

## **Redeeming A King: Shakespeare Meets His Challenge!**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Moviegoers and television viewers have had a feast for the eyes and the senses lately, as well as some powerfully dramatic lessons in history.

The Tudors. The Borgias. The Young Victoria. The King's Speech. From the 1400's to the outbreak of the Second World War, it seems almost nothing has been left out of the mix. So what could possibly be next? Plenty. And it could be one of the most important in terms of giving viewers a more accurate portrayal of one of history's most controversial subjects: Richard III, a man who has arguably become the least understood and most debated monarch in English history.

Thanks in large part to William Shakespeare's play, Richard III has evolved into an almost comic figure, too vile to be believed. Shakespeare's depiction of a murderous, power-crazed, deformed madman has nearly eradicated any knowledge of who Richard really was. But one multi-award nominated actor wants to change that. Richard Armitage (*Spooks, Robin Hood, North & South*) has long had ambitions to be involved in a television series or film that would shed new light on the life and reputation of Richard III, portraying him in a more historically accurate and positive light. It is a deeply personal project for Armitage who was born on the anniversary of Richard III's death, and named after the late king. Envisioned as a prequel to 'The Tudors', Armitage hopes to shift Richard III's ill-deserved image in popular culture.

Although there are no plans in place yet for such a production, support for the actor and the project is growing. Included in those supporters is The Richard III Foundation, Inc., a non-profit, educational organization dedicated to research into the life of the former king. They are the only organization of its kind to not take a neutral view of Richard III.

“I’m very excited at the thought of this project,” said Joe Ann Ricca, CEO/President and founder of the organization. “I’m always highly skeptical of these types of things, expecting yet another Shakespeare knock-off. But if Mr. Armitage can bring an historically accurate portrayal of Richard III to the screen, he has our full support. A project of this sort is long overdue.”

Founded in 1993, The Richard III Foundation, Inc. has worked tirelessly to share and stimulate interest in the life and times of Richard III and the Wars of the Roses. With activities ranging from annual conferences, scholarships and grants for students and historians, to publishing and research, the Foundation is recognized as one of the best in the field.

Honorary patrons of the Foundation include celebrated actor Robert Hardy, Professor Anne Curry and award-winning novelist Sharon Kay Penman.

Perhaps Mr. Armitage would join our ranks.

The Foundation will be at the re-enactment of the Battle of Bosworth at the Bosworth Battlefield Centre this weekend with something special planned. In October, they will host their conference with their honorary patron, actor Robert Hardy.

“We will be watching this project closely going forward,” Ricca continued. “If people thought *The Tudors* was exciting, they’re in for something even better with Richard III and the Wars of the Roses. The fifteenth century was rife with rebellion and conflict and continuous power struggles. It was an era of treachery and violence coupled with extraordinary splendor and pageantry. I look forward to seeing what develops.”

Details regarding support for the project can be found at

kingrichardarmitage.rgcwp.com and at [www.richard111.com](http://www.richard111.com).

For more information on The Richard III Foundation, Inc., contact Molly McAleavey at [mmRichard3@gmail.com](mailto:mmRichard3@gmail.com), or visit, [richard111.com](http://richard111.com).