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*Great Performances* Presents World Broadcast Premiere of The Public Theater’s *Richard III* Starring Danai Gurira Directed by Robert O’Hara May 19 on PBS

As part of its annual “Broadway’s Best” lineup, ***Great Performances*** raises the curtain this spring on The Public Theater’s Free Shakespeare in the Park production of ***Richard III*** premiering Friday, May 19 at 9 p.m. ET on PBS ([check local listings](http://www.pbs.org/tv_schedules/)), [pbs.org/broadwayonpbs](http://www.pbs.org/broadwayonpbs) and the [PBS App](https://www.pbs.org/pbs-video-app/). Starring **Danai Gurira** (“Black Panther: Wakanda Forever,” “The Walking Dead”) in the title role with Tony Award winner **Ali Stroker** (“Oklahoma!”) as Anne, Tony Award nominee **Robert O’Hara** (Broadway’s “Slave Play*”*) directs this Shakespearean tragedy spotlighting one of The Bard’s most indelible villains as part of ***Great Performances’*** 50th anniversary season.

Guided by his lust for power and the throne, Danai Gurira gives a performance that *The New York Times* called “unflaggingly energetic” and “vocally thrilling.” Richard III uses his words and dark charm to conceal his dismantling of government and justice by manipulating, kidnapping and killing all who stand between him and the throne. The energetic production features the use of American Sign Language, a revolving set and dance sequences.

Recorded live in July 2022 from Central Park’s outdoor Delacorte Theater, the cast also includes **Maleni Chaitoo** (Ensemble), **Wyatt Cirbus** (Prince of Wales), **Thomas DellaMonica** (Understudy Ensemble), **Sanjit De Silva** (Buckingham), **Sam Duncan** (Duke of York), **Thaddeus S. Fitzpatrick** (Ensemble), **Skyler Gallun** (Ensemble), **Sarah Nina** **Hayon** (Ensemble), **Monique Holt** (Duchess of York), **Matthew August Jeffers** (Ensemble), **Matt Monaco** (Ensemble), **Gregg Mozgala** (King Edward IV/Richmond (King Henry VII)), **Joe Mucciolo** (Ensemble), **Paul Niebanck** (George), **Xavier Pacheco** (Ensemble), **Marcus Raye Pérez** (Ensemble), **Grace Porter** (Ensemble), **Michael Potts** (Lord Stanley), **Ariel Shafir** (Lord Hastings), **Heather Alicia Simms** (Queen Elizabeth), **N'yomi Stewart** (Ensemble), **Sharon Washington** (Queen Margaret) and **Daniel J. Watts** (Catesby Ratcliffe).

***Great Performances: Richard III*** will be part of the series’ Broadway’s Best lineup premiering in May 2023. Additional “Broadway’s Best” programs will be announced at a later date.

Throughout its 50-year history on PBS, ***Great Performances***has provided an unparalleled showcase of the best in all genres of the performing arts, serving as America’s most prestigious and enduring broadcaster of cultural programming. Showcasing a diverse range of artists from around the world, the series has earned 67 Emmy Awards and six Peabody Awards. The [***Great Performances*** website](https://www.pbs.org/wnet/gperf/) hosts exclusive videos, interviews, photos, full episodes and more. The series is produced by The WNET Group. ***Great Performances***is available for streaming concurrent with broadcast on [PBS.org](http://pbs.org/) and the [PBS App,](https://www.pbs.org/pbs-video-app/) available on iOS, Android, Roku streaming devices, Apple TV, Android TV, Amazon Fire TV, Samsung Smart TV, Chromecast and VIZIO.

***Great Performances: Richard III*** is a production of The WNET Group in association with The Public Theater. Directed by Robert O’Hara, produced by Mitch Owgang and directed for television by David Horn. For ***Great Performances***, Bill O’Donnell is series producer and David Horn is executive producer.

Series funding for ***Great Performances*** is provided by The Joseph & Robert Cornell Memorial Foundation, the Anna-Maria and Stephen Kellen Foundation, the LuEsther T. Mertz Charitable Trust, Sue and Edgar Wachenheim III, the Abra Prentice Foundation, Jody and John Arnhold, The Starr Foundation, The Philip and Janice Levin Foundation, the Kate W. Cassidy Foundation, the Thea Petschek Iervolino Foundation, Seton J. Melvin, the Estate of Worthington Mayo-Smith, the Jack Lawrence Trust, Ellen and James S. Marcus and Leni and Peter May.

**About The WNET Group**

[The WNET Group](http://wnet.org/) creates inspiring media content and meaningful experiences for diverse audiences nationwide. It is the community-supported home of New York’s [THIRTEEN](http://thirteen.org/)–America’s flagship PBS station–[WLIW21,](http://wliw.org/) THIRTEEN PBSKids, WLIW World and Create; [NJ PBS,](https://www.mynjpbs.org/) New Jersey’s statewide public television network; Long Island’s only NPR station WLIW-FM[; ALL ARTS,](http://allarts.org/) the arts and culture media provider; and newsroom [NJ Spotlight News.](https://www.njspotlightnews.org/) Through these channels and streaming platforms, The WNET Group brings arts, culture, education, news, documentary, entertainment and DIY programming to more than five million viewers each month. The WNET Group’s award-winning productions include signature PBS series ***Nature***, ***Great******Performances***, ***American******Masters*** and ***Amanpour and Company***and trusted local news programs ***MetroFocus*** and ***NJ Spotlight News with Briana Vannozzi***. Inspiring curiosity and nurturing dreams, The WNET Group’s award-winning Kids’ Media and Education team produces the PBS KIDS series ***Cyberchase***, interactive ***Mission US*** history games, and resources for families, teachers and caregivers. A leading nonprofit public media producer for nearly 60 years, The WNET Group presents and distributes content that fosters lifelong learning, including multiplatform initiatives addressing poverty, jobs, economic opportunity, social justice, understanding and the environment. Through Passport, station members can stream new and archival programming anytime, anywhere. The WNET Group represents the best in public media. Join us.

**About PBS**

[PBS](http://www.pbs.org/), with more than 330 member stations, offers all Americans the opportunity to explore new ideas and new worlds through television and digital content. Each month, PBS reaches over 120 million people through television and 26 million people online, inviting them to experience the worlds of science, history, nature, and public affairs; to hear diverse viewpoints; and to take front row seats to world-class drama and performances. PBS’s broad array of programs has been consistently honored by the industry’s most coveted award competitions. Teachers of children from pre-K through 12th grade turn to PBS for digital content and services that help bring classroom lessons to life. Decades of research confirms that PBS’s premier children’s media service, PBS KIDS, helps children build critical literacy, math, and social-emotional skills, enabling them to find success in school and life. Delivered through member stations, PBS KIDS offers high-quality educational content on TV — including a 24/7 channel — online at [pbskids.org](http://pbskids.org/), via an array of mobile apps, and in communities across America. More information about PBS is available at [PBS.org](http://pbs.org), one of the leading dot-org websites on the internet, or by following [PBS on Twitter](https://twitter.com/pbs), [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/pbs) or through our [apps for mobile and connected devices](http://www.pbs.org/anywhere/home/). Specific program information and updates for press are available at [pbs.org/pressroom](http://pressroom.pbs.org/) or by following[PBS Communications on Twitter](https://twitter.com/PBS_PR).

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