

HENRY V

by William Shakespeare

London: Friday 23rd - Sunday 25th October 2015 | Northampton: Tuesday 27th - Saturday 31st October 2015

Adapted and Directed by Marcus J. Bazley | Designed by Pallavi Patel.

Cyphers revive their production of *Henry V* to commemorate the 600th Anniversary of the Battle of Agincourt.

2015 has been a year for anniversaries. As the World War One centenary commemorations continue, we've already had the bi-centenary of the Battle of Waterloo and the 800th Anniversary of the signing of Magna Carta. The latest historic event reaching a significant birthday is the Battle of Agincourt, which sees its 600th Anniversary on the 25th October.

Cyphers have decided to mark this historic moment with a revival of their "must see" adaptation of William Shakespeare's *Henry V*. The production will run for a limited season of 11 performances between the 23rd and 31st October 2015.

The production will form the centre-piece of an Agincourt Weekend at The Proud Archivist in London from 23rd - 25th October, including two performances on the anniversary day itself.

Press night at The Proud Archivist, London will be on Friday 23rd October at 9pm.

The show will then travel up the M1 to the Holy Sepulchre Church in Northampton. The Holy Sepulchre is no stranger to Shakespeare productions marking significant anniversaries. Earlier this year, it played host to a sell-out production of *King John*, co-produced by Shakespeare's Globe and the Royal & Derngate Theatres. Cyphers hope to emulate the success of this production as, amongst the Holy Sepulchre's eight towering Norman pillars, their six-person ensemble cast play out the events of *Henry V*, from the 27th - 31st October.

Press night at the Holy Sepulchre Church, Northampton will be on Wednesday 28th October at 7:30pm.

"Let us, ciphers to this great accompt, on your imaginary forces work."

Henry V tells the story of a climactic moment in the Hundred Years War and the formation of an English national hero. With his father dead and a weak king in France, Henry lays claim to the French throne and leads his army to one of the most unlikely victories in history at the Battle of Agincourt. Exactly 600 years after the events the play depicts, this production is an opportunity to question the nature of conflict, the responsibility for war and the formation of national identities.

Cyphers first performed *Henry V* in October 2014, where it acted as a mission statement for the style of theatre the company aim to produce. In just a year, the company has produced two further productions - an original adaptation of *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens (which will be appearing on Wandsworth Radio as a serialised radio drama in early 2016) and a pair of Chekhov short plays, *The Proposal* and *The Boor*.

This is a fast-paced and intimate adaptation of Shakespeare's great history play. Performed by an ensemble cast of six actors in just 90 minutes, this production welcomes the audience into the world of the play, taking Shakespeare's opening appeal to the audience's imagination at its word.

"The signs of war advance: no King of England, if not King of France."

Tickets are on sale now for performances at both venues. Full casting to be announced.

Marcus J. Bazley is Artistic Director and co-founder of Cyphers.

Co-founding Cyphers in 2013, Marcus has adapted and directed their productions of both *Henry V* and *Great Expectations*. From 2014-15, Marcus worked with Eprouve and Theatre Alive on their French translation of Gogol's *The Diary Of A Madman* (*Le Journal d'un Fou*), initially as the assistant director at the Avignon Festival and then as the director at the Reine Blanche, Paris. He regularly directs for Blackshaw Theatre's New Writing Nights and recently assistant directed their adaptation of *Alice In Wonderland*. Marcus has also acted as assistant director for productions at the Finborough Theatre and with RADA Enterprises. In addition, Marcus works with the education departments at the Barbican and the Royal Shakespeare Company, as well as running workshops in schools and universities.

ABOUT CYPHERS

Incorporating story-telling techniques with a back-to-basics approach, **Cyphers** empowers audiences to use their own imaginations so that every audience member has an experience that is, on some level, unique and personal to them. They create a warm, inclusive and intimate environment where two groups of people (actors and audience) come together to experience a story.

Cyphers was founded by Marcus J. Bazley and Victoria Hamblen in 2013.

RESPONSE TO CYPHERS' PREVIOUS WORK

"the experience reminded me how exciting ambitious young theatre companies can be...If the play fulfils its ambition of a tour, which I thoroughly hope it will - then it is a must see." ★★★★★ *The Good Review*.

"...a strong and close-knit ensemble..." - *A Younger Theatre*.

"...a great ensemble cast." - *Blackshaw Arts Hour, Wandsworth Radio*.

"I loved the way you involved the audience" - *Jeremy Mortimer, BBC Radio*.

"...without doubt one of the highlights of our first year's programme..." - *Hector Proud, Managing Director at The Proud Archivist*.

LISTING INFORMATION

A Cyphers production of Shakespeare's *Henry V*

Director: Marcus J. Bazley

Designer: Pallavi Patel

Associate Designer: Caitlin Abbott

Associate Director: Pavlos Christodoulou

Running time approx 90 mins

Suitable for children and families

23rd - 25th October 2015

The Proud Archivist, London, N1 5ET

020 3598 2626

www.theproudarchivist.co.uk

Tickets £12, limited number of 2-for-1 tickets available for those in full time education

Booking online at: <http://bit.ly/HVLondon>

Evening performances at 9pm every night

Matinee performance at 2pm on 25th October

27th - 31th October 2015

The Holy Sepulchre Church, Sheep St., Northampton, NN1 3NL

01604 230316

Tickets £20, £15 concessions, limited number of 2-for-1 tickets available for those in full time education

Booking online: <http://bit.ly/HVNorthampton>

Evening performances at 7:30pm every day

Matinee performances at 2pm on 29th and 31st October

There will be a post-show Q&A with the company on Tuesday 27th October

To book reviewer tickets and for more information, interviews and images please contact:

Marcus J. Bazley on marcus@cyphers.org.uk or 07515 831 141

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