

History plays out in the House of Commons

RICHARD II to be staged in the House of Commons
on the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death

23 April performance is
the first-ever
Shakespeare play
staged in the Palace of
Westminster

TIM DELAP (*Casanova*,
Poldark) to play Richard

HERMIONE
GULLIFORD (*Foyles*
War, *New Tricks*) to play
female Bolingbroke

New production brings
the drama to 21st
century Westminster

Scenes span from
Whitehall to London
City Airport.

Lady Eleanor De Bohun,
Duchess of Gloucester
becomes Political Editor
of the BBC.

Richard II will transfer
to Arcola Theatre
from 3 May



Only 100 tickets are available for the one-off performance in the House of Commons. Owing to high demand, they will be distributed through a ballot, open now until 6 April at shakespeareinparliament.com.

**Press contact: Kevin Wilson at KWPR tel 07884 368697
kevinwilsonpr@gmail.com**

A new production of **RICHARD II** will be staged in the House of Commons on 23 April, exactly 400 years to the day of Shakespeare's death.

The first-ever performance of a Shakespeare play in the Palace of Westminster, it will celebrate four centuries of the writer at the centre of Britain's national culture, in the centre of its national politics.

Tim Delap will play Richard, the charismatic leader who faces a challenge from Harri Bolingbroke (Hermione Gulliford), reimagined in this new version as a female Leader of the Opposition.

Tim Delap starred in Jean-Pierre Jeunet's *Casanova*, and opposite Benedict Cumberbatch in the BBC's *To The Ends Of The Earth*. His stage work includes *The Woman in Black* in the West End, UK tours of *The History Boys* and *Regeneration*, and *All's Well That Ends Well* at the RSC.

Hermione Gulliford's recent stage work includes *3 Winters* and *Hotel* at the National Theatre. Previously she played Portia in *The Merchant of Venice* and Helena in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, both at the RSC.

This new production, created by young directors **Jack Gamble** and **Quentin Beroud**, gives refreshing new life to Shakespeare's 420-year-old verse. Scenes span from Whitehall to London City Airport. Lady Eleanor De Bohun, Duchess of Gloucester becomes Political Editor of the BBC.

Jack Gamble and Quentin Beroud said: "We want to show the ongoing power of Shakespeare's writing to speak to new generations and modern concerns.

"Staging this early masterpiece in Parliament will reveal how much Shakespeare still has to say about leadership and representation. Reworking Bolingbroke as a powerful female lead will give the play a renewed significance at a time where certain privileges still count for more than they should.

"We are thrilled to be presenting the first full Shakespearian production in the country's seat of power, and on such a special night. It will be a once-in-a-lifetime experience for everyone taking part and watching."

Only 100 tickets are available for the one-off performance in the House of Commons on St George's Day. They are £50 each, and include drinks. Owing to high demand, they will be distributed through a ballot, open now until 6 April at www.shakespeareinparliament.com.

RICHARD II transfers from Westminster to East London on Tuesday 3 May, with a week-long run at Arcola Theatre. Tickets are available now at shakespeareinparliament.com.



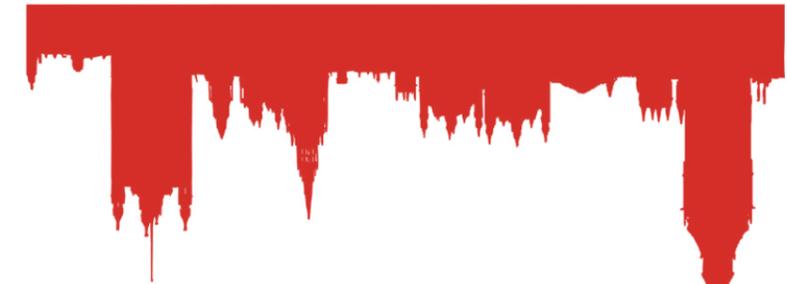
Tim Delap



Hermione Gulliford

Dippermouth and Hartshorn – Hook Productions
in association with Arcola Theatre and Arts Theatre West End presents

RICHARD II



by **WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE**
A new version by **JACK GAMBLE & QUENTIN BEROUD**

23 APRIL 2016
HOUSE OF COMMONS

3 - 7 MAY 2016
ARCOLA THEATRE

A nation in uproar. A leader in crisis. An unlikely successor waiting in the wings. **RICHARD II** is a gripping political thriller about the seduction of power and the tragedy of losing it.

Saturday 23 April 2016 – HOUSE OF COMMONS
The House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA Arrivals 6.45pm

Exactly 400 years to the day of Shakespeare's death, witness the world premiere of this exciting new production – live in the Palace of Westminster. This once-in-a-lifetime theatrical experience celebrates four centuries of Britain's most influential playwright, and shows his continuing power to thrill and surprise us all.

Tickets: £50 (including free drinks) Enter the ballot now: www.shakespeareinparliament.com

Ticket holders will...



Arrive in Westminster Hall (where Shakespeare sets Act 4 Scene 1 of *Richard II*), with its wooden ceiling built for King Richard in 1393.

Walk through Parliament's Central Lobby, passing the statues of Richard, Queen Isabella and Richard's successor, Henry IV.

Step into the 'Painted Chamber' for a once-in-a-lifetime theatrical experience.

Tuesday 3 – Saturday 7 May 2016 –ARCOLA THEATRE

24 Ashwin Street, Dalston, London E8 3DL

Nightly at 7.30pm, Thursday and Saturday matinees at 3pm

Tickets: £19 (£15 concessions)

Group rate: 1 free ticket with every 10 purchased Book now: www.arcolatheatre.com | 020 7503 1646