

Westfield High School Theatre Department
4700 Stonecroft Blvd.
Chantilly, VA 20151
703-488-6430

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Contact: Lori Knickerbocker, lknickerboc@fcps.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Not Your Father's Shakespeare:
Shakespeare's Richard III at Westfield Theatre Nov. 18-20

Westfield High School Theatre Arts Department presents Shakespeare's *Richard III* at Westfield High School, 4700 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly, Nov. 18 and 19 at 7:30 p.m. and Nov. 20 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10 online; \$12 at the door. Seating is reserved and tickets are available at www.westfieldtheatreboosters.com or at the box office. Call 703-488-6439 for more information. Guest Director Dan Crane from The Shakespeare Theatre in Washington, DC, directs this tragic tale of ruthlessness and misplaced loyalty.

Westfield Theatre's *Richard III* will shatter all your notions of men in tights speaking dryly and bring you a Shakespeare that will have you on the edge of your seats in one of The Bard's most riveting tragedies of betrayal, intrigue and love. The story of Richard III has existed as long as politics and family feuds exist and produced the quotable lines: "Now is the winter of our discontent" and "A horse, a horse, my kingdom for a horse."

Richard III begins with Richard (Mitchell Buckley) revealing his jealousy for his brother King Edwards's (Joey Biagini) rule of England. Drawing the audience in as his only accomplice, Richard explains how he will eventually rule England, and as the play progresses, he banishes his brother, George, Duke of Clarence (Alex Mann) to the Tower of London, pushes himself upon the unwilling Lady Anne (Madeleine Bloxam), and causes the beheading or murder of many more unfortunate souls.

Crane brings all the darkness of *Sweeney Todd's* demon barber of Fleet Street, to draw the audience into a version of *Richard III* that has never been told before. Stark set design by Patrick W. Lord is hauntingly limited with metal I-beams protruding from the floor and walls. Black leather and metal-studded costumes add to the overall effect that might be mistaken for a heavy metal music video.

Erica Schmidt is the stage manager, and Allie Koenigsberg and Emily Tobin are the assistant stage managers of *Richard III*. In addition to Buckley, Bloxam, Biagini, and Mann, *Richard III* also features Colby Dezelick as Duke of Buckingham; Zoe Hawryluk as Queen Elizabeth; Olivia Witt as Marquess of Dorset; Brandon Sanchez as Lord Rivers; Julian Sanchez as Lord Grey; Kristen Moser as Duchess of York; and Paolah Urista as Queen Margaret.

Also featured are Emily Cervarich, Estella Massey, Emma Roney, Zach Walsh, Nick Burroughs, Nate Schrader, Chaz Coffin, Aidan Quartana, TJ Vinsavich, Jake Ehrlich, Sophia Alam, Bayleigh Aschenbrenner, Abby Picard, Serena Emanuel, Terri Lonstein, Olivia Joseph, Hanna Soudah, Samantha Dempsey, and Shannon Douglass.

More About Dan Crane:

Dan Crane is a Teaching Artist with the Shakespeare Theatre Company, a Guest Lecturer at Howard University, and serves as Associate Artistic Director of Enlightenment Theatre Project in Williamsburg, VA. Also a professional actor, Dan has appeared locally at the Shakespeare Theatre Company in *Romeo and Juliet*, *Richard III* and *The Beaux Stratagem* (World Premier), and at Folger Theatre in *Cyrano* (World Premier), *Hamlet* and *The*

Winter's Tale. Other regional acting credits include work with companies across the United States, including Baltimore Shakespeare Festival (as Hamlet), Idaho Shakespeare Festival, PCPA Theaterfest and Portland Center Stage to name a few. He trained at the Pacific Conservatory for the Performing Arts, holds a BFA from Ithaca College and an MFA from the Academy for Classical Acting at The George Washington University.