

York Shakespeare Project Newsletter 2009-10

issue 8

Well doesn't it feel like Christmas Eve? Why? Because...

Henry IV starts tomorrow!

It's been both a long time coming – Tom Cooper was appointed as Director way back in January – and has come round very fast: rehearsals began only a couple of months ago.

Part One is first performed tomorrow night (Thursday 29th) at 7:15pm, at the fantastic venue of the Church of St Martin-Cum-Gregory on Micklegate. You can also see Part One this Friday and Saturday. Part Two is first shown on Thursday 5th August and Friday 6th August, before the first double-bill on Saturday 7th. You can see both plays in one day (2:15pm and 7:15pm) on 8th, 14th and 15th August. And – just like the only way to watch a series of 24 is to watch it over a period of 24 hours (allowing for advert breaks) – the best way to watch these shows is surely in one day.

For a full schedule of the performances, [click here](#) and for all sorts of other Henry IV goodies, [click here](#).

The Press...

Tom, the aforementioned director of the two Henry IV plays, was recently interviewed by Charles Hutchinson of The Press. You can read the interview in full by [clicking here...](#)

Tickets, tickets, tickets

Tickets for the performance are on sale now.

You can get them from York Theatre Royal [online](#), on the phone (01904 623568) or in person at the Box Office, or on the door. Tickets are £10 for full price, or £7.50 for concessions, but you can save yourself some money by booking tickets for both shows at the same time. It's then only £18 or £14 for concessions. Go on!

Probably the most ambitious undertaking for the York Shakespeare Project So Far...

Is how I would describe this interview. Using incredible modern technology (email) and all of the York Shakespeare Project's interviewing skills (excluding those of anyone other than me) I have conducted a bumper interview with two men at the centre of the productions of Henry IV Parts 1 and 2. **Chris Laishley**, who plays Hal, and **Toby Gordon**, who plays Hotspur (and some other characters, making the end of the last sentence at least arguably true).

This is also why I have refrained from bowing to peer pressure and increasing the number of columns in the newsletter. Yes, I know you want them. Yes, I know they improve the newsletter no end by making it really hard to read. But, they are also a key part of my incredible smoke-and-mirrors effort on the next page. You see, I conducted the interview...

IN PARALLEL!

I asked both interviewees the same questions, and you can read their answers below...

IN PARALLEL!

(sort of)

Christopher Laishly

Prince Hal

Given the amount of work you must be putting in in order to do two (long) plays in eight weeks, has the process been more like: doing a triathlon with Clyde from Every Which Way But Loose on your back ([he's the one on the right](#)); sitting for ten hours watching Frank Lampard's lop not being given over... and over... and over again, or rehearsing a play?

Damn you Mauricio Espinosa, winner of the Dodgiest Linesman of the Year Award. You may have made up for '66 but you'll never make up with me!

However, I'd probably say the triathlon... only in this scenario, I'm Clyde, and I'm clinging on to Robin Sanger's coattails! He's absolutely perfect for the part of Falstaff, and you can't wait to get in a scene with him; he's not afraid to try new things and really gives his all every time. I'm struggling to match him on the line-learning, but I'm getting there!

You've done shows with YSP before, what has been the most exciting part of these productions?

So many things to choose! However, I think the all-encompassing thing has been the pace. Tom, our ludicrously talented director, has assembled a cast of people who are not only amazing actors but also fantastically dedicated, and we've been powering through at an incredible rate. He's also put together a rehearsal schedule like no other; with the exception of run-throughs, nobody's ever sat there doing nothing. Tom might be rehearsing one scene, Charlotte (our brilliant assistant director) could be in another room working on another... and in coffee breaks, people are line-learning, running through fight sequences, and even doing work on character development! It's been wonderful to see how quickly things are progressing.

Can you persuade me to come to the shows? (I want to come, but I just need some motivation.)

I hear the amazing people of The Ackhorne and Brigantes are offering free refreshment for ticket holders after every show. One of Shakespeare's most exciting histories followed by an all-inclusive trip to the pub... as I'm sure The Bard of Avon always intended.

Toby Gordon

Hotspur/(Bullcalf/Snare/Morton)

Given the amount of work you must be putting in in order to do two (long) plays in eight weeks, has the process been more like: doing a triathlon with Clyde from Every Which Way But Loose on your back ([he's the one on the right](#)); sitting for ten hours watching Frank Lampard's lop not being given over... and over... and over again, or rehearsing a play?

All of them. At the same time. Whilst wrestling Ray Baggaley.

You've done shows with YSP before, what has been the most exciting part of these productions?

Both the most exciting and the most scary part of these productions has been the rehearsal timeframe. With so little time (four and a half weeks per play), we really have to keep energy and dynamism at maximum to ensure the best results.

Can you persuade me to come to the shows? (I want to come, but I just need some motivation.)

Its a show laden with drinking, fighting and Maurice Crichton's beard. What more motivation does one need?

Please describe Hal in three words.

A man's man.

Chris, is it true that you are in fact heir to the throne as Harry and William's older, good-for-nothing brother?

We could not comment directly, but one has been told that one's nose is quite regal. We hear it's what landed one the part of Octavius Caesar last year...

Who would win in a real fight between Toby and Chris?

Toby, hands down. Though that's not saying much; I'd lose in a fight to Verne Troyer. Badly, too.

Because I don't trust you to be honest, we will test this by playing a game of e-paper, scissors, stone. Please make your selection... NOW!

Everyone always picks scissors, so to be true to my character, I'm going for the sly option of stone. Take that, Gordon!

Please describe Hotspur in three words.

Hotspur is a polemomaniac. [Thats got to be well worth three words!]

Toby, is it true that you have been waiting to play this part your whole life and are as giddy as a school boy?

I think you do me something of a disservice there, school boys could never possibly be this giddy!

Who would win in a real fight between Toby and Chris?

How do you think we decided who should get the bigger part?

Because I don't trust you to be honest, we will test this by playing a game of e-paper, scissors, stone. Please make your selection... NOW!

Stone. Always.

Well, I'm sure there are some interesting parallels to be drawn between that game of e-paper, scissors, stone, but it's late, and I need to send this out to everyone, so emailed suggestions of the parallels (and anything else that takes your fancy) to info@yorkshakespeareproject.org.uk.

And if that interview doesn't make you want to see the show (or make you slightly confused and dizzy) then I don't know what will.

A bit of help still needed...

As mentioned in the last newsletter, we will be raising funds for YSP and awareness of Henry IV on Saturday 7th August. We need help in the form of cakes, brik-a-brak and people. If you can help with any of those, please email Jeremy at j.e.muldowney@dsl.pipex.com. If that doesn't sway you, then perhaps the knowledge that **I'll be there** will!

A.G.M.-ahoy!

Just a quick note to let you all know that the AGM will follow hot on the heels of this month's productions of Henry IV. Not only will there be a chance to elect next year's committee (and stand for a position if you want to), but there will also be a chance to discuss making changes to the way the project works.

The aim is to hold it in early September, once Henry IV is over and everyone is back from their summer hols!

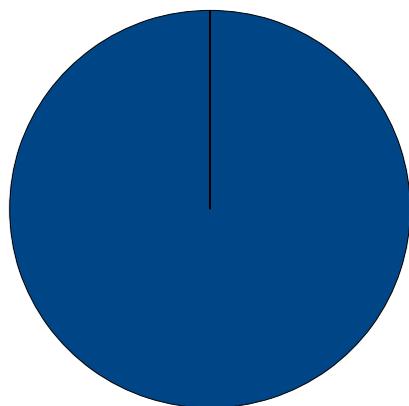
Now, you may be thinking that we're approaching the time that we normally display some poorly 'photoshopped' image, but instead, we've got something even better...

Finally, who ate all the Pie Charts?

I recently read an article which explained that Pie Charts are dying out. As some of you may know, I actually have a degree in Maths (perhaps I can use this as an excuse for my inexplicable decision to capitalise Pie Charts. And possibly spell capitalise wrong.) Anyway, this news about the possibility that those most noble of charts may become extinct hurt me to the bone. As such, I conducted an in-depth survey to find out whether York Shakespeare Project members would like to see more Pie Charts in the newsletter. You can see the result – both overall (by the presence of the chart) and specifically (by the content of the chart). Expect more each month.

Results of Survey

Should we have a Pie Chart in the York Shakespeare Project Newsletter?



■ Yes (2)
■ No (0)

Right, I'm off. See you at Henry IV – do your best to make it; these are great plays, with really strong casts. They are productions not to be missed!

And if you don't believe me, don't forget how good the publicity looks...

Henry IV Parts 1 and 2 The Church of St Martin-Cum-Gregory 29th July-15th August, 2010

