

## David Hywel Baynes returns to Covent Garden to play Richard III in a new promenade version of Shakespeare's political thriller



After the success of their critically acclaimed production of *Julius Caesar* in 2013, Iris Theatre are returning for a sixth summer season of Shakespeare in the beautiful gardens of St Paul's Church, Covent Garden, in the heart of the West End.

In an open-air promenade production of the political thriller, **Richard III**, directed by Iris Theatre's Artistic Director Daniel Winder, England's War of the Roses, and Shakespeare's greatest villain will be brought to one of London's busiest public spaces. As they journey with the story and move location round the grounds and inside the church itself, audiences will be drawn deep into the heart of this dark and dangerous conspiracy.

**Richard III** will open on 25 June and run until 25 July.

**Press night is Monday 30 June at 7.30pm**

Following his lauded performance as Brutus in last year's *Julius Caesar*, New York-based David Hywel Baynes is returning to the company to star in the title role. David is an Associate Artist of Iris Theatre, and **Richard III** is his seventh production for the company.

Director Dan Winder said: "In *Romeo and Juliet*, the first Iris production David appeared in, he had just one line. I have since cast him and watched him grow into a fantastic, mature actor who this year gets to play the lead and will be in almost every scene! David is a highly skilled physical actor, and I'm particularly excited to see what he brings to that specific challenge of playing Richard. With the recent discovery of Richard III's body under the tarmac of a Leicestershire car park, the story of Richard has never been more prominent in our imaginations and so there is no better year to explore Shakespeare's Richard; one of his most beguiling and magnetic Kings."

David's previous Iris Theatre credits include playing the Queen of Hearts and the March Hare in *Alice in Wonderland*, Puck in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Cloanthus in *Dido & Aeneas*, Chief Weasel in *Wind in the Willows* and Abraham in *Romeo and Juliet*.

Reviews for David Hywel Baynes as Brutus in Iris Theatre's 2013 acclaimed production of *Julius Caesar*

**"In confident full flow he gives the character an energy and charisma that drives the play forward."**  
British Theatre Guide

**"David Hywel Baynes is sensationally good as Brutus"**  
The Public Reviews

**"No less a gargantuan performance is that of David Hywel Baynes as Brutus. Bayne's Brutus may be the anguished, garrulous assassin for much of the play but the moment we hear of the loss of his wife and child, we see his world collapse and we know the war is over, one way or another."**  
The Stage

kevinwils★  
public relations

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

## LISTINGS INFO

### **Richard III**

by William Shakespeare

**Wednesday 25 June -  
Friday 25 July**

Monday - Saturday at 7.30pm  
Saturday matinee at 2.30pm

**Press night: Monday 30 June at 7.30pm**

Show runs 2 hours 15 mins

Tickets: £18.00, concessions £14.00

### **St Paul's Church**

Bedford Street  
Covent Garden  
London  
WC2E 9ED

Book online at [www.iris theatre.com](http://www.iris theatre.com)

Tickets are also available in person on the door

How to get there:

Nearest Tubes: Covent Garden  
& Leicester Square

Buses: 6, 9, 11, 13, 15, 23, 24, 29, 87, 91, 139, 176