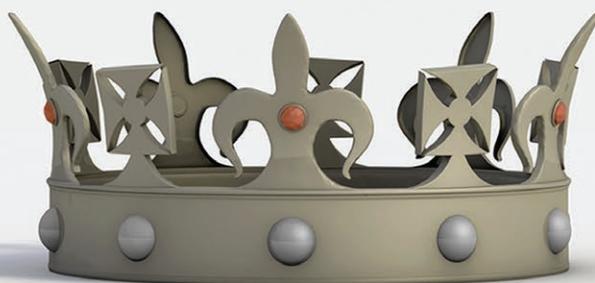




THE
TRAGEDY
of

KING
RICHARD
III



AUDITION PIECES
JANUARY 2019



RICHARD III

22 JULY - 9 AUGUST 2019

Directed by Neil Mathieson

Thank you for taking the time to download the audition pieces for Brownsea Open Air Theatre's (BOAT) 2019 production of William Shakespeare's 'Richard III'.

BOAT is one of the biggest theatrical projects in the South, annually performing on The National Trust's Brownsea Island in Poole Harbour, Dorset. These beautiful surroundings make for a wonderful show, and a fantastic evening of traditional Shakespeare.

The company is professionally run, but all those involved with BOAT, whether on stage, backstage or front-of-house are unpaid volunteers. Since 1964, BOAT has involved over 1,400 volunteers, entertained tens of thousands of people and raised over £200,000 for the National Trust.

Our auditions are open to anyone, of any experience.

If you are thinking of auditioning, we would ask you to read through all the information on the following pages - they will help give you an overview and understanding of what is expected of you should you get a part in the 2019 production.

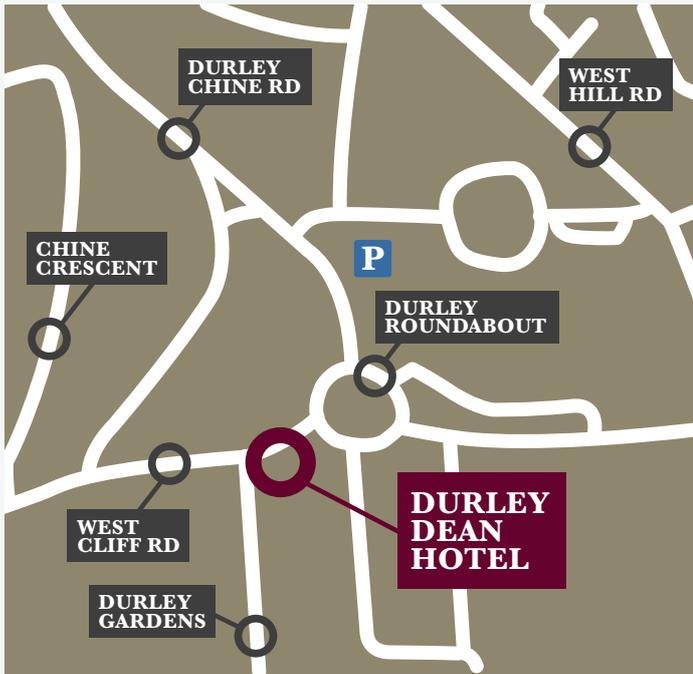
Each production takes many months of preparation, but it is an experience that the cast, crew and audience remembers for a long time, and relishes coming back year after year.

We hope you can be part of it!



OPEN AUDITIONS

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



WHERE, WHEN AND WHAT?

Auditions take place on

**WEDS 9TH & THURS 10TH
JANUARY 2019**

The Durley Dean Hotel

28 West Cliff Road Bournemouth, BH2 5HE
from **7pm.**

On arrival you will be asked to fill out a form (Name/Address/Part you're going for etc) which then gets passed onto the Audition Panel. There may be a bit of a wait to audition - depending on how many people turn up - so it's an ideal time to meet others involved with the production. Or just schmooze. Plus there's a bar.

AUDITIONING

We know that auditioning is scary. Very scary. But we try and run a fairly relaxed auditions - there are no Simon Cowells. Auditions take place in a separate room - so there's no auditioning in front of anyone else. If you mess up, or stumble, it's ok - we take into account the nerve factor. If you want to start again, that's not a problem either. Our goal is to make you feel that you've shown us the best that you can do.

*With the exception of the *Two Young Princes*, **ages are a guideline only.** If you are older/younger and want to go for a particular part, please do.*

PLEASE NOTE: THERE IS NO NEED TO LEARN THE LINES BY HEART, UNLESS YOU WANT TO - BUT IF YOU NEED A PROMPT WE WILL GIVE IT.

CHORUS/NON-SPEAKING PARTS

If you don't fancy learning any lines, there are plenty of non-speaking parts (soldiers and members of court) in this production. These are open to anyone - any age (16+), any shape, and any gender.

Please come to auditions and make yourself known, BUT please note being in the chorus is just as big a commitment, timewise, as any other part.

REHEARSALS



Performing on Brownsea Island is a unique and wonderful experience, but it does require a big commitment from its cast - from the initial readthrough all the way through to the deconstruction of the set once the production is finished.

Please read the following before deciding to audition...

Brownsea Open Air Theatre's Richard III
Preview Performance: 22nd July 2019
Production Dates: 24th July - 9th August 2019
Directed by Neil Mathieson
Production Manager: Martha Jenkins

REHEARSALS

Rehearsals will run 3 times a week (Monday, Wednesday and Thursday) from April. Whilst you won't be called for all early rehearsals, you should be available for every date.

- **April/May/June** - Kinson Rehearsals: 7-10pm
- **July** - Brownsea Island Rehearsals: 7-10pm* (*Cast/Crew Ferry leaves from Sandbanks at 6pm*)
- **July** - Brownsea Island Tech Week: 7-11pm* (*Cast/Crew Ferry leaves from Sandbanks at 6pm*)

You are responsible for getting to and from rehearsals at Kinson, and to the ferry point at Sandbanks by 5:50pm once rehearsals move to Brownsea Island.



CAST MEMBERS

As a cast member you are expected to:

- **Turn up to every rehearsal you are called for. On time.**
- **Take direction and write notes.**
- **Learn your lines.**
- **Help with set build and deconstruct.**
- **Help publicise the show.**



** Please note that once we get to the island rehearsals, our ferry won't be back on to the mainland until 10:30pm (and 11:30pm during the week of Technical). Please take this into account if you are thinking of auditioning - particularly if you live some distance away.*

SYNOPSIS



After a long civil war between the royal family of York and the royal family of Lancaster, England enjoys a period of peace under **King Edward IV** and the victorious Yorks. But Edward's younger brother, **Richard**, resents Edward's power and the happiness of those around him. Malicious, power-hungry, and bitter about his physical deformity, Richard begins to aspire secretly to the throne - and decides to kill anyone in his way, in order to become king.

Using his intelligence and his skills of deception and political manipulation, Richard begins his campaign for the throne. He manipulates a noblewoman, **Lady Anne**, into marrying him - even though she knows that he murdered her first husband. Using **Tyrell** and a **Murderer**, he has his own older brother, **Clarence**, executed, and shifts the burden of guilt onto his sick older brother King Edward in order to accelerate Edward's illness and death. After King Edward dies, Richard becomes lord protector of England - the figure in charge until the elder of Edward's two sons grows up.

Next Richard kills the court noblemen who are loyal to the princes, most notably **Lord Hastings**, the Lord Chamberlain of England. He then has **Lord Rivers**, the boys' uncle on their mother's side - the powerful kinsmen of Edward's wife, **Queen Elizabeth**—arrested and executed. With Elizabeth and the princes now unprotected, Richard has his political allies, particularly his right-hand men, **Lord Buckingham** and **Catesby**, campaign to have Richard crowned king. Richard then imprisons the **Two Princes** in the Tower and, in his bloodiest move yet, sends hired **Murderers** to kill both children. Richard's own mother, the **Duchess of York**, spurns him in disgust.

By this time, Richard's reign of terror has caused the common people of England to fear and loathe him, and he has alienated nearly all the noblemen of the court - even the power-hungry Buckingham. When rumours begin to circulate about a challenger to the throne who is gathering forces in France, noblemen defect in droves to join his forces. The challenger is the **Earl of Richmond**, a descendant of a secondary arm of the Lancaster family, and step-son to **Lord Stanley** who has fled to France. England is ready to welcome him back.

Richard, in the meantime, tries to consolidate his power. He has his wife, Queen Anne, murdered, so that he can marry **Young Elizabeth**, the daughter of the former Queen Elizabeth and the dead King Edward. Though Young Elizabeth is his niece, the alliance would secure his claim to the throne. Nevertheless, Richard has begun to lose control of events, and Queen Elizabeth manages to forestall him. Meanwhile, she secretly promises to marry Young Elizabeth to Richmond.

Richmond finally invades England. The night before the battle that will decide everything, the Battle of Bosworth, Richard has a terrible dream in which the ghosts of all the people he has murdered appear and curse him, telling him that he will die the next day. In the battle on the following morning, Richard is killed, and Richmond is crowned King Henry VII. Promising a new era of peace for England, the new King is betrothed to young Elizabeth in order to unite the warring houses of Lancaster and York.

All characters in **bold** are speaking parts



RICHARD III

If you are thinking of auditioning, please take some time to look at the character descriptions and ages before deciding which part/s to go for.

All character age ranges are a guide only.

If you are younger or older than the age range please don't let that put you off.

Please note: This production uses a heavily edited version of the play in order to keep it down to under 2hrs (unedited it would run to nearer 4hrs).



MAIN CHARACTERS - Speaking parts

1. Richard, Duke of Gloucester * - Age range 30-60 yrs

Deformed in body and twisted in mind, Richard is both the central character and the villain of the play. He is evil, corrupt, sadistic, and manipulative, and he will stop at nothing to become king. His intelligence, political brilliance, and dazzling use of language keep the audience fascinated—and his subjects and rivals under his thumb.

2. Queen Elizabeth * - Age range 30-55 yrs

The wife of King Edward IV and the mother of the two young princes (the heirs to the throne) and their older sister, young Elizabeth. After Edward's death, Richard rightly views her as an enemy because she opposes his rise to power.

3. Earl of Richmond * - Age range 30-60 yrs

A member of a branch of the Lancaster royal family. Richmond gathers a force of rebels to challenge Richard for the throne. He is meant to represent goodness, justice, and fairness—all the things Richard does not.

4. Duke of Buckingham - Age range 35-60 yrs

Richard's right-hand man in his schemes to gain power. The Duke of Buckingham is almost as amoral and ambitious as Richard himself.

5. King Edward IV - Age range 40-60 yrs

The older brother of Richard and Clarence, and the king of England at the start of the play. Edward was deeply involved in the Yorkists' brutal overthrow of the Lancaster regime, but as King he is devoted to achieving a reconciliation among the various political factions of his reign. He is unaware that Richard attempts to thwart him at every turn.

6. Tyrrell * - Age range 20-60 yrs

A murderer whom Richard hires to kill his brother and young cousins, the princes in the Tower of London.

7. Lady Anne * - Age range 30-50 yrs

The young widow of Prince Edward, who was the son of the former king, Henry VI. Lady Anne hates Richard for the death of her husband, but for reasons of politics—and for sadistic pleasure—Richard persuades Anne to marry him.

8. Duchess of York - Age range 50-80 yrs

Widowed mother of Richard, Clarence, and King Edward IV. The duchess of York is Elizabeth's mother-in-law, and she is very protective of Elizabeth and her children, who are the duchess's grandchildren. She is angry with, and eventually curses, Richard for his heinous actions.

9. Duke of Clarence - Age range 30-60 yrs

The gentle, trusting brother born between Edward and Richard in the York family. Richard has Clarence murdered in order to get him out of the way.

10. Lord Stanley - Age range 40-70 yrs

The stepfather of Richmond. Lord Stanley, Earl of Derby, secretly helps Richmond, although he cannot escape Richard's watchful gaze.

11. Lord Hastings - Age range 35-60 yrs

The Lord Chamberlain who maintains his integrity, remaining loyal to the family of King Edward IV. Hastings winds up dead for making the mistake of trusting Richard.

12. Catesby - Age range 20-60 yrs

Richard's assistant, valet and confidant.

SECONDARY CHARACTERS - *Speaking parts*

13. **Murderer - Age range 20-60 yrs**
A murderer with a conscience. This character is a serious/comical part.
14. **Lord Rivers - Age range 35-60 yrs**
Rivers is Queen Elizabeth's brother. Richard eventually executes Rivers.
15. **Brackenbury - Age range 35-60 yrs**
Keeper of the Tower.
16. **Prince Edward, Prince of Wales - Age range 12-16 yrs**
Young Prince Edward, the rightful heir to the throne, later murdered in the tower.
17. **Prince Richard, Duke of York - Age range 9-12 yrs**
Prince Edward's younger brother.
18. **Young Elizabeth - Age range 16+ yrs**
The former Queen Elizabeth's daughter. She becomes a pawn in political power-brokering, and is promised in marriage to Richmond, in order to unite the warring houses.
19. **Lord Mayor of London - Age range 35-60 yrs**
A gullible and suggestible fellow whom Richard and Buckingham use as a pawn in their ploy to make Richard King.
20. **Vaughan - Age range 35-60 yrs**
A friend of Queen Elizabeth and Lord Rivers.
21. **Archbishop - Age range 35-60 yrs**
22. **Norfolk - Age range 20-60 yrs**
A nobleman on the side of Richard.
23. **Surrey - Age range 20-60 yrs**
A nobleman on the side of Richard.
24. **Sir Christopher - Age range 20-60 yrs**
A nobleman on the side of Richmond.
25. **Dighton - Age range 16+ yrs**
A murderer.
26. **Forrest - Age range 16+ yrs**
A murderer.
27. **Messenger - Age range 16+ yrs**

NON-SPEAKING PARTS

28. **George Stanley* - Age range 16+ yrs**
- 29+ **Soldiers*, Citizens and Courtiers - Age range 16+ yrs**

*** Please be aware that this is a very physically demanding role.**





R III

AUDITION PIECES

Please print out your chosen audition pieces
and bring them with you.

If you want to audition for a minor speaking
part and it doesn't have a specific audition piece,
please look at and bring the 'Generic Audition Piece',
found on the last page.

*Please note: you won't necessarily be asked
to read all the speeches for your chosen character.*

RICHARD

DUKE OF GLOUCESTER

CHARACTER DESCRIPTION

Age range: 30 - 60yrs

Gender: Male

Physical type: Any

Acting: Dramatic

Deformed in body and twisted in mind, Richard is both the central character and the villain of the play. He is evil, corrupt, sadistic, and manipulative, and he will stop at nothing to become king. He is not a pantomime villain, but should be played as a fully-round, realistic, but fatally flawed character.

SPEECH 1

Context of Speech: *The Wars of the Roses are at an end, thanks to the victory of King Edward. Richard, however, is not one for peace and laments his appearance, vents his frustration at the lack of hostilities, and plans his move upon the crown...*

Richard

Now is the winter of our discontent
Made glorious summer by this son of York;
And all the clouds that lour'd upon our house
In the deep bosom of the ocean buried.
Now are our brows bound with victorious wreaths,
Our bruised arms hung up for monuments,
Our stern alarums changed to merry meetings,
Our dreadful marches to delightful measures.
Grim-visaged war hath smoothed his wrinkled front,
And now, instead of mounting barb'd steeds,
To fight the souls of fearful adversaries,
He capers nimbly in a lady's chamber
To the lascivious pleasing of a lute.
But I, that am not shaped for sportive tricks,
Nor made to court an amorous looking-glass:
I, that am rudely stamped, and want love's majesty
To strut before a wanton, ambling nymph:
I, that am curtail'd of this fair proportion,
Cheated of feature by dissembling nature,
Deformed, unfinished, sent before my time
Into this breathing world, scarce half made up,
And that so lamely and unfashionable
That dogs bark at me, as I halt by them -
Why, I, in this weak piping time of peace,
Have no delight to pass away the time,
Unless to see my shadow in the sun,
And descant on my own deformity.
Why, I can smile; and murder while I smile;
And wet my cheeks with artificial tears
And frame my face to all occasions!
And, therefore, since I cannot prove a lover,
To entertain these fair well-spoken days,
I am determin'd to prove a villain
And hate the idle pleasures of these days.

SPEECH 2

Context of Speech: *It is the eve of battle and Richard wakes alone from a nightmare. This is the only time in the play that self-doubt, loathing, and pity creeps in.*

Richard

Give me another horse! Bind up my wounds!
I did but dream. O, coward conscience,
What? Do I fear myself? There's none else by.
Richard loves Richard: that is, I am I.
Is there a murderer here? No. Yes, I am.
I love myself. Wherefore? For any good
That I myself have done unto myself?
Alas, I rather hate myself
For hateful deeds committed by myself!
I am a villain: Yet I lie — I am not.
My conscience hath a thousand, several tongues
Thronged to the bar, crying all: 'Guilty! Guilty!'
There is no creature loves me:
And if I die, no soul shall pity me.

**PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS A
VERY PHYSICAL PART**

RICHARD (CONT.)

DUKE OF GLOUCESTER

CHARACTER DESCRIPTION

Age range: 30 - 60yrs

Gender: Male

Physical type: Any

Acting: Dramatic

Deformed in body and twisted in mind, Richard is both the central character and the villain of the play. He is evil, corrupt, sadistic, and manipulative, and he will stop at nothing to become king. He is not a pantomime villain, but should be played as a fully-round, realistic, but fatally flawed character.

SPEECH 3

Context of Speech: *Richard is attempting to woo Lady Anne for his wife. However, he is responsible for making Lady Anne a widow. Therefore Richard is trying to use all his charm to win her round.*

Richard

Why dost thou spit at me?

Lady Anne

Would it were mortal poison, for thy sake.

Richard

Never came poison from so sweet a place.

Lady Anne

Never hung poison on a fouler toad.

Out of my sight, thou dost infect mine eyes.

Richard

Those eyes of thine from mine have drawn salt tears.

But when I heard the story of my father's death

All the standers-by wet their cheeks,

Like trees bedashed with rain: in that sad time,

My manly eyes did scorn a humble tear.

And what that sorrow could not thence exhale,

Thy beauty hath, and made them blind with weeping.

If thy revengeful heart cannot forgive,

I humbly beg for death, upon my knee.

Nay, do not pause - for I did kill King Henry -

But 'twas thy heavenly face that set me on.

Take up the sword again, or take up me.

Lady Anne

I will not be thy executioner.

Richard

Then, bid me kill myself, and I will do it.

Lady Anne

I have already.

Richard

That was in thy rage:

Speak it again.

SPEECH 4

Context of Speech: *Richard is trying to persuade Queen Elizabeth to woo her daughter on Richard's behalf. However, Elizabeth has just learnt of the deaths of her two sons, something she suspects Richard had a hand in.*

Queen Elizabeth

Under what title shall I woo for thee.

Richard

Say she shall be a high and mighty Queen.

Queen Elizabeth

To wail the title, as her mother doth.

Richard

Say I will love her everlastingly.

Queen Elizabeth

But how long fairly shall her sweet life last?

Richard

As long as heaven and nature lengthen it.

Queen Elizabeth

As long as hell and Richard likes of it.

Richard

Your reasons are too shallow and too quick.

Queen Elizabeth

O no. My reasons are too deep and dead:

Too deep and dead, poor infants, in their graves.

Richard

Harp not on that string, madam: that is past.

Queen Elizabeth

Harp on it still, shall I, till heart-strings break.

Richard

Now by my crown I swear -

Queen Elizabeth

By nothing, for this is no oath.

Richard

I know that Richmond aims to wed Elizabeth.

In her consists my happiness and thine:

Be the attorney of my love to her:

Plead what I will be, not what I have been.

**PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS A
VERY PHYSICAL PART**

QUEEN ELIZABETH

CHARACTER DESCRIPTION

Age range: 30 - 55yrs

Gender: Female

Physical type: Any

Acting: Dramatic

The wife of King Edward IV and the mother of the two young princes (the heirs to the throne) and their older sister, young Elizabeth. After Edward's death, Richard rightly views her as an enemy because she opposes his rise to power.

SPEECH 1

Context of Speech: *Richard is trying to persuade Queen Elizabeth to woo her daughter on Richard's behalf. However, Elizabeth has just learnt of the deaths of her two sons, something she suspects Richard had a hand in*

Richard

Stay, madam, I must talk a word with you.

Queen Elizabeth

I have no more sons of the royal blood
For thee to slaughter.

Richard

Thou have a daughter called Elizabeth.

Queen Elizabeth

And must she die for this? O, let her live.

Richard

Her life is safest only in her birth.

Queen Elizabeth

And only in that safety died her brothers.

Richard

You speak as if that I had slain the Princes.

Queen Elizabeth

No doubt the murd'rous knife was dull and blunt
Till it was whetted on thy stone-hard heart
To revel in the entrails of my lambs.

Richard

Madam, I intend more good to you and yours,
Than ever you and yours by me were harmed.

Queen Elizabeth

What good?

Richard

Th'advancement of your children, gentle lady.

Queen Elizabeth

Up to some scaffold, there to lose their heads?
Tell me what state, what dignity, what honour
Can thou demise on any child of mine?

Richard

Even all I have; ay, and myself and all,
Will I withal endow a child of thine.

Queen Elizabeth

Be brief, lest that the process of thy kindness
Last longer telling than thy kindness' date.

Richard

Then know, that from my soul I love thy daughter.
And do intend to make her Queen of England.

Queen Elizabeth

What, thou?

Richard

Even so. What think you of it?

Queen Elizabeth

How canst thou woo her?

Richard

That would I learn of you.

Queen Elizabeth

And wilt thou learn of me?

Richard

Madam, with all my heart.

Queen Elizabeth

Send to her, by the man who slew her brothers,
A pair of bleeding hearts, then will she weep:
Send her a letter of thy noble deeds:
Tell her thou mad'st away her uncle Clarence,
Her uncle Rivers, ay, and, for her sake
Mad'st quick conveyance with her good aunt Anne.

Richard

You mock me, madam: this is not the way
To win your daughter.

Queen Elizabeth

There is no other way,
Unless thou couldst put on some other shape.
And not be Richard that hath done all this.

QUEEN ELIZABETH (CONT.)

CHARACTER DESCRIPTION

Age range: 30 - 55yrs

Gender: Female

Physical type: Any

Acting: Dramatic

The wife of King Edward IV and the mother of the two young princes (the heirs to the throne) and their older sister, young Elizabeth. After Edward's death, Richard rightly views her as an enemy because she opposes his rise to power.

SPEECH 2

Context of Speech: *Whilst King Edward is gravely ill, Queen Elizabeth frets with her brother about the future...*

Queen Elizabeth

The King is sickly, weak and melancholy.

Rivers

Have patience, sister. There's no doubt his majesty
Will soon recover his accustomed health.

Queen Elizabeth

If he were dead, what would betide on me?

Rivers

The heavens have blessed thou with two goodly sons,
To be your comforters when he is gone.

Queen Elizabeth

O they are young and
Put into the trust of Richard Gloucester,
A man that loves not me, nor you, dear brother.

Rivers

Is it concluded he shall be Protector?

Queen Elizabeth

If the King miscarry . . .
Buckingham
Good time of day unto your royal grace.

Rivers

Saw thou the king today?

Queen Elizabeth

Did you confer with him?

Buckingham

Ay, madam. He desires to make atonement
Between the Duke of Gloucester and your brother,
And between him and my Lord Chamberlain.
And sent to warn them to his royal presence.

Queen Elizabeth

Would all were well! But that will never be.
I fear our happiness is at the height.

DUKE OF CLARENCE

CHARACTER DESCRIPTION

Age range: 30 - 60yrs

Gender: Male

Physical type: Any

Acting: Dramatic

The gentle, trusting brother born between Edward and Richard in the York family. Richard has Clarence murdered in order to get him out of the way.

SPEECH 1

Context of Speech: *Clarence, King Edward's younger brother, has been imprisoned in The Tower of London by the King. He has spent a restless night and tells his jailer of his vivid dream.*

Brackenbury

Why looks your grace so heavily today?

Clarence

O, I have pass'd a miserable night,
So full of fearful dreams, of ugly sights,
Methoughts that I had broken from the Tower,
And was embarked to cross to Burgundy;
And in my company my brother Gloucester;
Who from my cabin tempted me to walk
Upon the hatches: thence we looked toward England,
And cited up a thousand fearful times,
During the wars of York and Lancaster
That had befall'n us. As we paced along
Upon the giddy footing of the hatches,
Methought that Gloucester stumbled, and, in falling,
Struck me overboard,
Into the tumbling billows of the main.
O lord methought, what pain it was to drown!
What dreadful noise of waters in mine ears,
What ugly sights of ugly death within mine eyes.
Such hideous cries, that with the very noise
I trembling waked, and for a season after
Could not believe but that I was in hell.
My soul is heavy, and I fain would sleep

**PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS A
PHYSICAL PART**

DUCHESS OF YORK

CHARACTER DESCRIPTION

Age range: 50 - 80yrs

Gender: Female

Physical type: Any

Acting: Dramatic

Widowed mother of Richard, Clarence, and King Edward IV. The duchess of York is Elizabeth's mother-in-law, and she is very protective of Elizabeth and her children, who are the duchess's grandchildren. She is angry with, and eventually curses, Richard for his heinous actions.

SPEECH

Context of Speech: *Queen Elizabeth and the Duchess of York have discovered that the Two Princes have been murdered. Together they confront Richard.*

Richard

Who intercepts me in my expedition?

Duchess Of York

O, she that might have intercepted thee,
By strangling thee in her accursèd womb,
From all the slaughters, wretch, that thou hast done!

Queen Elizabeth

Tell me, thou villain, where are my children?

Duchess Of York

Thou toad! Where is thy brother Clarence?
Where is the gentle Rivers?
Where is kind Hastings?
Are thou my son?

Richard

Ay, I thank God, my father, and yourself.

Duchess Of York

O, let me speak!

Richard

Do then.

And brief, good mother, for I am in haste.

Duchess Of York

Thou cam'st on earth to make the earth my hell.
A grievous burden was thy birth to me:
Tetchy and wayward was thy infancy:
Thy schooldays frightful, desp'rate, wild and furious:
What comfortable hour canst thou name,
That ever graced me with thy company?

Richard

If I be so disgracious in your eye -

Duchess Of York

Hear me a word,
For I shall never speak to thee again.

Richard

So.

Duchess Of York

To war take with thee my most grievous curse,
My prayers shall on Richmond's party fight.
Bloody thou art, bloody will be thy end:
Shame serves thy life and doth thy death attend!

EARL OF RICHMOND

CHARACTER DESCRIPTION

Age range: 30 - 60yrs

Gender: Male

Physical type: Any

Acting: Dramatic

A member of a branch of the Lancaster royal family. Richmond gathers a force of rebels to challenge Richard for the throne. He is meant to represent goodness, justice, and fairness - all the things Richard does not.

SPEECH 1

Context of Speech: *Richmond, contender for the throne, speaks to his troops, rallying them as they go into battle.*

Richmond

Loving countrymen,
God and our good cause fight upon our side,
If you fight against God's enemy,
God will in justice ward you as his soldiers:
If you do swear to put a tyrant down,
Thou sleep in peace, the tyrant being slain:
If you do fight in safeguard of your wives,
Your wives shall welcome home the conquerors:
If you do free your children from the sword,
Your children's children repay it in your old age.
Then, in the name of God and all these rights,
Advance your standards, draw your willing swords.
For me, the ransom of my bold attempt
Shall be this cold corpse on the earth's cold face:
But if I thrive, the gain of my attempt
The least of you shall share his part thereof.
Sound drums and trumpets boldly and cheerfully;
God and Saint George, Richmond and victory!

SPEECH 2

Context of Speech: *Richmond has won the Battle of Bosworth, and the crown. He speaks to his battle weary troops about the future...*

Richmond

Proclaim a pardon to the soldiers fled
That in submission will return to us:
And then, as we have ta'en the sacrament,
We will unite the white rose and the red.
England hath long been mad, and scarred herself;
The brother blindly shed the brother's blood,
The father rashly slaughtered his own son,
The son, compelled, been butcher to the sire:
Let thy heirs, enrich the time to come
With peace and fair prosperous days!
Now civil wounds are stopped, peace lives again:
That she may long live here, God say 'Amen'!

**PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS A
VERY PHYSICAL PART**

DUKE OF BUCKINGHAM

CHARACTER DESCRIPTION

Age range: 35 - 60yrs

Gender: Male

Physical type: Any

Acting: Dramatic

Richard's right-hand man in his schemes to gain power. The Duke of Buckingham is almost as amoral and ambitious as Richard himself.

SPEECH 1

Context of Speech: *Richard has sent Buckingham to speak to the citizens, to put into doubt the rightful claim to the throne of the deceased King Edward and his sons*

Richard

How now, how now? What say the citizens?
Touched you the bastardy of Edward's children?

Buckingham

I did.
Th'unsatiate greediness of his desire,
His tyranny for trifles, his own bastardy,
Your discipline in war, wisdom in peace,
Your bounty, virtue, fair humility:
And when my oratory drew toward end,
I bid them that did love their country's good,
Cry 'God save Richard, England's royal king!'

Richard

And did they so?

Buckingham

No, so God help me, they spoke not a word.

Richard

What tongueless blocks were they? Would they not speak?

Buckingham

The mayor is here at hand,
Intend some fear:
And look you get a prayer-book in your hand.
Be not easily won by our requests.
Play the maid's part: still answer nay, and take it.

SPEECH 2

Context of Speech: *Buckingham, having fled Richard to join the other side, has been captured and is now led to his execution.*

Buckingham

Will not King Richard let me speak with him?

Tyrrell

No, my good lord.

Buckingham

Hastings, and Edward's children, Rivers and Anne,
Do through the clouds behold this present hour,
Even for revenge mock my destruction! -
This is All Souls' day, is it not?

Tyrrell

It is

Buckingham

Why, then All-Souls' day is my body's doomsday.
Made I him king for this?

KING EDWARD IV

CHARACTER DESCRIPTION

Age range: 40- 60yrs

Gender: Male

Physical type: Any

Acting: Dramatic

The older brother of Richard & Clarence, and the King of England at the start of the play. Edward was deeply involved in the Yorkists' brutal overthrow of the Lancaster regime, but as King he is devoted to achieving a reconciliation among the various political factions of his reign. He is unaware that Richard attempts to thwart him at every turn.

SPEECH 1

Context of Speech: *King Edward, gravely ill, has spent the day sorting out old grievances left over from The Wars of the Roses. He orders members of his court to bury the hatchet, and swear and oath.*

King Edward

Why, so. Now have I done a good day's work.
You peers, continue this united league:
Rivers and Hastings
Dissemble not your hatred, swear your love.

Rivers

By heaven, my soul is purged from grudging hate:
And with my hand I seal my true heart's love.

Hastings

So thrive I, as I truly swear the like!

King Edward

Madam, yourself are not exempt in this,
Nor you Buckingham, nor you;
You have been factious one against the other,
And what you do, do it unfeignedly.

Queen Elizabeth

So thrive I and mine!

Buckingham

And, in good time, here comes the noble duke

Richard

Good morrow to my sovereign king and queen.
And, princely peers, a happy time of day!

King Edward

Happy, indeed. We have done deeds of charity,
Made peace of enmity, fair love of hate.
between these swelling wrong-incensèd peers.

Richard

Tis death to me to be at enmity:
I hate it, and desire all good men's love

Queen Elizabeth

My sovereign lord, I do beseech your highness
To take your brother Clarence to your grace.

Richard

Why, madam, have I offered love for this
Who knows not that the gentle duke is dead?

King Edward

Who knows not he is dead? Who knows he is?
Is Clarence dead? The order was reversed.

Richard

But he, poor man, by your first order died,
And that a wingèd Mercury did bear:
Some tardy cripple bore the countermand.

King Edward

O God, I fear thy justice will take hold
On me, and you, and mine, and yours for this! -
Hastings, help me to my closet.
Ah, poor Clarence.

He collapses

TYRELL + (DIGHTON & FORREST - SPEECH 1 ONLY)

CHARACTER DESCRIPTION

Age range: 20 - 60yrs

Gender: Male

Physical type: Any

Acting: Dramatic

A murderer whom Richard hires to kill his brother and young nephews, the princes in the Tower of London.

SPEECH 1

Context of Speech: *Tyrell describes, for King Richard, the deaths of Two Princes at the hands of a pair of hired henchmen.*

Tyrell

The bloody act is done.
Dighton and Forrest, whom I did suborn
To do this ruthless butchery,
Albeit they were flesh'd villains, bloody dogs,
Melting with tenderness and mild compassion
Wept like two children in their deaths' sad story.
'O, thus' quoth Dighton, 'lay the gentle babes.'
'Thus, thus,' quoth Forrest, 'girdling one another
Within their innocent alabaster arms.
Their lips were four red roses on a stalk,
Which in their summer beauty kissed each other.
A book of prayers on their pillow lay;
Which one,' quoth Forrest, 'almost changed my
mind;
But O! The devil - there the villain stopped.
Whilst Dighton thus told on: 'We smotherèd
The most replenishèd sweet work of nature,
That from the prime creation e'er she framed.'
Hence both are gone with conscience and remorse:
They could not speak; and so I left them both.

SPEECH 2

Context of Speech: *Tyrell has been sent by Richard to the Tower of London, to kill his elder brother Clarence.*

Clarence

I will send you to my brother Richard,
Who shall reward you better for my life
Than will the king for tidings of my death.

Tyrell

You are deceived, your brother Richard hates you.

Clarence

O no, he loves me and he holds me dear.
Go you to him from me, tell him.

Tyrell

Come, you decieve yourself:
'Tis he that sends us to destroy you here.

Clarence

It cannot be; for he bewept my fortune,
He hugged me in his arms, and swore,
That he would labour my delivery.

Tyrell

Why, so he doth, now he delivers you
From this earth's thraldom to the joys of heaven.

Tyrell

Make peace with God, for you must die, my lord.

Clarence

My friend, I spy some pity in thy looks.

Tyrell stabs Clarence

Tyrell

Take that, and that: if all this will not do,
I'll drown you in the malmsey-butt.

**PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS A
VERY PHYSICAL PART**

LADY ANNE

CHARACTER DESCRIPTION

Age range: 30 - 50yrs

Gender: Female

Physical type: Any

Acting: Dramatic

The young widow of Prince Edward, who was the son of the former king, Henry VI. Lady Anne hates Richard for the death of her husband, but for reasons of politics - and for sadistic pleasure - Richard persuades Anne to marry him.

SPEECH 1

Context of Speech: *Lady Anne is accompanying the body of her Father in Law, King Henry VI to be buried. She knows that Richard is responsible for both the King's death and that of her husband.*

Lady Anne

O, cursèd be the hand that made these holes:
Cursed the heart that had the heart to do it:
Cursed the blood that let this blood from
hence!

If ever he have child, abortive be it.
If ever he have wife, let her be made
More miserable by the life of him,
Than I am made by my young husband's
death.

Richard appears before her

Foul devil, for God's sake, hence, and trouble
us not;
For thou hast made the happy earth thy hell.
If thou delight to see thy heinous deeds,
Behold this pattern of thy butcheries.
Villain, thou know'st no law of God nor man.

SPEECH 2

Context of Speech: *Lady Anne is summoned to Richard, but is ambushed by Tyrell, who stabs her to death.*

Catesby

Come, madam, come; from King Richard I in all
haste was sent.

Lady Anne

And I in all unwillingness will go.
O, I would to God that the inclusive verge
Of golden metal that must round my brow
Were red-hot steel, to sear me to the brain!
Anointed let me be with deadly venom,
And die, ere men once more can say, 'God save the
queen!'

Tyrell appears from the shadows and attacks Lady Anne..

Tyrell

Poor heart, adieu!

Lady Anne lies dying as Richard appears.

Lady Anne

When he that is my husband now
Came to me, as I follow'd Henry's corpse,
I looked on Richard's face,
This was my wish: 'Be thou,' quoth I, 'accursed,
For making me, so young, so old a widow!
And, when thou wed'st, let sorrow haunt thy bed:
And be thy wife - if any be so mad -
More miserable by the life of thee
Than thou hast made me by my dear lord's death!'

Richard

I pity thy complaining.

Lady Anne

No more than from my soul I mourn for yours.

She dies.

**PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS A
VERY PHYSICAL PART**

LORD HASTINGS

CHARACTER DESCRIPTION

Age range: 35 - 60yrs

Gender: Male

Physical type: Any

Acting: Dramatic

Lord Hastings is the Lord Chamberlain, who maintains his integrity, remaining loyal to the family of King Edward IV. Hastings winds up dead for making the mistake of trusting Richard.

SPEECH

Context of Speech: *Lord Hastings has convened a meeting to set the date of the upcoming coronation of young Prince Edward. Richard, however, uses the meeting as an excuse to set Hastings up as a conspirator and have him executed.*

Hastings

Now, noble peers, the cause why we are met,
Is to determine of the Coronation.
When is the royal day?

Lord Stanley

Are all things ready for the royal day?

Archbishop

It is.

Buckingham

Who knows the Lord Protector's mind herein?

Archbishop

Your grace, we think, should soonest know his mind.

Buckingham

We know each other's faces: for our hearts,
He knows no more of mine than I of yours,
Or I of his, my Lord, than you of mine. -
Lord Hastings, you and he are near in love.

Hastings

I thank his grace, I know he loves me well
But, for his purpose in the coronation
I have not sounded him.
But you, my honourable Lords, may name the time
And in the duke's behalf I'll give my voice.

Enter Richard

Richard

My noble lords and cousins all.

Buckingham

Had you not come upon your cue, my lord,
Lord Hastings, had pronounced your part.

Richard

Than my Lord Hastings no man might be bolder:
I pray you all, tell me what they deserve
That do conspire my death with devilish plots
Of damnèd witchcraft, and that have prevailed
Upon my body with their hellish charms?

Hastings

I say, my Lord, they have deservèd death.

Richard

Look how I am bewitched: behold, mine arm
Is like a blasted sapling, withered up:
By Queen Elizabeth, that monstrous witch!

Hastings

If she hath done this deed, my noble Lord -

Richard

If? Thou protector of this damnèd Elizabeth -
Talk'st thou to me of 'ifs'? Thou art a traitor.
Off with his head! Now, by Saint Paul I swear,
I will not dine, until I see the same. -
The rest who love me, rise and follow me.

All exit except Tyrell

Tyrell

The Duke would be at dinner. He longs to see your head.

Hastings

They smile at me who shortly shall be dead
O bloody Richard! Miserable England!

LORD STANLEY

CHARACTER DESCRIPTION

Age range: 40 - 70yrs

Gender: Male

Physical type: Any

Acting: Dramatic

The stepfather of Richmond. Lord Stanley, Earl of Derby, secretly helps Richmond, although he cannot escape Richard's watchful gaze.

SPEECH 1

Context of Speech: *Lord Stanley, stuck in a difficult position between his King and his stepson, Richmond, continuously must walk a fine line not to enrage Richard.*

Richard

Lord Stanley, what news?

Lord Stanley

None good, my leige, nor none so bad.

Richard

Hoyday, a riddle: neither good nor bad?

Once more, what news?

Lord Stanley

The Earl of Richmond is on the seas.

Richard

What doth he there?

Lord Stanley

I know not, mighty sovereign, but by guess.

Stirred up by Buckingham,

He makes for England, here to claim the crown.

Richard

Is the chair empty?

Is the king dead?

Thou wilt revolt, and fly to him, I fear.

Lord Stanley

No, my good lord:

I never was nor never will be, false

SPEECH 2

Context of Speech: *Lord Stanley, on the eve of the battle secretly visits his stepson, to explain that he (Stanley) must be cautious in the battle as his son is being held hostage.*

Lord Stanley

Fortune and victory sit on thy helm!

Richmond

Noble stepfather

Tell me, how fares our loving mother?

Lord Stanley

Thy mother prays continually for Richmond's good.

The silent hours steal on,

Prepare thy battle early in the morning,

And put thy fortune to th'arbitrement

Of bloody strokes and mortal-staring war.

I, as I may, will aid thee in this doubtful shock of arms:

But on thy side I may not be too forward

Lest, being seen, thy stepbrother, tender George,

Be executed in his father's sight.

Farewell: be valiant, and speed well!

CATESBY

CHARACTER DESCRIPTION

Age range: 20 - 60yrs

Gender: Male

Physical type: Any

Acting: Dramatic

Richard's assistant, valet and confidant.

SPEECH

Context of Speech: *King Edward has died. Sent by Lord Buckingham and Richard, Catesby subtly sounds out the Lord Chamberlain as to where his allegiances lie - either to Richard, or the young heir The Prince of Wales.*

Hastings

Catesby, what news, what news in this our tott'ring state?

Catesby

It is a reeling world, indeed, my lord,
And, I believe, it will never stand upright
Till Richard wear the garland of the realm.

Hastings

How? 'Wear the garland?' Dost thou mean the crown?

Catesby

Ay, my good Lord.

Hastings

I'll have this crown of mine cut from my shoulders,
Before I'll see the crown so foul misplaced.

Lord Stanley

Hastings.

Hastings

Where is thy boar-spear, Lord Stanley?

Catesby

It is a vile thing to die,
When men are unprepared and look not for it.

LORD RIVERS

CHARACTER DESCRIPTION

Age range: 35 - 60yrs

Gender: Male

Physical type: Any

Acting: Dramatic

Lord Rivers is Queen Elizabeth's brother.
Richard eventually executes Rivers.

SPEECH 1

Context of Speech: *Whilst King Edward is gravely ill, Queen Elizabeth frets with her brother about the future...*

Queen Elizabeth

The King is sickly, weak and melancholy.

Rivers

Have patience, sister. There's no doubt his majesty
Will soon recover his accustomed health.

Queen Elizabeth

If he were dead, what would betide on me?

Rivers

The heavens have blessed thou with two goodly sons,
To be your comforters when he is gone.

Queen Elizabeth

O they are young and
Put into the trust of Richard Gloucester,
A man that loves not me, nor you, dear brother.

Rivers

Is it concluded he shall be Protector?

Queen Elizabeth

If the King miscarry . .

SPEECH 2

Context of Speech: *Richard, Rivers and Queen Elizabeth argue with each other, bringing up old resentments from the days of The Wars of Roses.*

Richard

Who is it that complains unto the king,
That I, forsooth, am stern and love them not?

Rivers

To whom in all this presence speaks your grace?

Richard

To thee, that hast no honesty nor grace!
When have I injured thee? When done thee wrong?
Our brother Clarence is imprisoned by your means.

Queen Elizabeth

I never did incense his majesty
Against the Duke of Clarence, but have been
An earnest advocate to plead for him.

Richard

Thou may deny that you -

Rivers

She may, my lord -

Richard

She may, Lord Rivers? Why, who knows not so?
She may do more, sir, than denying that.
She may help you to many fair preferments.
What may she not?

Rivers

My lord of Gloucester, I have too long borne
Thy blunt upbraidings and your bitter scoffs.

Queen Elizabeth

By heaven, I will acquaint his majesty
Of those gross taunts

MURDERER

CHARACTER DESCRIPTION

Age range: 20 - 60yrs

Gender: Male

Physical type: Any

Acting: Dramatic/Comedic

A murderer with a conscience.

This character is a serious/comical part.

SPEECH 1

Context of Speech: *Sent to kill Richard's older brother, Clarence, the Murderer develops a conscience...*

Tyrell

What! Are thou afraid?

Murderer

Not to kill him, having a warrant,
but to be damned for killing him, from the which
no warrant can defend me.

Tyrell

I thought thou hadst been resolute.

Second Murderer

So I am, to let him live.

Tyrell

I'll back to the Duke of Gloucester and tell him so.

Second Murderer

Nay, I prithee stay a little. Some certain dregs of
conscience are yet within me.

Tyrell

Remember our reward, when the deed's done.

Second Murderer

Come, he dies. I had forgot the reward.

Tyrell

Where's thy conscience now?

Second Murderer

O, in the Duke of Gloucester's purse.

Clarence

In God's name, what are thou?

Second Murderer

A man, as you are.

Clarence

But not, as I am, royal.

Second Murderer

Nor you, as we are, loyal.

Clarence

Who sent you hither? Wherefore do you come?

Second Murderer

To, to, to -

Clarence

To murder me?

SPEECH 2

Context of Speech: *Clarence has been killed by Tyrell, the Murderer's conscience gets the better of him, and he flees the scene.*

Second Murderer

A bloody deed, and desperately dispatched.
How fain, like Pilate, would I wash my
hands

Of this most grievous murder!

Tyrell

How now! What mean'st thou, that thou
help'st me not?

By heaven, the duke shall know how slack
you have been!

Second Murderer

Take thou the fee, and tell him what I say,
For I repent me that the duke is slain.

BRACKENBURY

CHARACTER DESCRIPTION

Age range: 35 - 60yrs

Gender: Male

Physical type: Any

Acting: Dramatic

Keeper of the Tower.

SPEECH 1

Context of Speech: *Taking Clarence to The Tower, Richard has intervened and talks with Clarence. Brackenbury intervenes.*

Brackenbury

I beseech your graces both to pardon me:
His majesty hath straitly given in charge
That no man shall have private conference,
Of what degree soever, with your brother.

SPEECH 2

Context of Speech: *Queen Elizabeth wants to see the Princes, but he knows the children are dead. With Tyrell close by, a distressed Brackenbury finds himself unable to tell the Queen the truth.*

Queen Elizabeth

Brackenbury, how doth the Princes?

Brackenbury

By your patience,

I may not suffer you to visit them:

The king hath strictly charged the contrary.

Queen Elizabeth

The king?

I am their mother: who shall bar from them?

Duchess Of York

I am their father's mother: I will see them.

I'll bear thy blame.

Tyrell

He is bound by oath.

Brackenbury

I am bound by oath and therefore, pardon me.

THE TWO PRINCES

CHARACTER DESCRIPTION

Age range: 9yrs and 12yrs

Gender: Male

Physical type: Any

Acting: Dramatic

The sons of the late King Edward.

Prince Edward, the Prince of Wales, at 12yrs old is the heir to the throne. **Prince Richard**, Duke of York, is his younger brother and second in line to the throne. He is 9yrs old.

SPEECH

Context of Speech: *Richard has overseen the return of Prince Edward to London, where he will be crowned. He is met by his younger brother. Aware of his duties, Prince Edward is quite serious. Prince Richard, is more playful, but fears staying in the Tower of London.*

Richard

Welcome, dear nephew.

Welcome to thy capital.

Prince Edward, Prince Of Wales

I want more uncles here to welcome me.

Richard

Those uncles which you want were dangerous:

God keep you from them, and from such false friends.

Prince Edward, Prince Of Wales

God keep me from false friends, but they were none.

How fares our noble brother?

Prince Richard, Duke of York

Well, my dear lord; so must I call you now.

Prince Edward, Prince Of Wales

Ay, brother, to our grief, as it is yours.

Prince Richard, Duke of York

I pray you, uncle, give me this dagger.

Richard

My dagger, little cousin? with all my heart.

(to young prince) What would thou have my little Lord?

Prince Richard, Duke of York

Because that I am little, like an ape,

I think that thou should bear me on your shoulders.

Buckingham

So cunning and so young is wonderful.

Prince Edward, Prince Of Wales

Say, Uncle Gloucester,

Where shall we stay until our coronation?

Richard

If I may counsel you, some day or two,

For thy best health and recreation,

Your highness shall repose you at the Tower.

Prince Richard, Duke of York

I shall not sleep in quiet at the Tower.

Richard

Why, what should you fear?

Prince Richard, Duke of York

Marry, my Uncle Clarence's angry ghost.

My granddam told me he was murdered there.

Prince Edward, Prince Of Wales

I fear no uncles dead.

Richard

Nor none who live, I hope.

So wise, so young, they say, do never live long.

PARENTS NOTE: Whilst the actors for these parts will not be required to come to many rehearsals (we will endeavour to do their scenes first), they will be expected to come to most (not all) July rehearsals on the island itself. These rehearsals finish at 10pm and we will back on the mainland at 10:30pm. During tech week this increases to 11pm finish, and back on the mainland for 11:30pm.

We will have chaperones for any minors at all times, but if your child is successful you are more than welcome to be at the rehearsals should you wish to do so.

Also, please be aware the deaths of the Two Princes will be shown on stage.

If you have any queries please contact us on:
prodmanager@brownsea-theatre.co.uk

ARCHBISHOP

CHARACTER DESCRIPTION

Age range: 35 - 60yrs

Gender: Male

Physical type: Any

Acting: Dramatic

The Archbishop fears what kind of King Richard will be. He supports Richmond and his challenge for the Crown.

SPEECH

Context of Speech: *Lord Hastings, the Lord Chamberlain has been executed under false charges. Lord Stanley, Richmond and the Archbishop discuss the hastily printed indictment that sets out the charges.*

Archbishop

Here is the indictment of the good Lord Hastings,
Which in a set hand fairly is engrossed,
That it may be this day read over in St Paul's.

Lord Stanley

And yet within these five hours Hastings lived,
Untainted, unexamined, free, at liberty.

Richmond

Here's a good world the while! Who is so gross,
That cannot see this palpable device?
Yet who's so bold, but says he sees it not?
Bad is the world, and all will come to nought,
When such illdealing must be seen in thought.

GENERIC AUDITION PIECE

CHARACTER DESCRIPTION

Age range: Any
Gender: Any
Physical type: Any
Acting: Dramatic

If you want to audition for a minor speaking part and it doesn't have a specific audition piece, please read from this audition sheet.

SPEECH

Context of Speech: *Norfolk arrives to tell Richard that Richmond has begun his attempt on the crown for himself. A Navy has been spotted, and the defector, Lord Buckingham is thought to be on his way to welcome them.*

Norfolk

My gracious sovereign, on the western coast
Rideth a puissant navy; to our shore:
'Tis thought that Richmond is their admiral;
And there they hull, expecting but the aid
Of Buckingham to welcome them ashore.