

Visual Story

To support your visit to Shakespeare's Globe

RICHARD III



SHAKESPEARE'S
GLOBE

Introduction



This Visual Story gives you information about what to expect from Richard III at Shakespeare's Globe.

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Important Information

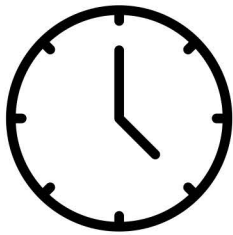


About the theatre

Richard III takes place in the Globe Theatre.

The Globe Theatre has no roof and a capacity of 1,570 (700 standing and the rest seated).

The address is 21 New Globe Walk, Bankside, London, SE1 9DT.



Times

Richard III is 2 hours and 30 minutes including the interval.



About the play

William Shakespeare's plays often fall into one of three types: a comedy, a history, or a tragedy,

Richard III is a tragedy which means the play includes death and disaster.

Cast and Characters

Some of the cast play more than one character during the performance. You may see them in different costumes to the ones shown below. People dressed in black and white, wearing gloves, are often known as 'The Rats'. They help Richard kill people.

*Joanne Howarth will read the part of the Duchess of York (in place of Hayley Carmichael) until at least Saturday 1st June 2024.

Actor



Michelle Terry



Sarah Finigan

Character



Richard



King Edward

Actor



Katie Erich



Marianne Oldham



Em Thane

Character



Lady Anne



Elizabeth



Rivers

Actor



Tanika Yearwood



Helen Schlesinger



Kibong Tangi

Character



Grey



Buckingham



Clarence

Actor



Sam Crerar



Catrin Aaron



Poppy Miller

Character



Richmond



Hastings



Margaret

Actor



Rosalind Blessed

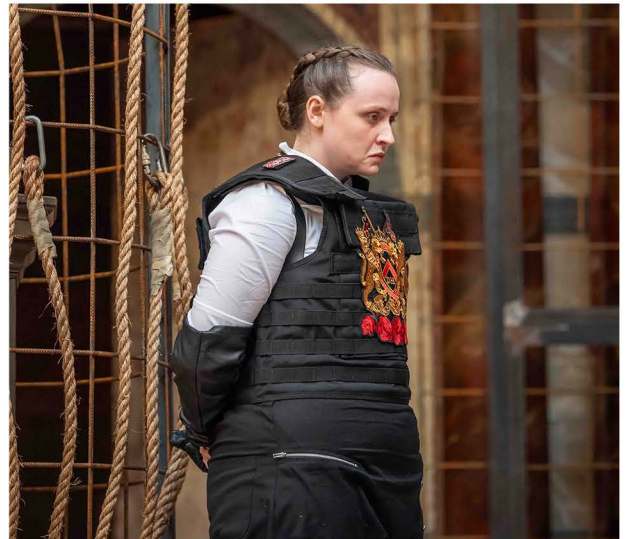


Ayla Wheatley

Character



Executioner, Citizen & Ensemble



Messenger & Ensemble

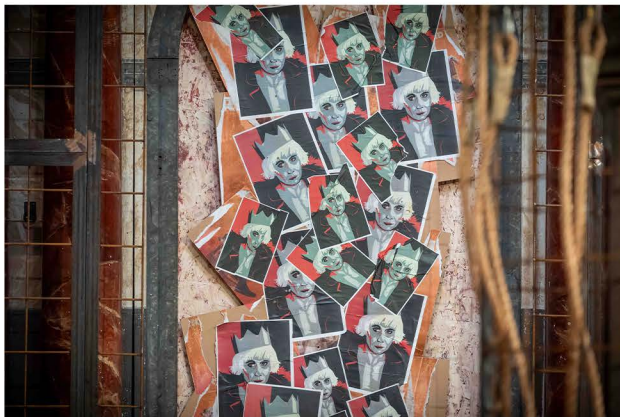
Set



Most of the play takes place on the main stage. There are banners (first black then purple) that roll down from the balcony during act 1.



There is a platform on the balcony, which characters appear on. There are ladders on either side of the platform, which actors climb.



During act 2, posters of Richard's face are stuck all over the stage and balcony.



There is a wooden board (which gets green spray paint on it) and a matching wooden throne.

Content and Trigger Warnings

This production includes themes of:



Death, murder and grief



Violence



Sexual assault



Depictions of dead bodies



Suffocation



Beheading



Xenophobia



Threatening language

Richard III – Synopsis

The next 10 pages describe what happens in the show. If you do not want to spoil the surprise, jump to page 21.

ACT 1

Lots of people enter the stage, including Lady Anne in a red dress. Everyone shouts and moves like they are fighting. On the balcony platform, Richard hurts Queen Margaret, who shouts in pain. Lady Anne runs off stage, and two people pull black banners off the wall.

Everyone bows down to Edward. Richard comes onto the main stage and crowns Edward King. Purple banners roll down from the balcony, and everyone dances and celebrates.



Richard stands on a pillar to make a speech. When he has finished, everyone else leaves.

Richard III – Synopsis

Richard sits on the steps and gives a speech to the people in the yard about how he wants to become king.



Clarence is brought on stage by the Commissioner, who is dressed like a police officer. Clarence says that the king has sent him to the tower. The Commissioner says they're not allowed to talk privately, so Richard loudly talks about the Queen in a funny voice for everyone to hear. He encourages the audience in the yard to join in. Clarence and the Commissioner leave. Richard pretends to be sad, but then continues talking excitedly.

Lord Hastings enters the stage. He tells Richard that the king is very sick. Richard falls dramatically when he hears this news, pretending to be sad. But as soon as Hastings leaves, Richard starts talking about how he wants Edward and Clarence to die. He leaves.

Rivers, Dorset and Grey enter, alongside Queen Elizabeth, who is worried about the king dying. Then, Buckingham and Stanley come in, and tell Elizabeth that they have just seen the king, and he's doing well. Richard enters, shouting angrily. He says that he and Clarence are treated unfairly by the Elizabeth and Edward, and he wishes a plague upon everyone who supports them. Elizabeth and Richard argue.

Richard III – Synopsis

Queen Margaret enters the stage from the yard. She says that Richard killed her husband and her son and shouts angrily. Everyone apart from Richard leaves. Richard speaks about his plan to frame Elizabeth and marry Anne. Anne enters, followed by the Commissioner and two aides carrying a stretcher. On the stretcher is the body of Henry VI, wrapped in sheets and red tape. Anne curses Richard for killing Henry.

Anne argues with Richard, and spits at him. Richard tells Anne that he's attracted to her, and that's why he killed Edward and Henry. He says if he can't be with her, then he should die. He asks Anne to kill him with his sword. She refuses so he pulls the sword towards himself. Anne, who is frightened, agrees to marry him. Richard cries dramatically, and Anne leaves.

The aides open the trap door, and Henry's body tumbles through it. Richard greets two murderers, approaching from the yard, and tells them to kill Clarence. Richard and the murderers leave. The murderers put on pig masks.

Clarence wakes up and tries to convince them not to kill him. They stab Clarence anyway. He gasps and screams. One of the murderers shoves Clarence's head in a bucket of water until he dies. Clarence's body is dumped down the trap door. Everyone exits.



Richard III – Synopsis

Edward appears on a throne, along with Queen Elizabeth, Rivers, Dorset, Grey, Hastings and Buckingham. Richard enters and begs for forgiveness. Richard says that Clarence is dead, and the King panics. Everyone leaves, apart from Richard, who sits on the throne and is pushed off-stage by the rats.

The Duchess of York and Young Richard enter. Young Richard says he knows Clarence is dead, and that his father killed him. Elizabeth enters angrily, with Rivers, Dorset and Grey, and says that the king is dead.



Elizabeth enters alongside the Duchess of York and Young Richard. Lady Anne briefly enters to say that Richard and Buckingham have sent Rivers and Grey to prison. Elizabeth takes Young Richard to sanctuary with her. Everyone else leaves the stage.

Richard, Catesby and Buckingham enter with Prince Edward. They are greeted by the Commissioner, the Mayor and Hastings. Hastings tells everyone that the Queen and Young Richard are in sanctuary, and Buckingham tells the Commissioner to go and get Young Richard. He does, and Young Richard enters happily and hugs Prince Edward. Young Richard takes Richard's dagger from him, teasing him.

Everyone leaves apart from Buckingham, Catesby and Richard, because Young Richard and Prince Edward are going to sleep over in the tower. The three men make a plot about how they will kill Rivers and Grey. Catesby leaves to see whether Hastings would be loyal to Richard. Richard and Buckingham laugh loudly together, then leave.

Richard III – Synopsis

Rivers and Grey enter. People from the yard shout “traitors” and “treason” at them. Rivers and Grey hug before they are sent, one at a time, down the trap door to die.

Catesby comes to tell Hastings that Rivers and Grey have died. Stanley enters and is anxious about all the different conversations happening. Hastings dismisses him and Catesby talks with a member of the audience and gives them a coffee cup.

Buckingham, Stanley, and the Commissioner all enter and stand by a table full of food and drink. They discuss the coronation. Richard enters shirtless, with Anne and The Rat. Richard asks the Commissioner to get some strawberries for him.



Richard schemes with Buckingham, then later tells The Rat to kill Hastings. Everyone leaves apart from The Rats and Hastings. Hastings dies, going down the trap door slowly.

Richard and Buckingham re-enter in combat gear, followed by Catesby and the mayor. Richard climbs a ladder and Buckingham lies on top of the Mayor.

Richard III – Synopsis

The Rat enters holding Hastings's severed head. Richard and Buckingham convince the mayor that they had no choice but to kill Hastings. Everyone leaves, apart from Buckingham (who is in the yard) and Richard (who is on stage). Buckingham says he's trying to get the public on Richard's side. They scheme together about how to do this.

Catesby climbs on and off stage as he talks with Richard and Buckingham. The Mayor reappears, as well as an audience of citizens within the yard. Richard goes to the balcony platform with two priests. They are all dressed in white. Richard pretends he doesn't want to take the throne, while Buckingham pretends to beg him to be king. The mayor climbs the ladder and asks the audience in the yard kneel down and beg Richard to be king. Eventually Richard dramatically accepts and Buckingham makes the audience shout 'long live Richard, England's worthy king'. Everyone leaves.



END OF ACT 1

ACT 2

The purple banners have been replaced with posters of Richard's face, all over the main stage and balcony.



Queen Elizabeth enters with Dorset and the Duchess of York, as well as Anne and the Commissioner. Stanley comes to fetch Anne, so she can be crowned queen. Queen Elizabeth tells Dorset to run away, so he does. Anne reluctantly goes with Stanley, and the Duchess of York tells Elizabeth to go to the sanctuary. They both leave.

The rats enter, climbing down ladders, wearing red hats. They graffiti 'R III' on the stage, then all march together. Richard walks on stage through the yard, wearing gold trousers, shoes and a crown, and a fur coat. He sits on a throne.

Richard tells Buckingham to go and kill Young Richard and Prince Edward. Buckingham agrees to think about it, and leaves. Catesby enters and says he can enlist Tyrrel to help Richard. Richard agrees, then tells Catesby to start a rumour that Anne is very sick and likely to die.

Richard III – Synopsis

Anne starts to choke on her drink, then collapses to the ground and dies. Tyrrel enters and agrees to kill the children. Buckingham re-enters and says he will kill the children but Richard is angry that he didn't agree straight away, so runs off stage. Buckingham becomes angry and leaves. The rats dump Anne's body in the trap door and leave.



The children enter, playing with toy planes, then settle down in a sleeping bag. Tyrrel comes in and suffocates them, and the rats drag the sleeping bag off stage. Tyrrel panics, realising what he's done, and leaves.

A Rat tells Richard that the Commissioner and Buckingham have betrayed Richard. Richard shouts angrily and tells The Rat to gather an army. They both leave.

Queen Margaret appears on the balcony platform and watches Elizabeth who is crying because her children are dead. Margaret enters the main stage and shouts about how Richard needs to die. The Duchess reluctantly agrees, and Margaret leaves.

Richard III – Synopsis

Richard enters with The Rats, and the Duchess confronts him. She threatens never to speak to him again, and Richard mocks her. The Duchess curses him, wishes him a bloody death, and leaves. Richard tells Elizabeth that he wants to make her daughter queen. Elizabeth doesn't trust him, and they argue. Richard says to make up for killing her sons, he'll marry her daughter and give her a good life. They shout and scream at each other, until Elizabeth leaves slowly.

Catesby and The Rat enter and tell Richard that a rebellion is on its way, led by Richmond. Richard is very angry and tells them to gather men to fight. Lots of messengers enter the stage, all bringing bad news to Richard. Catesby dies and is thrown through the trap door. Richard leaves.

Stanley tells a messenger to send a note to Richmond, saying that he can't revolt because if he does, his son will die. Elizabeth and her daughter enter, saying they want to join the rebellion. Everyone leaves.

Buckingham enters with The Rats. Buckingham makes a speech about his mistakes before he is forced to die, down the trap door. Richmond enters the yard surrounded by his army. He stands on the table and makes a speech. The commissioner, Elizabeth and her daughter are all beside him. They walk away.



Richard III – Synopsis

Richard enters with The Rat, who pitches a 'tent' made from rope attached to pillars. They leave, and Richmond and his army pitch a tent on the other pillar. Richard re-enters with a bottle of wine. He is confused, asking for Catesby, who he has forgotten is dead. Then he sleeps.

All the people Richard has murdered enter the stage, some covered in blood or carrying severed heads. They urge Richard to wake up. Queen Anne appears in her hooped skirt and delivers a speech in BSL and English. Buckingham is the last to leave after shouting at Richard. Richard wakes and moves between feeling happy and sad. The Rat enters, saying that Richard's army are ready. They leave. Richmond's army takes the stage, and Richmond gives a speech to them. They cheer and leave. Richard re-enters, and The Rat tells him that Stanley has rebelled. Richard tells him to kill Stanley's son. They open the trap door, and then Richmond's army storm the stage.

The Rat grabs Richard and kills him. Richmond's army put Richard's body in the trap. Richmond declares 'the bloody dog is dead' and everyone cheers. Music plays as they all dance together and celebrate.



THE END

Sonic Story



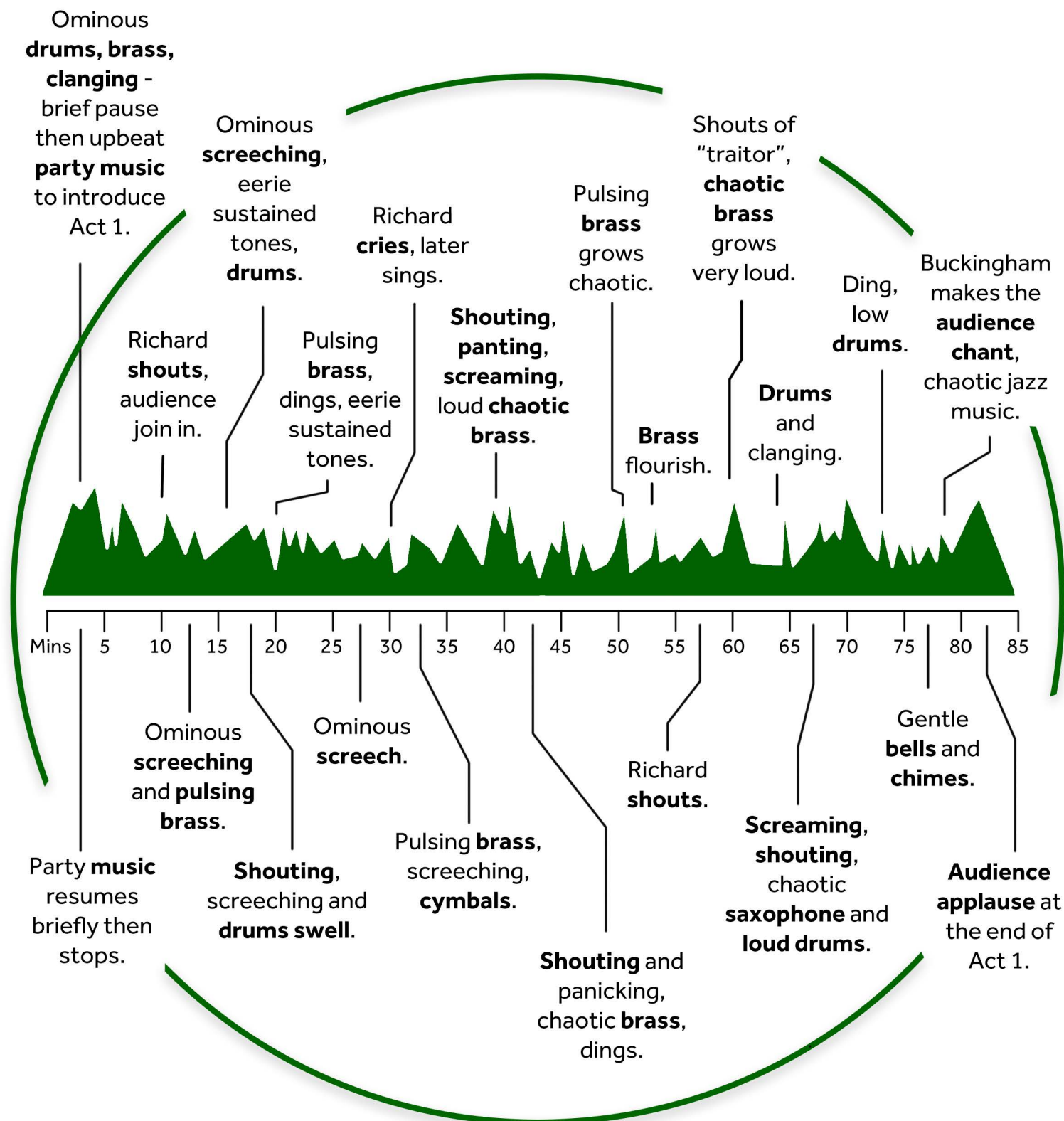
There is live music throughout the performance, played by a band on the balcony.

This music is mainly brass instruments and drums. It can be loud or quiet.

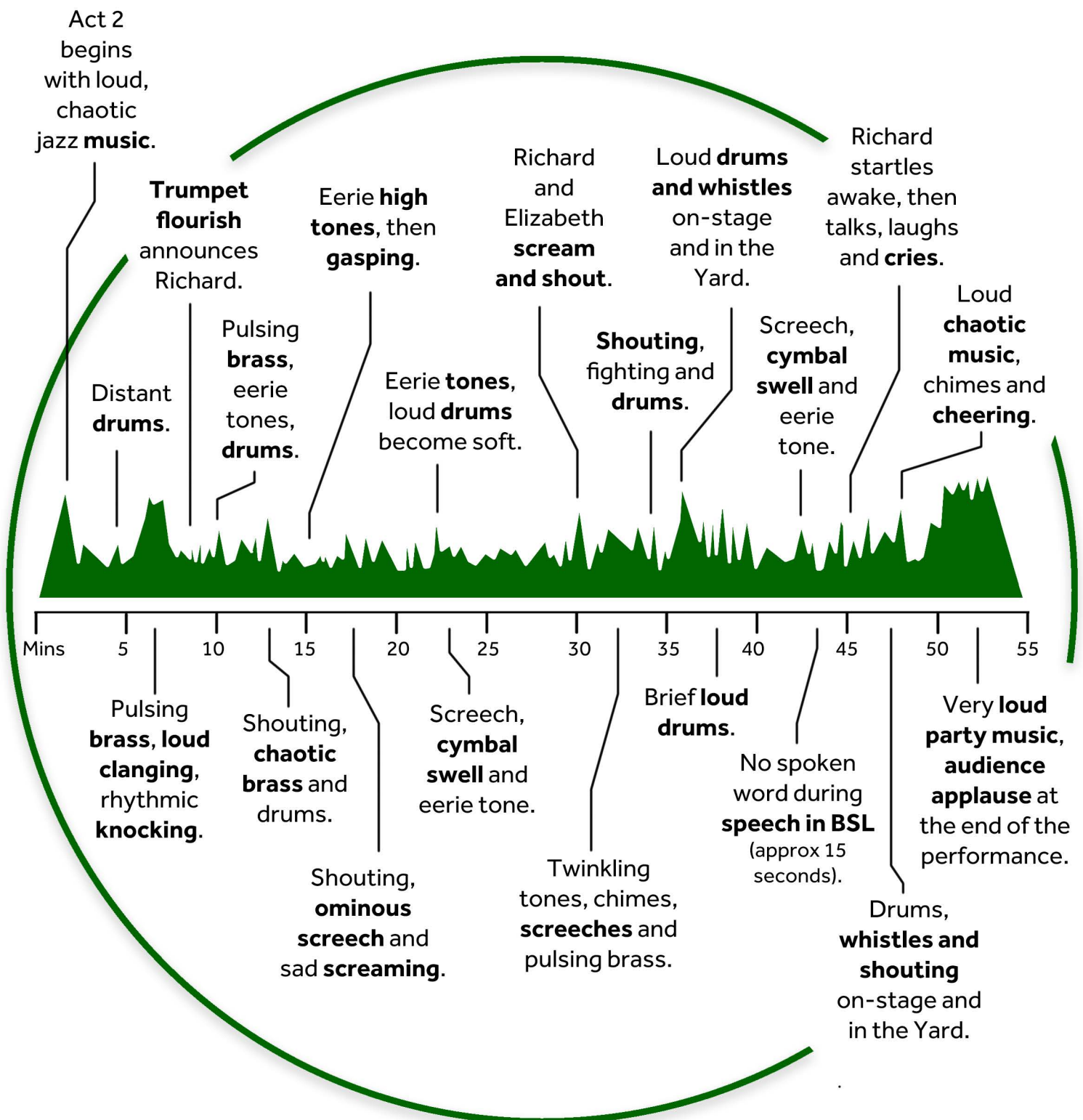
Sometimes, characters use British Sign Language alongside spoken words. This mainly happens in scenes with Lady Anne who is played by a deaf actor who performs using both spoken English and British Sign Language.

The next two pages show a 'Sonic Story' of Richard III. A Sonic Story is an infographic that gives detailed information about how the sounds of the show change over time.

Sonic Story – Act 1



Sonic Story – Act 2



Relaxed Performances & Contact Details



Relaxed performances will take place on:

Saturday 1st June 2.00pm

Wednesday 10th July 7.30pm

During a relaxed performance there will be:



- An open-door policy: so you can come in and out of the theatre whenever you like.



- An announcement at the start of the show that it is a relaxed performance and an explanation of what this means.



- A welcome invitation to move, make noise and experience the show however you like.



- A Visual Story (this document) available online and at the welcome desk.



- A chill-out space: on the level below the box office and the main entrance to the building.



Contact Details

If you need any more information or would like to discuss your access requirements please contact the Access Team:

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Visual story designed by Touretteshero CIC, 2024
Production photos: Marc Brenner



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