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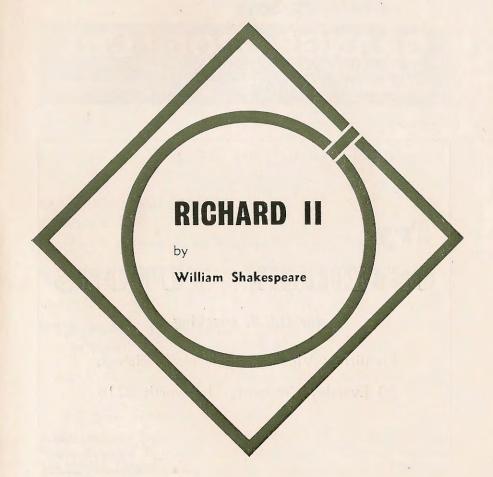
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FIRST PERFORMANCE
SATURDAY, 15th MARCH, 1969

PRODUCER'S NOTE

In his introduction to the Cambridge University Press "New Shakespeare" edition of "King Richard II," John Dover Wilson wrote: "The character of its central figure has . . . laid a spell upon most of the great critics, a spell scarcely less potent than that of the Prince of Denmark, with which it has often, somewhat misleadingly, been compared. The concentration of nineteenthcentury criticism upon character problems has, however, here, as elsewhere, led to a distorted view of the play as a whole . . ." Dover Wilson's intention was "rather to reconstruct, so far as is now possible, the Elizabethan attitude towards the play than to add one more interpretation of the characters of Richard and Bolingbroke to the ever-growing collection of modern analyses." This approach has been adopted in this production. From the Elizabethan point of view the central action of the play—the deposition of a king—is truly appalling; the events which lead up to it and which follow are beyond purely logical explanation. "Richard II" is a celebration of the loss of kingship in quite a parallel sense to that in which the coronation service celebrates its assumption. The text used is basically that of the Cambridge New Shakespeare. There are a number of small deletions and adjustments, mostly for practical reasons, and one major cut in Act V: from line 41 of Scene 2 to the end of Scene 3. Willoughby and Fitzwater have become one character, as have the Lord Marshal, Surrey, and Salisbury.

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son to John of Gaunt	MEAILLE CKOLLENDEN
Duke of Aumerle, son to Duke of York,	GEOFFREY WALKER
Thomas Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk	CARTH SPIERS
F. J (C-1:-b. J J. M J J.	DOREDT DVDNE
Earl of Salisbury, Lord Marshal	KUDEKI DIKINE
First Herald	PHILIP IRVING
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Captain of a band of Weishinen	DUIL ID IDVING
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Duchess of Gloster	DORINNE INGRAM
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Serving-woman	GILLIAN REDHEAD
Serving-woman	JUNE LOWE
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Attendants	JIANA DALL, LIZ JADET
Soldiers JOHN ARMITT, J.	AMES BALL, MIKE BRACE
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John Webb

Deputy Stage Manager

Martin McDonald

Assistant Stage Managers

Peter Wall, Lynne Adams, Diana Ball, Gill Bryant, Jackie Chamberlain, Mary Lewis,

Heather Markham

Construction

Geoffrey Dobson. John Armitt, Mike Brace, Douglas Brown, Ken Harman, John Gillespie, Bob Stock

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23rd March	HAMLET (7.00 p.m.)
20th April CULLODEN (&) IT HAPPE	ENED HERE (7.00 p.m.)
18th May DIARY (
	(7.45 p.m.)

A discussion is held after each production by The Questors to which all members of the audience are cordially invited. The discussion on RICHARD II will be held on Monday, 31st March in the Bernard Shaw Room at 7.45 p.m.

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