

CHROMOGRAPH SUPPLEMENT TO THE "LONDON FIGARO."



MR. HENRY IRVING, AS "KING RICHARD III."

BEN. GEORGE, LITH. LONDON

1878.

Bryan, Alfred, artist. *Mr. Henry Irving as King Richard III*. London: Ben George Lith., 1878. Folger ART File I72 no. 36 (size S).

Sir Henry Irving was an immensely popular actor-manager of the late 19th and early 20th century. Beginning in 1878, Irving enjoyed a highly successful professional partnership with Ellen Terry, also immensely popular. His Shakespeare productions were known for their quality, as Irving brought in well-known artists and musicians, like Lawrence Alma-Tadema, to provide scenery and music. He formalized the now-familiar custom of darkening the theatre to focus the audience's attention on the stage. Irving's production of *King Richard III* restored Shakespeare's text to public performance, ending the 200 years of dominance enjoyed by Colley Cibber's 1699 version of the play. (Davies, Robertson. "Irving, Sir Henry [real name John Henry Brodribb] (1838-1905). *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*. 2008. <https://doi.org/10.1093/ref:odnb/34116>)

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