

AUDITION NOTICE

ANNE BOLEYN

by Howard Brenton

Director: David Gray

Contact Email: lostrivers22@gmail.com

Play Reading 5th January 2026 at 7.45pm at the Mary Wallace Theatre

Auditions 12th January 2026 at 7.30pm at the Mary Wallace Theatre

Playing Dates: Saturday 18th April 2026 to Saturday 25th April 2026

Rehearsals Rehearsals from Sunday 22nd February 2026 in the vicinity of, or at, the theatre on Tuesday, Thursday & Friday evenings & Sunday afternoons. No rehearsals Friday 3rd April (Good Friday) or Sunday 5th April (Easter Sunday).

SYNOPSIS

Brenton's play broadly follows the famous events surrounding Anne Boleyn - her pursuit by King Henry VIII, his divorce and Anne's struggles to have a son. For Anne, we know it ends badly, losing all to the impossible demands of the King and the dangerous personal and political battles in the unforgiving Tudor court.

The play also shows King James I seventy years later and his efforts to stabilise the Anglican church, key to which is producing an English Bible. James's discovery of Anne's prayer book leads him to seek her ghost.

CHARACTERS:

ANNE BOLEYN: Funny, self-confident, intelligent and short-tempered.

CROMWELL: Scheming and controlling. Sometimes rough and uncompromising.

HENRY VIII: In this play, generally mild-mannered and even gentle. Shows authority without shouting and screaming.

LADY ROCHFORD: Lead lady-in-waiting and Cromwell's spy. Tries to work within the boundaries placed on her, in contrast to Anne.

WOLSEY: Pompous and conceited. Opponent of Anne. Only in Act 1 so potentially doubled.

SIMPKIN and **SLOOP**: Cromwell's men. Usually a double act. Some dark humour.

TYNDALE: Religious outlaw. Intelligent and eloquent. West Country accent.

LADY JANE and **LADY CELIA**: Ladies-in-waiting.

COUNTRYMAN and **COUNTRYWOMAN**: Tyndale supporters. West Country accents.

JAMES I: 'The wisest fool'. Quirky, rude and highly eccentric but knows his own mind and intelligently deals with the religious problems of his times. Scottish accent.

GEORGE: Courtier and James's lover.

CECIL and **PARROT**: Courtiers putting up with James's eccentricities. Some comic moments.

ANDREWES, REYNOLDS and **BARROW**: Anglican, Puritan and Puritan respectively arguing their points in James's court regarding the church and Bible.

AUDITION PIECES

For audition pieces, please contact the director, David Gray at lostrivers22@gmail.com or the RSS Secretary at secretary@rss-mwt.org.uk.

Please note that for plays in copyright we are generally unable to provide text online

RSS is committed to inclusive casting and providing fair and equal access to all. Casting will not be constrained by any perceived characteristic of a role, e.g. gender or ethnicity, unless specified by the playwright or a condition of the licence. Our auditions are conducted in the presence of a panel of members of the RSS General Committee; the role of the panel includes ensuring that auditions conform with the Society's Code of Conduct for Members

While auditions are open to all, any offer of a part is conditional. You must be a member of RSS before the offer can be confirmed

Audition Application forms are available in the theatre, can be downloaded from the auditions page of the RSS website, or online: www.richmondshakespeare.org.uk/acting. Please return completed forms to the Hon. Secretary at the theatre or by e-mail to secretary@rss-mwt.org.uk

Dogs: please note that dogs (except trained and insured service animals) are not permitted in any part of the theatre at play readings, auditions or performances, or other events