

14. Richard III Summaries of set scenes 2007

Act III scene iv

Hastings falls victim to Richard's ruthless vengeance. He is led into a trap by Richard and Buckingham whereby he condemns himself to death. As he realises his folly, he curses Richard and prophesies misery for England.

Act III scene v

Richard and Buckingham are meticulously plotting further duplicity to justify their execution of Hastings. They are dressed in armour as though frightened of immediate attack. The Lord Mayor is duped into believing them and is persuaded to inform the public of Hastings' betrayal thus absolving all guilt from Richard. Richard then instructs a willing Buckingham to spread malicious rumours about the conduct of his brother, the former King and suggest that his ancestry, and that of his sons, is debatable.

Act IV scene ii

Richard tries to make Buckingham kill the Princes. When Buckingham asks for time before making his decision, Richard is enraged and privately arranges for him to be killed. When Buckingham asks for the rewards that Richard initially promised, Richard is cool and refuses, infuriating Buckingham.