Those who wield absolute power must do so with absolute ruthlessness or they fail; that is the corrupting effect of power. This Richard was **not** ruthless, and that was his undoing.

A CROWN FOR THE STRONC, a play about Henry VII

Not many plays have been written about Henry VII, but Lydia Ragosin has seen in his reign the dramatic sequel and complement to that of Richard. In the second part of "The Corruptible Crown", we find a Henry who was in some ways a counterpart to Richard; a politician who having seized the crown by force wished to rule by good statesmanship and not by violence, but who, because of his initial wrong against Richard, was bedeviled by insurrections and impostors claiming the throne. Thus Henry was increasingly driven to use the violence he abhorred until finally he had to order executions for which there was no possible justification other than expediency. With this he came to terms with his own corruption. Thus Henry was in the end ruthless. He enjoyed a long and successful reign and founded the Tudor Dynasty. But we may think that his defeat, the surrender of the principles by which he hoped to rule, was greater and no less tragic than Richard's.



THE QUESTORS THEATRE

FIRST PERFORMANCE SATURDAY, 11th MARCH, 1967

A CRY OF TREASON by Lydia Ragosin

Thomas Outhwaite, A Man at Arms	NEVILLE BRADBURY
King Edward IV	MICHAEL SMALL
Lord William Hastings	BRIAN TAYLOR
Jane Shore	LORNA DUNCAN
Richard, Duke of Gloucester	MICHAEL HAINES
Henry, Duke of Buckingham	IVAN PINFIELD
Anne, wife to Richard	SUSAN HOLLIDAY
Sir Francis, later Viscount, Lovell	MICHAEL LANGRIDGE
Sir James Tyrell	MICHAEL BOAKES
John Kendall, Secretary to Richard	MICHAEL BIRD
Anthony Woodville, Earl Rivers	CHRIS TAYLOR
Lord Richard Grey	CHARLES BRYTE
Sir Thomas Vaughan	ERIC SMITH
King Edward V	PHILIP RHIND-TUTT
Bishop Stillington	DAVID LORRAINE
Rotherham, Archbishop of York	HAROLD THORNLEY
Lord Stanley	PATRICK BACON
John Morton, Bishop of Ely	PHILIP WRIGHT
Sir Robert Brackenbury	JULIAN TAYLER
Duchess of York, Mother to Richard	MARY HODLIN
Elizabeth Woodville, Queen to Edward I	V RUTH TREMAYNE
Elizabeth, her daughter	LORNA WATSON
A Physician	MICHAEL BOAKES
Duke of Norfolk	DAVID LORRAINE
Squire to King Richard	ERIC SMITH
Captains	KEVIN FELLS, PAUL O'CONNOR
Henry Tudor	TONY WORTH
Jasper Tudor, Earl of Pembroke, his uncl	e KENNETH RATCLIFFE
	DONALD STARKEY
Sir William Stanley	
Soldiers	PAUL LEWIS, JOHN STACEY, PETER WALL, RICHARD BROADHURST

Directed by ALFRED EMMET

Assisted by JOANA GEORGESCU

Setting designed by STEPHAN PACZAI

Music composed and directed by ANN COLLIS

A CRY OF TREASON

- ACT 1 Scene 1 The Palace of Westminster. Christmas 1482
 - Scene 2 The same. February, 1483
 - Scene 3 Middleham Castle. Mid-April, 1483
 - Scene 4 An inn at Northampton. 29th April, 1483
 - Scene 5 Stony Stratford. The next day
 - Scene 6 A bedroom. Two or three weeks later
 - Scene 7 The Palace of Westminster. The second week of June, 1483
 - Scene 8 The Council Chamber at the Tower. The next day
 - Scene 9 Baynard's Castle, London. 26th June, 1483

INTERVAL OF 15 MINUTES

- ACT II Scene 1 Brecon Castle. Beginning of August, 1483
 - Scene 2 Lincoln. A few weeks later
 - Scene 3 The Palace of Westminster March, 1484
 - Scene 4 Bosworth Field. 22nd August, 1485

For "The Corruptible Crown "

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Stage Managers Deputy Stage Managers	
Assistant Stage Managers	
Production Secretary	Russ Marsh, Gillian Dobson, Hilary Ellwood
Lighting	Gerry Isenthal, Vic Fisher, Vivian Weeks, Frank Wood, Maire Steadman
Wardrobe	Edwards, Marie Crabb, Paul Southernwood Juliette Howard
	Freddie Edwards, Doris Porter, Joan Pyle and members of the wardrobe staff
	Geoff Dobson, John Stacey, Bob Stock, Richard Broadhurst, Nick Hunt
Paul Lewi	Mike Custance, Margery Dobson, s, Angela Preston, Kevin Rourke, Peter Wall
Costumes	by The Royal Shakespeare Company

Stage	Director		TONY	SHIPLEY
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THE QUESTORS THEATRE

FIRST PERFORMANCE

MONDAY, 13th MARCH, 1967

A CROWN FOR THE STRONG by Lydia Ragosin

Thomas Outhwaite, A Man at Arms NEVILLE BRAE	DBURY
King Henry VII TONY W	/ORTH
Jasper Tudor, Earl of Pembroke KENNETH RAT	CLIFFE
John de Vere, Earl of Oxford BEN	KEEN
Lord Stanley, later Earl of Derby PATRICK B	ACON
Sir William Stanley DONALD STA	ARKEY
Queen Elizabeth, Widow of Edward IV RUTH TREM	IAYNE
John Morton, Bishop of Ely PHILIP W	RIGHT
Princess, later Queen Elizabeth LORNA WA	TSON
Lambert Simnel TREVOR M	ORRIS
Page Boy MICHAEL	WARD
Captain of the Guard ERIC S	мітн
Perkin Warbeck MARTIN RUTHER	FORD
Edward, Earl of Warwick MICHAEL	. BIRD
Chamberlain JOHN GOLI	DMAN

Directed by ALFRED EMMET Assisted by JOANA GEORGESCU Setting designed by STEPHAN PACZAI Music composed and directed by ANN COLLIS

CROWN FOR THE STRONG

ACT 1	Scene 1	The Palace of Westminster. Early September 1485
	Scene 2	The same. A week later
	Scene 3	The same. The next day
	Scene 4	The same. June, 1487
	Scene 5	The same. June, 1487
	Scene 6	Kenilworth Castle. A few days later
	Scene 7	The Palace of Westminster. Late June 1487

INTERVAL OF 15 MINUTES

- ACT 11 Scene 1 The Palace of Westminster, January 1495
 - Scene 2 The same, 1497
 - Scene 3 The same, November 1499
 - Scene 4 A room in the Tower. Immediately after
 - Scene 5 The Palace of Westminster. Immediately after

A DISCUSSION is held after each production by The Questors to which all members of the audience are cordially invited. The discussion of THE CORRUPTIBLE CROWN will be held in the Bernard Shaw Room on Thursday, March 23rd at 7.30 p.m. This is an excellent opportunity for audience, actors and technicians to discuss the merits and demerits of play and production.



RICHARD III

".... little of stature, ill featured of limbs, crook-backed ... hard favoured of visage."

(Thomas More: History of King Richard III 1543).

'He was malicious, wrathful, envious ... He was close and secret, a deep dissembler, arrogant of heart pitiless and cruel''.

(Ibid)

"The while he was thinking of any matter he did continually bite his nether lip as though that cruel nature of his did so rage against itself in that little carcase".

(Vergil, Henry VIII's historian, pub. 1534).

"A minute study . . . has tended to convince me of the general fidelity of the portrait with which we have been made familiar by Shakespeare and Sir Thomas More".

(Dr. James Gairdner, 19th Century Historian).

"He was the most handsome man in the room after his brother, Edward".

(The Countess of Desmond, who danced with them when a girl of 18).

"He contents the people where he goes best that ever did Prince, for many a poor man that hath suffered wrong many days hath been relieved and helped by him ... on my truth, I never liked the conditions of any prince so well as his: God hath sent him to us for the weal of us all".

("The Christchurch Letter", written by Bishop Langton of St. Davids, 1483).

.... "having in your great prudence, justice, princely courage and excellent virtue, singular confidence, choose you, high and mighty prince, into our King and Sovereign Lord, to whom we know for certain it appertaineth of inheritance so to be chosen".

(Extract from "Titulus Regius", Act passed by Lords and Commons 1484).

"... as he was a **York**, I am rather inclined to suppose him a very respectable man".

(Jane Austen : "The History of England").

HENRY VII

"He professed always to love and seek peace . . . he was valiant and active".

"He was not without much hatred throughout the realm. The root of it all was the discountenancing of the House of York which the general body of the realm still affected".

(both from Sir Francis Bacon's "Life of Henry VII").

"History, Sir, will tell lies—as usual". (General Burgoyne in "The Devil's Disciple"). Fully Insured : Employers and Public Liability

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RICHARD III SOCIETY

'The Fellowship of the White Boar '—as this historical Society was originally named—was founded over 40 years ago in Liverpool. It is now a world organisation with branches in Australia, Canada and U.S.A., besides a large branch in Richard's home county of Yorshire.

Its Aims and Objects include serious research into the life and times of King Richard III, a re-assessment of the historical material relating to that period and the circulation of relevant historical information to educational authorities.

The Society has no connection with the Questors Theatre. The Richard III Society is proud to have helped a little with the historical data for this Production and it appreciates the courtesy of the Questors in granting facilities for a Display of historiana for the benefit of the audiences.

This exhibition, and full particulars of the Society, will be found on the upper level foyer outside the doors to the auditorium. You are cordially invited to examine the exhibits and to ask questions of the 'White Boar' on duty.

A note by the Richard III Society

It should be understood that the author's solution to the mystery of the 'Princes in the Tower' is one theory among three or four which are more or less equally valid, though not all equally favoured. Against the rumour, spread by Lancastrian supporters during the reign of Richard III, that the Princes had been murdered, can be set the rumour, no doubt spread by Yorkist supporters during the reign of Henry VII, that they had escaped, or been sent, overseas and at least one of them had survived. The true fate of the 'Princes in the Tower' remains a mystery.

The bones of two children discovered in the Tower of London in 1674 and inurned in Westminster Abbey by order of Charles II on the assumption that they were the bones of the Princes are not claimed by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster Abbey to be authentic, since neither date, sex, nor age can be definitely established, and they are not the first pair of children's skeletons found in the Tower assumed to be those of the Princes.



