

The Lion in Winter

(February 2005) 188th Production

“When I first took the part of Henry II, I feared the amount of lines to learn, and thought it might be a ‘heavy’ role, when I prefer a humorous part. However, I thoroughly enjoyed myself - good cast, good direction, good play. Shame we did not get better audience numbers, as I feel this is one of the best plays we have done.”

Colin Ransom (King Henry II of England)

“My solo directorial debut was an ambitious one! I’m a big fan of the 1968 film and I think the script is amongst the best I have read. I was lucky to get such a strong cast and in my view every one of them delivered a fine performance. The set was good too, with one box set being transformed into a number of different castle rooms via the use of tapestries and furniture to cover doors etc that were not needed in a particular room. I think if I were doing it again I would lower the lighting a bit more to darken the set and plan King Philip’s (indecently short) night shirt rather better... Slightly disappointing audience numbers but critically well received. I’m very proud of it.”

Kieron Toner (King Philip II of France and Director)

The part of Princess Alais was a challenge for me. It required much of the acting to be done whilst not actually delivering lines, and was much more reserved and than I am used to. Plus there was the challenge of acting whilst wearing what was surely once a pair of curtains. However, with such a strong central cast and directorial vision it was a pleasure to be a part of.

Helen Leedham (Princess Alais)