



the
**African
Company**
presents
**Richard
III**

by Carlyle Brown

February 15-17 & 21-24, 2007
Culbreth Theatre • 8:00 pm



UNIVERSITY of VIRGINIA

DRAMA

<http://www.virginia.edu/drama>

DEPARTMENT OF

DRAMA

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

presents

The African Company presents *Richard III* by Carlyle Brown

Directed by **Theresa M. Davis**

Set Design by **Tom Bloom**

Costume Design by **Brittney Belz***, **Joshua Burns***, **Rachel Schuldenfrei***

Lighting Design by **R. Lee Kennedy**

Sound Design by **Michael Rasbury**

Fight Direction and Period Movement Coaching by **Marianne Kubik**

Text and Accent Coaching by **Kate Burke**

Technical Direction by **Kyle Kevin Gettelman**

Production Stage Management by **Alli Lidie**

Time and Place: New York City, Circa 1821.

Act One: The Park Theatre, The African Theatre.

Act Two: The Grand Ballroom of the City Hotel, The Eldridge Street Jail.

There will be one 15-minute intermission.

Produced by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc.

Originally produced in 1987 by Penumbra Theatre Company

Lou Bellamy, Artistic Director.

Produced by Arena Stage, 1992.

Douglas C. Wager, Artistic Director;

Tazwell Thompson, Director.

* In partial fulfillment of requirements for the Master of Fine Arts

CAST (in order of appearance):

Stephen Price	Joel Grothe
Sarah	Rhavynn Drummer
Ann Johnson	Lauren Collins
James Hewlett	Todd Patterson
Papa Shakespeare	Keith Morgan
William Henry Brown	Jesimiel Jenkins
The Constable-man	Sam Rabinovitz

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

Carlyle Brown is a writer/performer and artistic director of Carlyle Brown & Company based in Minneapolis, which has produced *The Masks of Othello: A Theatrical Essay*, *The Fula From America: An African Journey*, and *Talking Masks*. His plays include *The African Company Presents Richard III*, *The Little Tommy Parker Celebrated Colored Minstrel Show*, *Buffalo Hair*, *The Beggars' Strike*, *The Negro of Peter the Great*, *Pure Confidence* and others. He has received commissions from Arena Stage, the Houston Grand Opera, the Children's Theatre Company, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, and Actors Theatre of Louisville. He is recipient of playwriting fellowships from the New York Foundation for the Arts, National Endowment for the Arts, McKnight Foundation, the Minnesota State Arts Board, Jerome Foundation, Theatre Communications Group and the Pew Charitable Trust. Mr. Brown has been artist-in-residence at New York University School of the Arts Graduate Acting Program, The James Thurber House in Columbus, and Ohio State University Theater Department where he directed his music drama, *Yellow Moon Rising*. He has been a teacher of expository writing at New York University; African-American literature at the University of Minnesota; playwriting at Ohio State University and Antioch College; African American theater and dramatic literature at Carlton College as the Benedict Distinguished Visiting Artist, and "Creation and Collaboration" at the University of Minnesota Theater Department. He has worked as a museum exhibit writer and story consultant for the Charles Wright Museum of African American History in Detroit and the Kentucky Center for African American Heritage in Louisville. Mr. Brown is a core alumnus of the Playwrights' Center in Minneapolis, an alumnus of New Dramatists in New York and a member of the Dramatists Guild. He is on the board of directors of The Playwrights' Center and Theatre Communications Group, the national organization for the non-profit professional theater, and is a member of the Charleston Jazz Initiative Circle at the Avery Research Center for African American History and Culture at the College of Charleston in Charleston, South Carolina where his works and papers are archived. He is the 2006 recipient of The Black Theatre Network's Winona Lee Fletcher Award for outstanding achievement and artistic excellence.

www.carlylebrowncandcompany.org

ABOUT THE PLAY

Earning their bread with satires of white high society, the African Company came to be known for debunking the sacred status of the English classics (which many politically and racially motivated critics said were beyond the scope of black actors). Inside the Company's ranks, similar debates raged about whether to mimic the English tongue, or to provide a more lively interpretation of white theater by acknowledging the vibrancy of the black experience (in the words of the African Company's manager: "Say ya Shakespeare like ya want.") Shakespeare is the chosen cultural battleground in this inventive retelling of a little known, yet pivotal event in the African Company's history. Knowing they are always under prejudicial pressures from white society, and facing their own internal shakeups, the African Company battles for time, space, audiences and togetherness. Their competition, Stephen Price, an uptown, Broadway-type impresario, is producing *Richard III* at the same time as the African Company's production is in full swing. Price has promised a famous English actor overflowing audiences if he plays Richard in Price's theatre. Fearing the competition of the African Company's production, which is garnering large white audiences, Price manipulates the law and closes down the theatre. The results of the confrontation help chart an important cultural course, and the African Company's bravery, determination and spirit resonate with all who love the arts.

-Excerpt from *The African Company Presents Richard III*, Dramatists Play Service

WHO'S WHO IN RICHARD III

Brittney Belz (2nd year MFA Costume Design/Technology): Designer for *Arms and the Man*, *Baggage* (UVA Drama); *The Crucible*, *Judevine* (University of Connecticut). Asst. Designer for *Call of the Wild* (UVA Drama); *The House of Bernarda Alba*, *Gut Girls*; (University of Connecticut).

Tom Bloom (Chair, Dept. of Drama, Associate Professor of Scene Design) *Luminosity*, *Truth and Beauty*, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* (UVA Drama), *Enchanted April*, *Nunsense* (HRT).

Kate Burke (Associate Professor, Voice and Speech.): Has coached scores of U.Va. productions over the last 13 years and most recently coached *The Matchmaker*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and *Measure for Measure* at American Players Theatre in Spring Green, Wisconsin.

Joshua Burns (2nd year MFA Costume Design/Technology): *Mud*, *Multiplicity of Movement*, *Scapin* (U.Va Drama), *Anything Goes* (Ball State University).

Lauren Collins (4th year Drama/SWAG) *The Robber Bridegroom* (RPAC), *For Now: A Musical Revue* (U.VA Drama) *WTT*, *The Vagina Monologues* (Spectrum Theatre).

Rhavynn Drummer (4th Year, American Studies/Drama): *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat* (FYP).

Kyle Kevin Gettelman (2nd Year MFA Technical Direction): *Defying Gravity*, *Scapin* (U.Va Drama) *Enchanted April* (Heritage Repertory Theatre).

Joel Grothe (2nd Year MFA Acting) *Arms and the Man*, *Luminosity* (UVA Drama); *Oedipus Rex*, *Electra*, *The Tempest*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *Coriolanus*, *Titus Andronicus*, *Antony and Cleopatra*, *Julius Caesar* (Canopy Theatre Company); *The Red River Rebellion* (VideoCabaret); *Canada House* (Canada House Arts Collective/Theatre Passe Muraille); *Othello*, *A Clockwork Orange*, *Macbeth*, *Troilus and Cressida*, *As You Like It*, *The Cherry Orchard*, *A Man For All Seasons*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *West Side Story*, *The Music Man* (Hart House Theatre); *Ghosts* (G.I.T.); *John Gabriel Borkman* (The Ibsen Project/John Neville); *Altman's Last Stand* (Sachter/Towers). FILM AND TELEVISION: *Intelligence*; *The Eleventh Hour*; *Sisters of the Wilderness*; *Freedom of the Air*. UPCOMING: *Stalin Theory* (Summerworks 2007).

Jesimiel Jenkins (4th year Sociology Major/Drama Minor): *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, *For Now:*

PRODUCTION STAFF FOR RICHARD III

Assistant Director.....	Adam Smith
Assistant to the Director.....	Laquisha Banks
Assistant Stage Managers.....	Emily Lacy, Andrew Page
Flight Captain	Joel Grothe
Department Technical Director.....	Steven Warner
Assistant Technical Director.....	Amber Blanks
Scene Shop Foreman.....	David Paul Hale
Scene Shop Staff	Amber Blanks, Nathaniel Whelden, Libby Majette, James Villarrubia
Prop Master	Lisi Stoessel
Props Artisans	Maria Degtiarenko, Gabrielle Laskey, Olga Zeveleva
Scenic Charge	Rachel Witt
Scenic Artists	Alex Gaver, Kelsey Mosley, Dorothy Shepard
Costume Technologist.....	Marcy Linton
Costume Shop Manager	Joshua Bond
Draper	Kara Monroe
Stitchers.....	Keenan Caldwell, Scottie Caldwell, Devon Cabot, Dram 231 Students
Assistant Costume Designer	Gabrielle Moskey
Wardrobe Head	Brittney Belz
Dressers.....	Amanda Holland, Mallory Harris
Costume Design Faculty Advisor	Gweneth West
Master Electrician.....	Ryan Bauer
Light Shop Supervisor	Cody Schindeldecker
Light Board Operator	David Solomon
Electricians	Drama 213 Students, Alice Jackson, Tim Freeman, Katherine Pfister, Morgan Geisert, Ryan Logue, Teresa Wood
Assistant Sound Designers.....	Bethany Macri, Adam W. Johnson
Sound Engineer	Mike Benonis
Sound Board Operator	Mindy Miller
Business Manager	Martin A. Beekman
Assistant Business Manager.....	James Scales
Box Office Manager.....	Jonathan Green
Box Office Staff	Matt Fletcher, Molly Coyle, Russ Hicks, Mindy Miller, Emily Lacy, Boriana Bakaltcheva, Katie McDaniel, Annie Steingold
House Manager	Katie Morgans
Front of House Staff.....	Katie Dressel, Adam W. Johnson, Sarah Morgan, Caroline Pugliese, Annie Steingold
Publicity Assistant	Lauren Collins
Production Coordinator	Shawn Paul Evans

WHO'S WHO IN RICHARD III (continued)

A Musical Revue, A Game (UVa Drama); *Topdog/Underdog* (Spectrum); *Carmen* (Opera Viva); *South Pacific* (HRT); *Ain't Misbehavin'* (LiveArts).

R. Lee Kennedy (Associate Professor, Department of Drama): *Pericles, The Comedy of Errors, Julius Caesar* (Illinois Shakespeare Festival); *All the Way Home, Cul-de-sac, Normal, The Audience* (off-Broadway); *Damn Yankees!, Spitfire Grill, Ragtime* (HRT); *Metamorphoses, Grapes of Wrath* (LiveArts).

Marianne Kubik (Assistant Professor, Department of Drama) *Call of the Wild, As You Like It, Private Lives, The House of Bernarda Alba* (U.Va Drama), *The Pillowman* (asst. to Colleen Kelly), *Amadeus, Wintertime* (Live Arts).

Alli Lidie (3rd year Drama).

Keith Morgan (4th Year Drama major/Sociology minor): *Inside the Box* (U.Va Drama).

Todd Patterson (4th Year, Drama): *The Mystery of Edwin Drood, The Call of the Wild, Luminosity* (U.Va. Drama), *Voices of the Class, The Fantasticks* (Spectrum), *Lysistrata* (Helms Lab Series), *Sylvia, Urinetown, Ain't Misbehavin'* (LiveArts).

Sam Rabinovitz (1st year Drama): *Once Upon a Mattress* (FYP).

Rachel Schuldenfrei (2nd year MFA Costume Design/Technology): *Defying Gravity* (UVA Drama), *For Colored Girls...* (Assistant, UVA Drama).

Special Thanks:

Carlyle Brown, Jonah Lampkin, Edna-Jakki Miller, Richard Warner,
Dion Lewis and the Office of African American Affairs

Scenic images derived from Romare Bearden's *Dream Images*, 1976

FOR YOUR INFORMATION...

1. **CONCESSIONS** are on sale in the lobby before the show and at intermission. Please, no food or drinks in the theatre.
2. **SEATING.** As a courtesy to the other patrons and the performers, latecomers will be admitted at the discretion of the house manager.
3. **TICKET RESERVATIONS** must be paid for within 48 hours at the box office or they will be released. Reservations made within 48 hours of the scheduled performance must be guaranteed.
4. **CELL PHONES AND WRISTWATCH ALARMS** can be very distracting to the audience and actors alike. Please turn yours off!
5. **PHOTOGRAPHIC AND RECORDING** devices are strictly prohibited in the theatre.
6. **EMERGENCY EXIT.** In case of emergency, patrons are requested to evacuate the theatre in a calm and orderly fashion. Please take a moment before the show begins to note your nearest exit. In the Culbreth Theatre, exits are located on both sides of the auditorium as well as at the rear. In the Helms Theatre, a second exit is located opposite the main entrance.