



Richard the Third

William (Billy) Flesch, Ph.D.
Brandeis University

Monday through Friday
January 9th to January 13th, 2012
9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

60 Turner Street

Richard III

As a play, Richard III is Shakespeare's first great history, and in a way his first great tragedy too. As a character, Richard is Shakespeare's first great villain, and the only complete villain who is the main character, the star - the hero! - of the play he's in. Shakespeare has many great villains -- Macbeth, Edmund, Iago Claudius, for example -- but in all his later plays the villains are either defined by the heroes they oppose, or are ambivalent about their own dastardliness (like Macbeth). It's as though in Richard Shakespeare created the purest form of the self-delighting villain, and then later modeled similar characters on him. So in our week with Richard III, we'll see the villain-hero in his purest form, and think about what sorts of pleasure his self-delight can offer us. Richard understands what we want better than anyone. How do we feel about that? As usual, we'll do one act a day; we'll also look at scenes from a couple of the great film representations of Richard, especially Laurence Olivier and Ian McKellen.

William Flesch, Ph.D. William Flesch, Ph.D., is a professor of English at Brandeis, where he teaches courses on Shakespeare as well as the history of poetry. He is the author of "The Facts on File Companion to 19th Century English Poetry" (October, 2009), as well as of "Comeuppance: Costly Signaling, Altruistic Punishment and Other Biological Components of Fiction" (2008). He has many other publications, book articles as well as articles for the Boston Globe Ideas section. He is the recipient of three teaching awards at Brandeis and Cornell and a National Endowment of the Humanities Fellowship. "Billy" has led five previous Rapaport Seminars: Brandeis at BOLLI on King Lear, Hamlet, The Merchant of Venice, The Winter's Tale and Antony & Cleopatra – all to rave reviews.

REGISTRATION for Richard the Third

(Space is limited. Register early.)

\$185 for BOLLI Members or \$235 for non-members

Send registration and check, payable to Brandeis University, to:
Rapaport Seminar, MS 085, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA 02454-9110

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____ Phone _____

If you have questions, contact Ilana Levine
781-736-2992 or ilevine@brandeis.edu

If you are not a BOLLI member, please tell us if you are:

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