



## **The Richard III Foundation, Inc.**

Hon. Patrons: Prof. Anne Curry FRHistS, Robert Hardy CBE FSA, Sharon K. Penman

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### **NEWS RELEASE**

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## **SHAKESPEARE'S DARKEST VILLAIN CAST IN A NEW LIGHT**

The Richard III Foundation has welcomed the Stratford-upon-Avon stage debut of “Loyalty Binds Me”, a new theatrical production that casts Shakespeare’s villainous King Richard III in a new and far more positive light.

“Loyalty Binds Me” gives an alternative view of King Richard’s role in the disappearance of ‘the Princes in the Tower’. The new play shows Richard not as a murderous usurper but as a man who has grown up seeing his closest friends and relatives turn into traitors while he remained loyal to his brother, Edward IV, until the very end.

Richard was England’s last Plantagenet king, defeated and killed at the Battle of Bosworth which led to the establishment of the Tudor dynasty. To his supporters he was a good and honest king who died heroically on the field of battle. However, history is written by the winners, and Richard’s reputation was blackened by Tudor propagandists, most famously William Shakespeare, and for many people today it is the Shakespearian version of Richard III that holds sway.

Now, over 500 years since Richard fell at Bosworth, playwright Neil Hewitt-Dudding has set out to show the King’s life and reign in their proper context, and to give an alternative explanation of the fate of the Princes in the Tower. Whilst acknowledging Shakespeare’s

undoubted brilliance as a playwright, Neil and his colleagues are less impressed by the Shakespearian adherence to historical accuracy!

“Loyalty Binds Me” is a refreshing new look at Richard’s place in history, and will be welcomed by all those who have long felt the need for an alternative perspective on Richard III, to replace the Shakespearian caricature. By staging the first performances of “Loyalty Binds Me” at Stratford-upon-Avon, Shakespeare’s hometown, Ricardians feel that they are striking a blow against the centuries-old Tudor misrepresentation of Richard III.

The Stratford production, by the Noble Ox Theatre Company in association with the Tread the Boards Theatre Company, stars John Robert Partridge as Richard III, Catherine Prout as his Queen, Anne Neville, and Daniel Gough as the sinister Lord Stanley. The play goes on tour this summer. The Richard III Foundation was well represented at the debut performances of “Loyalty Binds Me” at the Attic Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon.

The Foundation’s mission is to promote honest, accurate scholarship of the Wars of the Roses and the life and times of Richard Plantagenet. As such, it provides grants to assist historians and students, and organizes conferences and seminars.

For more details on the Foundation, go to [www.richard111.com](http://www.richard111.com) or visit the Foundation’s page on Facebook, or write to: Andy Smith, Public Relations Director (UK), The Richard III Foundation, 24 Floral Court, Ashted, Surrey KT21 2JL.

For information on “Loyalty Binds Me – The True Story of Richard III and the Princes in the Tower”, go to [www.loyaltybindsme.co.uk](http://www.loyaltybindsme.co.uk).  
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