



Live Music played by The Melting Pot Theatre Band

The band was originally formed to provide incidental music for a production of *The Merry Wives of Windsor* by the Southampton University Players in 2005. It has had several other incarnations since then with Southampton University Players and as the show band for the Gantry Youth Theatre's rock pantomime in 2007.

In 2013 *Anne Boleyn* was its first collaboration with the Maskers, returning, as it were, to its Tudor roots. This was followed by a contribution to the annual Christmas show the same year.

Jane Warren (vocals, recorders) has been playing and singing mostly early music around Southampton since the early eighties. She was a founder member of Quattro and the Melting Pot Theatre Band and currently sings with Southampton Choral Society.

Mark Littleton-Gray (percussion) came to the Melting Pot Theatre Band via prog, punk, avant garde and finally folk. He has previously participated in the *Lark Rise* and *Cinderella Rocks* incarnations of the Melting Pot Theatre Band.

DON'T MISS THE SUMMER PRODUCTION

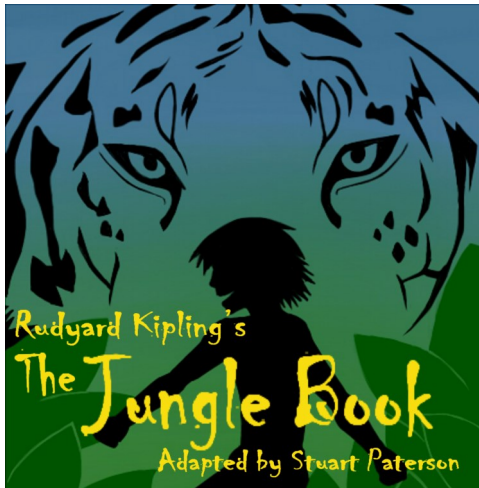
15 July - 25 July

In the OPEN AIR at **Hamptworth Lodge**

SP5 2EA (between Romsey & Salisbury)

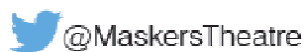
Rudyard Kipling's classic tale of Mowgli's adventures with manic monkeys, wise wolves and a murderous tiger. Pack a picnic and enjoy the stunning outdoor location of Hamptworth Lodge as the action unfolds.

BOX OFFICE: via link on our website or 0333 666 3366



Help us be more environmentally sustainable!

Join the Maskers online mailing list—visit our website and click the box provided.



It's a tale of
dark shadows,
ulterior motives,
betrayal,
greed, suspicion,
incompetence,
private armies,
murder.....

and it's all in

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S
RICHARD II

THE MASKERS ON TOUR 2015

Programme

Thursday 9 April to Saturday 9 May

MASKERS THEATRE COMPANY

Registered Charity no. 900067

maskers.org.uk

Director's Notes

I decided on a touring workshop production for several reasons. Maskers have a history of touring and it seemed a worthwhile idea to resurrect. It adds a different dimension to the production. The cast and crew need to be very flexible. They will perform in nine different venues, some large, some small, from staged proscenium to flat floors with the audience on three sides. Lighting and set have to be easily erected within an hour. Music will be live and very much part of the play. We use basic costumes which easily identify the major characters. This idea came from research showing that Richard encouraged the wearing of badges to show allegiance; The White Hart, The Red Lion, The Leopard etc. The connection with football fans wearing the shirts of their heroes seemed too tempting to resist.

I hope you enjoy our interpretation of Richard II.

Ken Hann

Maskers would like to thank Alden Ltd Northam, Mayfield Nurseries, Robin Belfield (Connect Associate, RSC Open Stages), Tom Jordan (RSC Fight Director), and Serena Brown for making and supplying gloves.

Richard II. the man and the play

Richard II ascended the throne at the age of ten in 1377. He was to reign for 22 years. At the age of 14 his part in successfully stopping The Peasants' Revolt convinced him that he was God's appointed representative on earth. He had a divine right to rule. He had many clashes with his uncles and other nobles who, whilst he was a boy, had become used to ruling the kingdom in his name. He was an unpredictable and, at times, vicious ruler. On one occasion he was taken to the tower and threatened with deposition by Gloucester, Bolingbroke, Mowbray and two others. Soon afterwards Richard was taken to parliament where these five "lords appellant" swore allegiance to him, presumably because he had promised to behave.

Richard never forgot that humiliation and slowly, secretly built up a private army and many supporters in parliament. He then started to dispose of his enemies. In 1397 Gloucester died in suspicious circumstances, many saying he was murdered on Richard's orders by Mowbray. Bolingbroke and Mowbray met and decided they could be next and should act against the King. Bolingbroke panicked and told Richard that Mowbray was plotting against him. This is where the play begins, with Bolingbroke publicly accusing Mowbray of Gloucester's murder. Within two years Richard was dead and Bolingbroke crowned King Henry IV. Thus begins the Wars of the Roses.

Shakespeare's play follows quite closely the events of those last two years. It was a dangerous play to perform in 1595 as the question of deposition of a childless monarch was not one Elizabeth I wanted discussed. "I am Richard, know ye not that?" she said after seeing the play. It was performed for the Earl of Essex on the eve of the failed "Essex Rebellion" in 1601. Shakespeare and his company managed to escape imprisonment. Essex was not so lucky, being hung, drawn, and quartered.

RSC Open Stages

In May 2013, Maskers were invited to submit a production proposal to the Royal Shakespeare Company as part of their Open Stages Project 2013-2016. We had already been part of Open Stages 2010 – 2012 performing two plays, Humble Boy and A Midsummer Night's Dream. This time they wanted to narrow down the number of participating groups to about 100 so that they could work with them more intensely. I offered to direct a touring workshop version of Richard II. In August 2013 we heard that we had been selected, one of only 86 companies out of 200 submissions from across the British Isles.

Since September 2013, when all the directors of the 86 companies were invited to Stratford for two days of workshops, we have been involved in a two-day event at our Hub Theatre, The Nuffield in Southampton, and a series of day workshops every couple of months. Those training sessions have covered Voice, Movement, Directing, Editing, and Fight Direction presented by specialists from the RSC and our own Connect Associate, Robin Belfield.



Directed by Ken Hann - I joined The Maskers in 1969 wanting to act. My first role was a character named Vermin, which says it all really. Over the years I gathered a fair number of vicars, stiff upper-lipped Englishmen, and Regency fops to my repertoire. This will be my eighth attempt at direction since 2003 including Chekhov, Vanbrugh, Russell, Fielding, and four Shakespeares. I hope to get it right soon.

The Production Crew

Production & Transport Manager

Graham Buchanan

Tour Manager

Christine Baker

Stage Manager

Angie Barks

Set/Graphic Design

John Hamon

Lighting Design

Clive Weeks

Lighting Operator

Angie Barks and Mike Matthias

Stage Crew

The Cast

Costumes

John Hamon and The Cast

Properties

Gill Buchanan

Set Building

Roger Lockett, Ken Hann, Graham Buchanan and Geoff Cook

Needlework, Tour FOH, Refreshments

Members of Maskers

Assistant to the Director

Avril Woodward

For the Company

Technical Manager --- Jamie McCarthy; **Marketing Director** --- Sarah Russell; **Marketing Team** ---

Angela Stansbridge, Ruth Kibble, Leah Barlow, James Norton, Clive Weeks, **Front of House Manager** ---

Chris Baker; **Front of House Display** --- Leah Barlow; **Box Office Manager** --- Chris Baker; **Photography** ---

Clive Weeks; **Bar Manager** --- Jan Spiers

The Cast (continued)



Duke of Aumerle played by Peter Ward. Peter, or Peewee as he is generally known, is a recent engineering graduate. Quite how he ended up going into theatre, therefore, is a mystery to many people, including himself. Perhaps he got a bit overzealous when watching an Alan Bennett play. Whatever the reason, Peewee is now a regular performer with several companies in the local area with aspirations to go professional in the near future.



Duchess of Gloucester, Scroop & 2nd Gardener played by Marie McDade. Marie's first production with Maskers was touring with Mitchell's Wings and she is looking forward to going on the road again. Her previous Shakespearian outings have been in two productions of The Tempest – the first one, a long time ago now, touring to schools and village halls in Devon, so she is used to working with minimal sets!



Bagot, Captain & Gaoler played by Adam Warren. Adam has been looking forward to taking part in another Shakespeare play since his first in 2004 as a servant moving the buck-basket containing Falstaff in The Merry Wives of Windsor with the SUP. A couple of years ago he played Sir Robert Cecil in the Maskers production of Anne Boleyn at Hamptworth, and thought that had many Shakespearean qualities – but it is great to be involved in the real thing again!



Greene & Marshall played by David Jobson. This is David's first acting role at the Maskers, having only previously played a lurker for Anne Boleyn. He has performed in many productions at Winchester University, particularly as General McKenzie in And Then There Were None, and Porthos in The Three Musketeers. He is a devoted fan of Shakespeare, having seen most of the plays at the RSC since 2006. He is thrilled to be in this production of one of his most poignant plays.



Bushy & Lady played by Jill Desborough. Jill's first acting role for decades was as a rather dim-witted house-keeper in the 2014 Maskers Christmas Show. She enjoyed the experience enormously. Having taught Shakespeare to teenagers for many years, she is looking forward to the challenge of working as a group to bring his words to life on the stage.



Thomas Mowbray & Exton played by Stephen Ward. This is Stephen's first production with Maskers. He has had previous roles with other companies in Macbeth, The Crucible and The Dumb Waiter. His interests include running, eating, sleeping, talking, and people. Stephen lives by the motto of "What happens on tour, stays on tour!"



The Earl of Northumberland played by Adam Taussik. Since Adam was the King of England a couple of years ago, he was demoted to the lower classes for a while, but hard work and dedication (and fortunate casting) has brought him back to the nobility. When not in ermine, he has another life in Student Services at the University of Southampton.

Other characters played by members of the Company

The Cast



King Richard II played by William Baggs. This is the second time William has played a monarch in a Maskers production - in 2013 he played James I in Anne Boleyn. Before that he squeaked his way around the stage as Pricklemouse in Can You Hear The Music and was suitably mischievous as Algernon in The Importance of Being Ernest. But Richard II offers the greatest challenge yet, and he's looking forward to the demands of returning to the throne while touring the South of England.



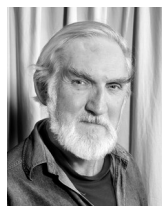
Queen Isabelle played by Lydia Longman. Lydia is accustomed to working with her company, Shakespeare in a Week, and so is looking forward to having more time to get to know her character in depth! Having just come from her Maskers debut as Catherine in Wuthering Heights, she's also looking forward to a role that doesn't regularly prompt people to sing Kate Bush at her. She's excited to be royalty and excited to tour a show - both new but welcome challenges.



Henry Bolingbroke played by Ian Wilson. Ian has been with Maskers since 2007 and has played a range of roles from the owner of a strip club in The Graduate, to a lepidopterist in Butterfly Kiss, Brendan the Barman in The Weir, and Parris in The Crucible. He has also directed for the company and had a spell as Productions Manager. This is the first Shakespeare Ian has appeared in since college and he is very much looking forward to becoming king.



John of Gaunt, Bishop of Carlisle & Gardener played by Eric Petterson. Eric started a late acting career with the Maskers in 2012. His straight acting roles included the guard in Forward to the Right; he also played James in The 13th Floor and a manic mass murderer in the latest Christmas offering. In 2014, he acted in two plays at the Chesil Theatre, and is really pleased to be back at Maskers and touring in



Duke of York played by John Souter. John has many years' experience with Maskers, including major Shakespearean roles at the Nuffield Theatre and in outdoor productions. In the 2007 Curtain Call awards, he was voted best actor in a Shakespearean play as King Lear; this was also under the direction of Ken Hann, so John knows how Ken works and is looking forward to an intensive period of rehearsals and an exciting run of this touring production.



Duchess of York played by Hazel Burrows. Hazel has been a Masker since the 70s and has enjoyed taking part in many of the rich variety of productions: Mai in Our Lady of Sligo, Hannah in Little Women, Piggy in the Owl and the Pussycat, and last summer Lady Bracknell in the Importance of Being Earnest to mention a few. A year ago, Hazel directed the successful comedy Sitting Pretty at the Nuffield Theatre, Southampton. Hazel looks forward to sharing this challenging play and taking a break away from her studio as a commercial artist.

KING EDWARD III
1312-1377

Philippa of
Hainault

1327

EDWARD
The Black Prince
1330-1376

Joan of Kent

JOHN OF GAUNT
Duke of Lancaster
1340-1399

Blanche of
Lancaster

DUKE OF YORK
1341-1402

Isabel of Castile

**DUKE OF
GLOUCESTER**
1354-1397

KING RICHARD II
1367-1400

Isabelle of
France

HENRY BOLINGBROKE
KING HENRY IV
1367-1413

Mary de Bohun

DUKE OF AUMERLE
1373-1415

1377

1399

1413

1422



KING HENRY V
1387-1422

