

THE HIDDEN ROOM • THE HARRY RANSOM CENTER
AND THE AUSTIN SCOTTISH RITE THEATER PRESENT



BOOTH'S RICHARD III

IN 1861 JOHN WILKES BOOTH WAS A CELEBRATED ACTOR.
IN 1865 HE WILL BECOME ONE OF AMERICA'S MOST DETESTED VILLAINS.

Using Booth's original promptbook, we resuscitate the ghost of his infamous Richard, and examine the dangers of lies, division, reckless rhetoric, and radicalization.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Hidden Room Theatre, June 2018



RICHARD, DUKE OF GLOSTER	Mr. Judd Farris
KING HENRY VI, EARL OF RICHMOND.....	Mr. Brock England
PRINCE OF WALES.....	Ms. Lily Pipkin
DUKE OF YORK.....	Ms. Rachel Steed
DUKE OF BUCKINGHAM.....	Mr. Robert Matney
DUKE OF NORFOLK, LIEUTENANT OF THE TOWER.....	Mr. Zac Crofford
TRESSEL, RATCLIFF.....	Mr. Kenneth Williams
CATESBY, OFFICER.....	Mr. Sean Christopher
LORD STANLEY.....	Mr. Robert Deike
BLUNT, LORD MAYOR OF LONDON.....	Mr. Jeremy Rashad Brown
EARL OF OXFORD, TIRREL.....	Mr. Adam Miller-Batteau
GUARD AT ARMS.....	Mr. Andrew Rodriguez
QUEEN ELIZABETH.....	Ms. Andrea Smith
LADY ANNE.....	Ms. Lynn Mikeska
DUCHESS OF YORK.....	Ms. Jill Swanson

Lords, officers, attendants, clergymen, soldiers by the cast

Notes from **Eric Colleary,**

Cline Curator of Theatre and Performing Arts, Harry Ransom Center

For over 200 years after the death of Shakespeare, audiences would have more likely seen a production of the script you're seeing – that by Colley Cibber, not Shakespeare. Colley Cibber's Richard III dominated Shakespeare's version for over 120 years. Known as the "blood and thunder" or "rapid action" version, Cibber's Richard was fast-paced, audience friendly, shorter, and more violent. Cibber emphasizes clear moral rights and wrongs, which appealed to 19th century American audiences.

John Wilkes Booth, son of the noted Shakespearean actor Junius Brutus Booth and brother to actor Edwin Booth, made his professional stage debut on August 14, 1855 in the role of Richmond in Richard III. Within five years, John had made a name for himself nationally as a star actor and took on the title role himself. He took his job seriously, was encouraging of the actors he performed with, and received overwhelmingly positive critical reviews during his brief career. His talents matched with his good looks made him a box office success until his politics made it difficult for him to find work. Booth was shot and killed 12 days after he assassinated President Abraham Lincoln, and history remembers him as much of a villain as the one he played on stage. Much of Booth's costumes, promptbooks, and memorabilia was stored in a trunk by his brother Edwin and is believed to have been destroyed in a fire at the Winter Garden Theatre in 1867.

It is not known how the promptbook for John Wilkes Booth's Richard III survived, but it's possible it came to the Harry Ransom Center as part of Harry Houdini's theatre collection in 1956 – Houdini being enormously interested in the Booth family of actors. A promptbook is the full script of a play with all of the script edits, acting, music, and technical cues specific to a particular production – in short, one of the best records of what a production looked like. Using this alongside newspaper reviews, prints, photographs, sound recordings, and period acting manuals, The Hidden Room has brought the production to life for the first time since it was last performed in 1864. The connection to one of America's most notorious actors is notable, but even more so it's provided a fascinating and engaging glimpse into this country's history. We've learned more about period acting styles by getting this play on its feet than we ever would have from simply reading books, and this is both the fun and importance of performance as research.

A digital facsimile of the Ransom Center's promptbook can be viewed in its entirety through the Digital Collections portal on the Ransom Center's website: hrc.utexas.edu



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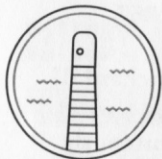
**WHAT WE HAVE DONE IS YOURS;
WHAT WE HAVE TO DO IS YOURS.**



SECRET HANDSHAKE:
Anonymous, Anonymous



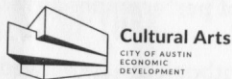
INITIATION:
Jean Pressly, the Zamarippa Family, Paul Groeppler,
Jeff Antebi, the Lynch Family, John Greytok, Five & Four,
Lucy Chamberlain, Eric Goff



MYSTERIOUS DOOR:
Michael Meigs & Karen Milton, Timothy & Kathleen Johnson,
Regina & Michael Bahmfalk, Diana & Dave Heath



PEEK THROUGH THE KEYHOLE:
Mandy Daugherty, Leanna Holmquist, Melissa Goodrich, Eric
Colleary, John Warren & Victoria Taylor, Elizanda de la Sota,
Steph Modlin, Jennymarie Jemison & Christopher Shea, Holly
Lewis & Bug Davidson, Meredith Balderston, Andrea Villareal,
Robin Rhoads, Sarah Saltwick, Jose A Perez Diaz, Laura Walburg,
Alan Friedman, Bella Glasel, Julia Lorenz-Olson & Philip Olson



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Economic Development Department.



We are grateful to the Creative Fund for
their kind support of Booth's Richard III,
and other Austin arts projects.

PRODUCTION STAFF



Master of Play Beth Burns
Asst. Director..... Indiia Wilmott
Master of Research Eric Colleary
Asst. Research Cassidy Schulze
Master of Austin Scottish Rite Theater... Susan Gayle Todd
Prompter Andrew Rodriguez
Asst. Stage Manager Shelby Foshay
Master of Music Howard Burket
Master of Costume Jenny McNee
Master of Lighting..... Rachel Atkinson
Master of Fight..... Toby Minor
Fight Captain..... Adam Miller-Batteau
Master of Properties..... Amanda Perry
Master of Styling..... Samantha Smith
Master of Makeup..... Amelia Turner
Master of Movement..... Kate Meehan
Master of Voice Justin Scalise
Master of Assisted Listening..... Celia Hughes
Master of Art Design.. Jennymarie Jemison of Five and Four
Master of Photography..... Kimberley Mead
Master of House/Master of Social Media... Walden Hagelman
Musicians Howard Burkett, Cesar Osorio, Roy Thomas,
 Charlie Tovar, and Eg Lunning Jr.



THANK YOU FOR VISITING!

We hope you enjoyed your journey inside the Hidden Room. Your experience was made more complete by these generous and talented people, to whom we owe so many thanks: The Harry Ransom Center and their many team members who helped make this show happen, The Austin Scottish Rite Theater and their many wonderful team members, Lone Star Chapter 6 York Rite Masons, Mark Dermit, Shakespeare's Globe Research and Education Department, Austin Creative Alliance, Sloane Reardon, Charles Ainsworth, VSA, Jennifer Rose Davis, Kriston Woodreaux, Christopher Fetherolf, Katy Taylor, Isto Barton, our friends and family, and our board members: Farah Karim-Cooper, Katy Thompson, Andrea Smith, Blake Shanley, Jennifer Coy, and Djahari Clark.

A GLIMPSE TOWARD THE FUTURE:

The Hidden Room's collaboration with the Harry Ransom Center brings rare plays to life from the "Occasional Playwrights" exhibit this September via a festival of staged readings.

2019 sees Dr. Farah Karim-Cooper, Head of Research and Education at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London and the Hidden Room exploring the most cutting edge discoveries in early modern original practices in the Duchess of Malfi.

Be on the lookout for more information on our website, Facebook page, or sign up to receive rare secret missives from the Matriarch.

hiddenroomtheatre.com