

# York Shakespeare Project Newsletter 2009-10

## issue 7

As the year drags on, and the writing in the York Shakespeare Project newsletter becomes more tired, less hilarious but slightly more coherent despite some rather long sentences with enormous clauses (if your memory is short – and whose isn't? – and you think the quality of these newsletters *isn't* going down like a Spanish midfielder who has just taken a karate kick to the chest, then why not check out the little newsletter archive at <http://www.yorkshakespeareproject.org/main/mail/inglist.shtml>), this summer's productions of Henry IV parts 1 and 2 at St Martin-Cum-Gregory Church on Micklegate rapidly approach.

While you go back and read that a few more times to try to make sense of it, I'll go and take my contact lenses out, then we'll get back to it.

### Two fer eighteen pahnd yer tickets...

Yes that's right, the tickets for Henry IV are now on sale, and you can get them from our lovely friends at York Theatre Royal. You can pop into the box office or phone them on 01904 623568, but you'd be a fool to do that as the queues are always long and the wait on the phone interminable. [Instead, I'd suggest a queue free click here.](#) It'll save you some time, and the poor box office staff some stress. Of course you could call them outside of the five minutes after Panto booking opens – that's the only time I've been in touch – but I don't think there's any reason why it would be any busier than than at any other time.

The productions run from 29<sup>th</sup> July until the 15<sup>th</sup> August. Yes, they're getting close.

So buy buy buy. **Tickets for one play cost £10, or £7.50 for concessions, and you can get a ticket for both plays at the bargain price of £18, or £14 for concessions.** To qualify for a concession, you need to be under 26, over 65, unwaged, or a YSP member. You can come for free if you're all four of those. (You can't say fairer than that.)

Membership is bargainous at £12, and if you fancy that and aren't yet one, email Jeremy at [j.e.muldowney@dsl.pipex.com](mailto:j.e.muldowney@dsl.pipex.com). Remember that membership runs from April to April, so unless you've handed over your pounds since then, get on it!

So, in short, get yourself a ticket for each show, and get your mum, dad, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, dog, cat and mistress a ticket each for each show. They'll love it.

For a bit more info about the production, why not visit the [lovely Henry IV section on our web site by clicking here.](#) And there's also a Facebook event, which you can find via [the YSP Group, which is right here.](#)

**And if you like the sound of it, and are disappointed you aren't involved in some way...**

Then why not book yourself a ticket to the aftershow party (or, if there isn't a party, you can at least sit in a pub near some of the cast) by helping out with Front of House. It'll be fun, easy and you'll get to stand in the venue and probably watch the show. And all for a good cause, and the chance to watch the play for free. For more information, and to offer your services contact Janet Looker on [cllr.jlooker@york.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.jlooker@york.gov.uk).

## Fundraising and publicising ahoh!

**Y**SP has booked St Crux's church (at the bottom of the Shambles) on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> August. This will be a great chance to raise a bit of money to go towards this production and the next one, and more importantly drum up some interest for Henry IV. **But we need help!**

Can anyone who can bake, who has some stuff they don't want but someone else might, or who can come on the day please contact Jeremy at [j.e.muldowney@dsl.pipex.com](mailto:j.e.muldowney@dsl.pipex.com)? It will be a fun day, and promises to be followed by Henry IV and/or some socialising. So please get in touch...

**If you've clicked visited the Henry IV section of the web site as recommended earlier on...**

**Y**ou may have noticed that some of that section is just recycled content that you've read somewhere (glorious) before. You may also have noticed that the web site is looking a little different these days. We'll be updating it with more new things (and some more recycled content) as time goes by. So make sure to check back.

And speaking of content which will later be recycled on the web site, here's an interview with Maurice Crichton, soon to be gloriously dying on stage as King Henry IV (or not, I'm not spoiling the plot). And, in case you're thinking of skipping on to the end of the newsletter to see what picture I've "photoshopped" (edited using Paint), there isn't one. Also, if there was ever a sentence I wanted to hear Maurice say which included the words 'beaver', 'cross-', 'dressing' and 'teenager', it's very, very nearly in this interview:

**So, Maurice, as predicted by Charles Hutchinson after Julius Caesar, you have returned for more YSP shows. And I hope you don't mind me saying that after 20 years or so with no acting, a 2009-onwards CV which reads *Brutus, Northumberland, Vershinin, Pilate, Henry IV* is pretty impressive! What was your pre-2009 acting CV like?**

Erm, so glad you asked me that. It all began aged 8 as a fairy with a battery and a light on my head in *Iolanthe*; then a buddy of *Tom Sawyer's* and the bit in his steamboat that sings 'ting-a-ling-ling' against a syncopated oo-oo groove (let me know when you are ready to hear this); Mr Beaver in an operatic version of *The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe* (I am told I give quite good whisker but not great tail); as a teenager, Lionel in Keith Waterhouse and Willis Hall's *Celebration* (with an early version of my Northumberland accent); and the cross-examined Doctor in Barry England's *Conduct Unbecoming*, a play about soldiers closing ranks during the Raj. That's it. You did ask!

**Having played Northumberland in Richard II, is it a bit strange to be switching sides in the civil war? How much has taking part in Richard II helped so far in Henry IV?**

As Northumberland (wi' help o' my lad, Harry Percy) I was Bolingbroke's right hand man helping to install him as King Henry. Half an hour into this next instalment, Northumberland and Percy are making treacherous plans to take the kingdom from Henry. So I think you will find I am the consistent party here and continue to turn out week in week out for the better team.

Knowing Richard II so well means I have a clear idea where King Henry 'is coming from' and what he has been through already. As Robin will confirm, Henry has been through a lot of foolish business with ties, endless putting on and taking off chain mail, and far too much sitting on a chair listening to Elbow. Fans of the King will be pleased to see that since I last had occasion to be seen, my knees are quite a bit stronger and I have grown a couple of inches. Taller.

**Well done on pointing out how poorly thought-through this newsletter is, Maurice. Quite right, you haven't switched sides, you've switched roles. Anyone who thinks it hasn't gone downhill: I tell you, read the archive. It was once fantastic. Right, better ask a question that I can't possibly get wrong. What have been your favourite aspects of Henry IV so far - about the plays and about the rehearsal process?**

It's been great to meet so many new talented people. And good to get together with some of the old gang, some of whom, Ben and Sam for example, sound a bit different. The all new venue has a very specific vibe and acoustic which is already proving an exciting challenge. I am hugely impressed with our new fearless leader Tom Cooper. He has great energy, creativity and charm and a quietly impressive authority. Directing one of these endeavours takes huge courage and commitment, and if you are not careful it can be a thankless task (as I am sure His Hughness will testify). But Tom is the biz. So far. One small complaint: there have not yet been nearly enough custard creams for my taste (but the cherry cake Ros produced at rehearsal the other night was fab).

**And how would you persuade a hesitant YSP supporter to come to see the shows?**

Look kiddoes the thing is Shakespeare can do it all. Comedy, tragedy, the high life, the low life, the Welsh. And in these plays he does it all. In his lifetime KH4 part 1 was the most successful show he ever wrote. The groundlings could not get enough of Falstaff and his Eastcheap mates. Hence the sequel KH4 part 2 and the spin off series *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. Added to that, we will be in an intriguing new venue. There will be vivid direction to admire, lots of music to enjoy, fighting, and the great Robin Sanger is doing the part we all want to see him do. To top it all there will be owl noises. And ladies, Toby Gordon.

Also seeing as you are probably English and will be recovering from a rotten World Cup, come and witness your team enjoy a guaranteed and rare home win against a combined side of Welsh, Scots and Geordies.

**And this was written on June 18<sup>th</sup> – what foresight. If he knew England would have a poor World Cup when it had barely begun, then he must have some psychic powers, which will surely make him right about the shows: we should definitely go and see them! Unless he is just someone who states the bloody obvious, in which case he is probably right about the shows and we should definitely go and see them!**

**For anyone who enjoys Maurice, I can highly recommend popping along to the York Mystery Plays, if you haven't already. The second showing will be this Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> July. Maurice appears as Pilate in the York Settlement Players version of *The Dream of Pilate's Wife*, and there are some other familiar faces in this and other plays, so get down there.**

Also, if you didn't enjoy this, it was probably my fault, and you should still go and see the shows.

**Right, nearly time to go...**

**H**opefully, you have already bought your ticket, volunteered to help our Front of House and at St Crux's (otherwise it's just me and Janet) and been tickled by the little interview. If not, then I'm sure you will be doing all that soon. Before the productions begin, I can promise a

swashbuckling interview with York Shakespeare Project's answer to Maverick and Ice Man, Toby Gordon and Christopher Laishley, soon to be appearing in *Henry IV* as Hotspur and Hal respectively.

And if you needed further proof that this newsletter is going down, down, down hill, surely it is here, on the final page, where we have half a column unfilled, and no comically rubbish doctored image.