

CLASSICAL · ACTORS · ENSEMBLE

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“RICHARD II” PERFORMED IN THE TWIN CITIES AFTER 21 YEAR HIATUS

Minneapolis, MN (October 1, 2011) – Beginning November 4, Shakespeare’s “The Tragedie of King Richard II” will take the stage in the Twin Cities for the first time in 21 years. Staged by recently established theater company, Classical Actors Ensemble (CAE) and directed by MN Shakespeare Project Artistic Director, Diane Mountford, “Richard II” will capture the spirit of an original 17th century theater-going experience through employing Elizabethan practices of open staging, universal lighting, company-performed music between acts, and concessions for sale in the theater.

Building on these practices which they employed in last spring’s “All’s Well That Ends Well”, CAE will highlight modern political themes in “Richard II” by setting the production in the contemporary period. Audiences can expect modern dress and music styles.

“Richard II” contains some of Shakespeare’s most eloquent and evocative poetry. Within these poetic structures, our production will explore our culture’s perceptions of leaders and how a major change in leadership affects the rest of society,” actor Joseph Papke said.

The production will run November 4 - 19 at Walker Community Church, 3104 16th Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55407. Performance dates are Thursday through Saturday, November 4, 5, 7, 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 19, all performances begin at 7:30 p.m. Monday, November 7th is a special pay-what-you-can performance. CAE is proud to host a post-show discussion with the director and actors, after performances on the 11th and 18th. Patrons may name their own price for tickets on a sliding scale of \$14-24. Tickets can be purchased by cash or check at the door or online at www.classicalactorsensemble.org. Concessions will be available during the performance.

MORE ABOUT THE PLAY: England’s nobles have lost their patience for King Richard’s capricious rule and financial mismanagement. When Richard’s cousin, Henry Bolingbroke, returns from banishment to claim his dead father's estate, Richard's days on the throne become numbered. Does Richard relinquish the throne or does Henry seize it? And are the challenges of absolute power too much for anyone? Wildly popular in its day, ‘Richard II’ examines the psychology of leadership and the dual nature of hubris and ambition through a blend of national history and personal tragedy.

THE ARTISTS: The cast is anchored by local actors Joseph Papke as Richard and Guthrie BFA graduate Jason Rojas as Bollingbroke, with supporting performances from a total cast of 19, including Kevin Carnahan, Randall J. Funk, Topher Jordan, and John Lilleberg.

MORE ABOUT THE COMPANY: To learn more about the company, please visit www.classicalactorsensemble.org

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