



Taffety Punk Theatre Company

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BOOTLEGGERS ENTER ENGLISH CIVIL WAR, BLOODBATH ENSUES

Taffety Punk slays English history with Shakespeare's Henry VI, part 3

Bootleg Shakespeare: Henry VI, part 3

Directed by Artistic Director **Marcus Kyd**

Featuring company members **Tonya Beckman, Lise Bruneau, Dan Crane, Kimberly Gilbert, and Esther Williamson.**

Where: Folger Theatre (201 East Capitol Street SE, Washington, DC 20003)

When: Monday, July 16, 2018 at 7:30 PM

Price: Free to the Public, tickets will be available at the Folger Theatre on July 16 only, at 6:00 PM.
[Limit two tickets per patron. Seats not claimed by 7:15 PM will be released to patrons on standby.](#)

Anything could go wrong. And therein lies the beauty of Taffety Punk Theatre Company's annual Bootleg Shakespeare.

At 10:00 AM on Monday, July 16, thirty actors will gather at the Folger Theatre to undertake this DC theatrical tradition. They will arrive with only their lines memorized. They will not have the luxury of weeks of rehearsal. They will not have the "bells and whistles" of scenery or meticulously designed props and costumes. They will not have a comfort zone.

Instead, these actors will rely on their dramatic instincts, weeks of solo preparation, the brilliance of a Shakespeare play, and the adrenaline that pumps through their veins on the knowledge that the audience will file in to see the show at 7:30 PM on the same day.

It's a terrifying exercise, and utterly addictive. Actors clamor for parts a year in advance and audience members line up for seats hours before the doors open.

Taffety Punk company member and Bootleg veteran **Tonya Beckman** says, "It's flying without a net. It's the most energized, alive performance I've ever been a part of, and it's absolutely become my favorite night of the year. It's the closest a stage actor will ever get to knowing what it feels like to be a rockstar."

This year, Taffety Punk presents its **twelfth Bootleg Shakespeare: Henry VI, part 3**. The bootleggers launched into the Wars of the Roses in 2016 with *Henry VI, part 1*, and continued the story with *part 2* last year. Carefully tracking actors through the long trajectory of four plays, they continue and will continue to continue with plans already in the works for *Richard III* in 2019.

Henry VI, part 3 finds the Yorks, the Lancasters, and the audience deep in the midst of the Wars of the Roses. Taffety Punk Artistic Director Marcus Kyd will stage the play, “battles and all,” in his single day of rehearsal. The adrenaline of a Bootleg production lends itself nicely to the chaos of part 3’s ruthless struggles for power and revenge.

“It’s a beautifully live, electric, and forgiving place to be, as an actor,” Kyd says. “You could literally walk onstage and blow it. But the prompter is there. If you miss a line, we pick it up. You’re surrounded by people who love you and support you. The audience is entirely invested, partially because, any moment, this train can derail. But if you focus on that, you’re focusing on the wrong thing. Focusing on making it work will make it work. The fact that it could go wrong frees us to do whatever we want. And what we want most is to tell this story.”

The **free tickets** to the Bootleg will be given away starting at 6:00 PM on the day of the performance, at the Folger Theatre (201 East Capitol Street SE). They must be claimed in person; there are no phone or online reservations. Tickets are limited to two per person. If all tickets are given away prior to the performance, there will be a standby line for last-minute seats. Audience members often line up well before the Box Office opens and tickets go very quickly.

In addition to the Taffety Punk company members (see above), the cast will include Mickey Abbate, JJ Area, James Beaman, Jenna Berk, Danny Cackley, Liz Daingerfield, Maboud Ebrahimzadeh, James Flanagan, Jessica Lefkow, Katelyn Manfre, Chelsea Mayo, Renaldo McClinton, Katie Murphy, Paul Nicholas, Stefany Pesta, Donna Reinhold, Paul Reisman, Todd Scofield, Morgan Sendek, Erin Sloan, Teresa Spencer, Sara Dabney Tisdale, and Erin White.

For hi-res photos, go to: <http://www.taffetypunk.com/press/>

Taffety Punk Theatre Company’s mission is to sustain a dynamic ensemble of actors, dancers and musicians who ignite a public passion for theatre by making the classical and the contemporary exciting, meaningful, and affordable. The company produces plays, dance concerts, and music — often incorporating all three elements into their work. The company was recently nominated for Helen Hayes Awards in choreography for 2016’s productions of *Phaeton* and *An Iliad*. Past awards include the very first John Aniello Award for Outstanding Emerging Theatre Company. The company’s music catalogue can be found at taffetypunk.bandcamp.com. Find out more about Taffety Punk at www.taffetypunk.com.

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