WEST YORKSHIRE PLAYHOUSE

RICHARD III
DUKE OF GLOUCESTER

Lord Hastings
Loyal to King Edward and his family. He mistakenly trusts Richard, but loses his head for it.

Ally of…

Cecily Neville
(Duchess of York)
Widow of Richard, Duke of York and mother of Richard III. Frustrated and angry at Richard's selfish deeds.

Mother of…

Lord Stanley
(Earl of Derby)
Distrusts Richard and secretly helps Richmond. Richard captures his son George in an attempt to guarantee his loyalty.

Stepfather of…

Rivers, Dorset & Grey
Lords Grey and Dorset are Queen Elizabeth's sons from her first marriage. Earl Rivers is Elizabeth's brother. Rivers and Grey come to a gruesome end at Richard's hands.

Kinsmen of…

King Edward IV
King at beginning of the play. Becomes ill very quickly and soon passes away after suffering much sadness and grief at the news of his brother Clarence's murder.

Married to…

Brother of…

George, Duke of Clarence
(Clarence)
Kind and trusting, betrayed by Richard, who views him as a threat to the Throne. A victim of Richard's cruel nature.

Brother of…

Elizabeth Woodville
(Queen Elizabeth)
Devastated at the loss of her husband and feels contempt toward Richard. Her first marriage was to Sir John Grey who died leaving her with two sons.

Children of…

Henry, Earl of Richmond
(Richmond)
Descended from the Lancastrian side. Goes on to become King Henry VII and founder of the Tudor dynasty after victory in the Battle of Bosworth.

Raises army against…

Nephews of…

The Young Princes:
Edward & Richard
Richard's nephews and rightful heirs to the throne. A direct threat to Richard and his ambitions.

Murdered by…

Sister to…

Princess Elizabeth
Sister of the two young Princes and Richard's niece (whom he plots to marry for strategic reasons, but it goes no further). She is promised to Richmond at the end of the play – their marriage reunites the warring houses of York and Lancaster to found the Tudor Dynasty.

Trusted friend of…

Buckingham
Almost as greedy and scheming as Richard. When he doesn't get his way he joins the other side - but that doesn't save him from a sticky end!

Employed by…

Tyrrell
The evil henchman who arranges for two murderers to kill the young princes.

Wife of…

Lady Anne Neville
Although she despises Richard and blames him for her late husband's death, he manipulates her into marrying him (designed to strengthen his position for the Throne).

Deceased husband of…

Edward, Prince of Wales
Killed in battle by Richard's family (the Yorkists) before the play begins.

Father of…

Queen Margaret
Filled with bitterness and hatred for Richard and his Yorkist family. A strong and powerful presence.

Widow of…

Henry VI
House of Lancaster Previously King. Dies at the hands of the Yorkists before the play begins.