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YALE REPERTORY THEATRE  
OPENS 2007-2008 SEASON WITH  
*Richard II*  
BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE  
DIRECTED BY EVAN YIONOULIS  
SEPTEMBER 21 - OCTOBER 13

FEATURING JEFFREY CARLSON, BILLY EUGENE JONES,  
ALVIN EPSTEIN, AND GEORGE BARTENIEFF

NEW HAVEN, Conn. — Yale Repertory Theatre begins its 2007-2008 season with William Shakespeare's *Richard II*, September 21 to October 13. Opening night and press night are Thursday, September 27, at 8pm.

Shakespeare's most lyrical and psychologically insightful history play will be staged by Yale Rep resident director **Evan Yionoulis**, whose recent New York credits include Howard Brenton's *Sore Throats* at Theatre for a New Audience, Daisy Foote's *Bhutan* at the Cherry Lane Theatre, and the upcoming *Ohio State Murders*, also at Theatre for a New Audience. Her productions at Yale Rep include *Black Snow*, *The People Next Door*, *The King Stag*, *Heaven*, and *Galileo*. She won an Obie award for her direction of Richard Greenberg's *Three Days of Rain* at Manhattan Theatre Club.

**Jeffrey Carlson** makes his Yale Rep debut in the title role of *Richard II*. His Broadway credits include *Taboo* (Marilyn), *Tartuffe* (Valère), and *The Goat, or Who Is Sylvia?* (Billy). Regionally, he has appeared at Washington, DC's Shakespeare Theatre Company playing the title roles in *Hamlet* and *Lorenzaccio*; in the McCarter Theatre's *Romeo and Juliet* as Romeo; and in the Chicago Shakespeare Theatre's *Henry IV, parts 1 & 2* as Prince Hal. Last season he portrayed Zoë in *All My Children*, the first male-to-female transgender character featured in a daytime television series. **Billy Eugene Jones**, whose Broadway credits include *Radio Golf*, *Gem of the Ocean*, and the recent revival of *A Raisin in the Sun*, returns to Yale Rep in the role of Henry Bolingbroke. At Yale Rep, he appeared in *Breath, Boom*, and he played the title role in *Othello* at California Shakespeare Theatre.

Two distinguished veterans of the American theatre portray the uncles of King Richard: **Alvin Epstein**, a founding member of Yale Rep, is John of Gaunt and **George Bartenieff** is the Duke of York. Epstein has played more than 150 roles, approximately one third of them at the American Repertory Theatre, where he was a founding member of the company. His made his Broadway debut performing with Marcel Marceau; subsequent Broadway credits include the American premiere of *Waiting for Godot*, *King Lear*, and *The Threepenny Opera*. In 2007, he



received an Obie award for lifetime achievement. Bartenieff, who made his Broadway debut at age 14 in *The Whole World Over*, recently appeared in *The Public Theater's Stuff Happens* and its Shakespeare in the Park staging of *Romeo and Juliet*. In 2001, he received an Obie award for his solo performance as Victor Klemperer in *I Will Bear Witness*. He co-founded New York's Theater for the New City in 1971 and served as its executive director until 1992.

Also in the cast are Brian Burns, Caroline Stefanie Clay, Caitlin Clouthier, Jonathan Fried, Carter Gill, Kristjiana Gong, Christopher Grant, Brent Langdon, Michael Leibenluft, Christopher McFarland, Christopher McHale, Dan Moran, Edward O'Blenis, Josh Odsess-Rubin, Joseph Parks, Allen E. Read, and Joe Tapper.

Original music is composed by Mike Yionoulis. Scenic design is by Brenda Davis; costume design is by Melissa E. Trn; lighting design is by Ji-Youn Chang; and sound design is by Sarah Pickett. *Richard II* is a cautionary tale about the nature of leadership and the use and abuse of power. The play recounts the final two years of the Plantagenet king of England whose reign ended in 1399, and the beginning of the reign of Henry IV (1399-1413). Grandson of King Edward III and son of Edward the Black Prince, Richard II was anointed king in 1377 at age ten, but was too young to wield power. Three of his paternal uncles—the Duke of Gloucester, the Duke of Lancaster (also known as John of Gaunt), and the Duke of York—effectively ruled England until Richard declared himself of age. Asserting his independence and divine right to rule, Richard dismissed his uncles, choosing to rely instead on John Bushy, William Bagot, and Henry Green as advisors.

In 1397, shortly before the action of Shakespeare's play begins, the Duke of Gloucester was murdered, probably at Richard's command. Gaunt's son, Henry Bolingbroke, accuses Thomas Mowbray, the Duke of Norfolk, of plotting Gloucester's death. Unable to settle the quarrel between Bolingbroke and Mowbray, Richard sentences his cousin Bolingbroke to six years of exile and banishes Mowbray forever. Gaunt, heartsick over his son's expulsion from England, takes to his deathbed. Richard seizes Gaunt's estate, in part to fund ill-advised wars in Ireland, and departs for battle. In Richard's absence, Bolingbroke returns to claim his inheritance and title, build political support among nobles weary of Richard's autocratic ways and heavy taxes, and set his sights on the crown. Richard returns to England, and seeing that he has been essentially deposed, abdicates. Bolingbroke is crowned King Henry IV, and imprisons Richard in Pomfret Castle. Stripped of all that defined him as king, Richard recovers the deepest measure of his humanity before losing his life.

The new season at Yale Rep continues with Alice Childress's *Trouble in Mind* (October 26 - November 17, 2007), Molière's *Tartuffe, or the Imposter* (November 26 - December 22, 2007), the world premiere of David Adjmi's *The Evildoers* (January 18 - February 9, 2008), Oscar Wilde's *A Woman of No Importance* (March 21 - April 12, 2008), and a sixth play to be announced (April 25 - May 17, 2008).

Season subscriptions are on sale now. Single tickets go on sale September 4. Single tickets range from \$35 to \$58. Please visit [www.yalerep.org](http://www.yalerep.org), call (203) 432-1234, or visit the box office. Yale Repertory Theatre is located at 1120 Chapel Street (at York Street), New Haven. [Please note: the performance schedule for *Richard II* follows.] rev 9/14/07



***RICHARD II***

By William Shakespeare; directed by Evan Yionoulis; original music by Mike Yionoulis; sets by Brenda Davis; costumes by Melissa E. Trn; lighting by Ji-Youn Chang; sound design by Sarah Pickett. Presented by Yale Repertory Theatre, James Bundy, artistic director; Victoria Nolan, managing director. At Yale Repertory Theatre, 1120 Chapel Street (at York Street), New Haven, September 21 - October 13, 2007. (203) 432-1234. Tickets: \$35 to \$58.

**Performance Schedule**

Fri, Sep 21 at 8pm	Previews
Fri, Sep 21 at 8pm	Previews
Sat, Sep 22 at 8pm	
Mon, Sep 24 at 8pm	
Tues, Sep 25 at 8pm	
Wed, Sep 26 at 8pm	
<b>Thu, Sep 27 at 8pm:</b>	<b>Opening Night/Press Night</b>
Fri, Sep 28 at 8pm	
Sat, Sep 29 at 2pm:	Talk Back
Sat, Sep 29 at 8pm	
Tue, Oct 2 at 8pm:	Talk Back
Wed, Oct 3 at 2pm	Senior Matinee
Wed, Oct 3 at 8pm	
Thu, Oct 4 at 8pm:	Talk Back
Fri, Oct 5 at 8pm	
Sat, Oct 6 at 2pm:	Open Captioned performance and Talk Back
Sat, Oct 6 at 8pm	
Tue, Oct 9 at 8pm	
Wed, Oct 10 at 8pm	
Thu, Oct 11 at 8pm	
Fri, Oct 12 at 8pm	
Sat, Oct 13 at 2pm:	Audio Described performance
Sat, Oct 13 at 8pm	

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