



Director's notes

Nearly 500 years after her execution on Tower Green the story of Anne Boleyn's marriage to Henry VIII continues to exert its fascination. A website has been created by Anne's followers whose devotion to her memory resembles a religious cult. The recent spate of films along with numerous books, both historical and fictional, which explore the story also bear witness to an obsession with the Tudor period which is totally justifiable. Those key years when Henry's desperation to produce a male heir propelled England into a break with Rome changed not only the Church in England, but also brought methods of government into the modern age. "If you want to learn about Stalin," says Irwin in Alan Bennett's *The History Boys*, "study Henry VIII". We all feel we know something about the period - even if it is only the mnemonic Divorced Beheaded Died; Divorced Beheaded Survived. However, Tudor propaganda was so effective, and the intrigue surrounding Wolsey, Cromwell and Anne so complex, that we shall never uncover the truth.

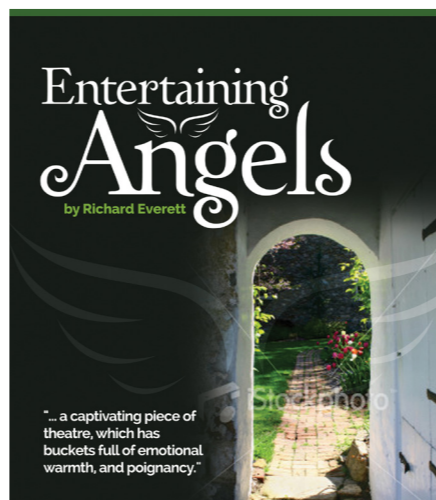
Howard Brenton's highly original take on the story is wonderfully fresh and mischievous. His 'Anne' is the Protestant evangelist of *Foxe's Book of Martyrs* who was sacrificed by a scheming politician and a ruthless monarch. The script is a delight: witty and succinct. His characters think and speak like modern people. Brenton also makes reference to Henry's skills as a songwriter and composer, and included in the production are four of his compositions. (Can you spot them?)

In tackling this production I am indebted to the whole company who have worked with such enthusiasm to bring the play to life. However, special thanks are due Anne-marie Greene for her unflappable support and creative suggestions; Robin Stokoe for his expert period knowledge and eye for detail; Bill Bosworth for keeping us all in tune; Karl Stafford for his invaluable practical 'know-how' and effective set; Maureen Liggins for her skilful masterminding of the Costumes; and, finally, to Keith for encouraging me to take on this project.

Jane Kailton



Our next production:



Entertaining Angels
6th - 13th July 2013

A play written by Richard Everett and directed by Annie Woodward, this is a sharp and witty comedy which starred Penelope Keith and ran for two sell-out UK tours. Touching and thought-provoking this is certain to be a captivating piece of theatre.

BOX OFFICE (Direct)

024 7667 5175

This is a notice to members

If you have any comments about your experience at The Criterion Theatre, please email us at comments@critteriontheatre.co.uk

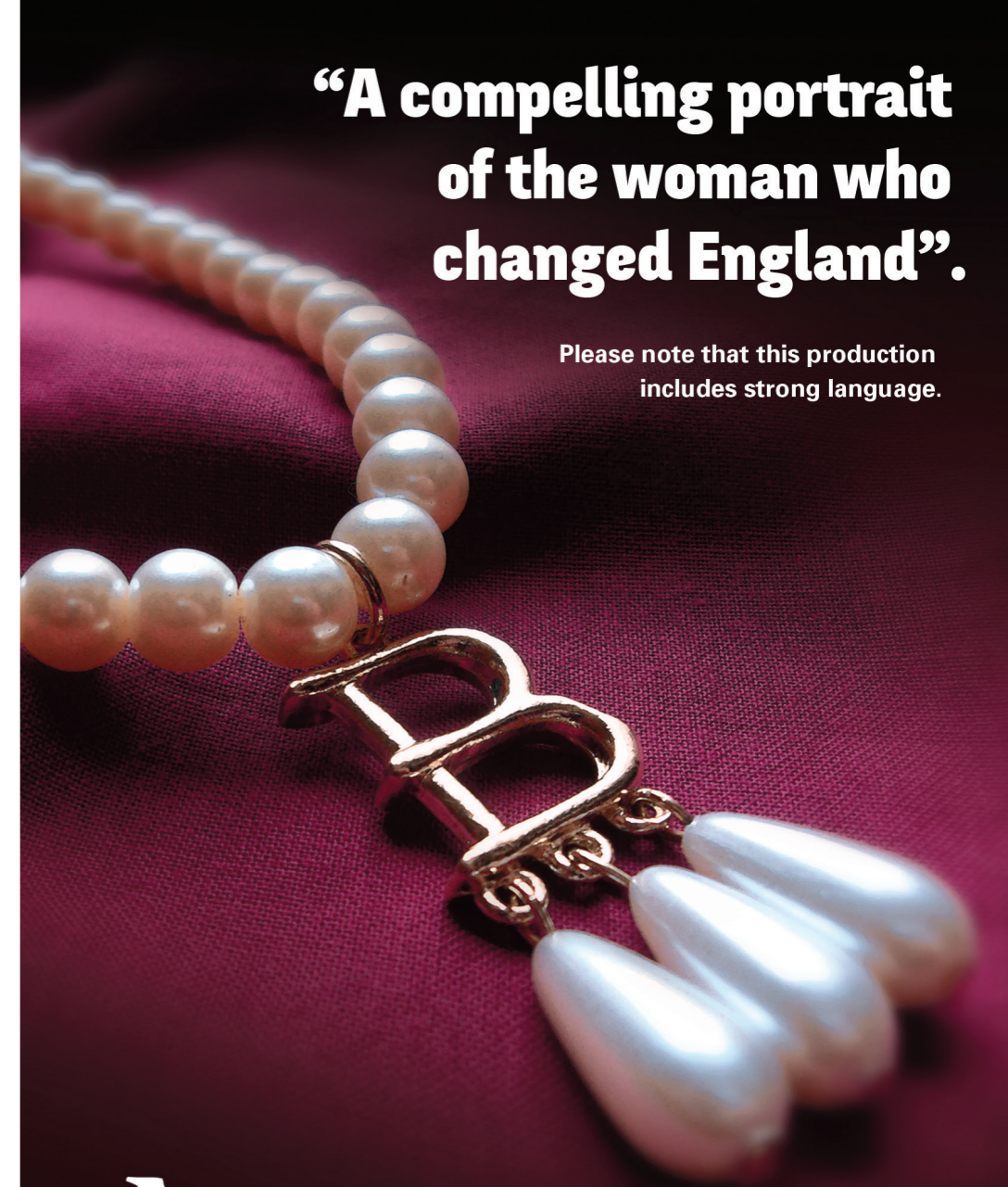
No photography or videoing allowed.
The Criterion is a non-smoking theatre.



Production photography by
Richard Johnson
079 0450 6280

**"A compelling portrait
of the woman who
changed England".**

Please note that this production
includes strong language.



ANNE BOLEYN

By Howard Brenton

Programme



ast

Anne Boleyn – Nicol Cortese
 King Henry VIII – Craig Shelton
 Thomas Cromwell – Brian Omeney
 Cardinal Wolsey – Hugh Sorrill
 Lady Rochford – Lucy Hayton
 Lady Celia – Ashleigh Dickinson
 Lady Jane – Naomi Hook
 Simpkin – Ben Lancashire
 Sloop – Dan Searles
 William Tyndale – Mark Wiszowaty
 King James I – Jon Elves
 Robert Cecil – Keith Railton
 George Villiers – Joe Fallowell
 Parrot – Dan Darragh
 Dean Lancelot Andrewes – John Hathaway
 Doctor John Reynolds – Pete Brooks
 Henry Barrow – Bill Bosworth
 1st Countrywoman – Shirley Jobson
 2nd Countrywoman – Sue Hadlum
 3rd Countrywoman – Christine Ingall
 Servant – Pete Meredith
 Servant – Laurentiu Moldoveanu
 Elizabeth a Lady of the Court – Steph Othen
 Mary, a Lady of the Court – Stella Gabriel



All other parts played by
 members of the company.



rew

Director's Assistant & Stage Manager – Anne-marie Greene
 Choreographer – Robin Stokoe
 Set & Lighting Design – Karl Stafford
 Set Build & Painting – Karl Stafford
 (assisted by Dave Holmes, Kate Haigh & Pete Haigh)
 Lighting Operators: Karl Stafford & Joshua Pink
 Sound – Dave Cornish
 Choir Master – Bill Bosworth
 Original Music Composed by Nicol Cortese
 Wardrobe – Maureen Higgins, Pam Coleman, Doreen Belton,
 Julie Timerick, Christine Ingall, & Terry Balhatchet
 Hair Styling – Sinead Finn
 Props – Annie Woodward, Nicola Gabriel & Chris Jones
 Anne's severed head designed & constructed by Bob Morley
 Prompter – Jonathan Rees

Director – Jane Railton

