

# **HENRY VIII**

**BY LANDON AND DONOVAN**







*Catherine of Aragon (Horenbout)*



*Ann Boleyn (Hoskins)*



*Jane Seymour (Horenbout)*



*Anne of Cleves (Holbein)*



*Katherine Howard (Holbein)*



*Katherine Parr (Horenbout)*

# 17<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

- “All is True or The famous History of the Life of Henry VIII”
- A possible collaboration between Will and John Fletcher
- The first recorded production was June 29 of 1613, though would not appear in script form until the folio of 1623
- It could have been performed for Princess Elizabeth and Elector Palatine prior
- Thought to be a pageant





# 17<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY (CONT'D)

- No one died
- 15 year anniversary
- June 29 1628: George Villiers, the duke of Buckingham, witnessed the 15 year anniversary performance. He left halfway through, and was assassinated a month later.



# 18<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

- Oddly enough, very little information could be found about productions of Henry VIII during the 18<sup>th</sup> century.
- One of the most, if not THE most famous performance during this time was Sarah Siddons' portrayal of Katherine of Aragon.
- Audiences enjoyed the “psychological realism with which the actress depicted Katherine's final sickness”
- Stanley Wells, author of the Cambridge Companion to Shakespeare on Stage wrote “By turns majestic, sorrowful, affectionate and scornful, Siddons's Queen Katherine took London by storm.”





M<sup>rs</sup> SIDDONS, *as* QUEEN KATHARINE.

*Kath. When I am dead let me be laid with honour,  
 Throw me o'er  
 With maiden flowers; —*

*Acted at the Art Theatre by J. Roach, Bedford Court, Drury Lane, May, 15, 1806.*



*M<sup>rs</sup> Siddons,*

*as Queen Katharine.*

*in Shakespeare's Henry the Eighth.*

*London, Published by Egerton & Poulton, 107 Strand, 1807.*

# 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

- Henry Irving as Cardinal Wolsey (not Henry) in 1892
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CfxReK9UJVQ>
- His robes were dyed at Cardinal's College in Rome
- “Finest of the Lyceum productions as a spectacle.”
- It ran for 203 performances.



W. & A. Downey photo.

Walter & Bonnet photo.

*Sir Henry Irving  
as Cardinal Wolsey.*

# 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

- Part of the 2012 Globe Festival. Produced by the Madrid based Rakata company.
- Directed by Ernesto Arias, adapted by Jose Padilla.
- Historically, Katherine of Aragon was a princess in Spain.
- The play was performed entirely in Castilian Spanish from a Spanish viewpoint, even though the entirety of the play was set in England.
- Fernando Gil played the role of the titular Henry VIII.
- Laura Barnett, author of The Guardian's review of this production wrote that "He was so convincing in the role that when he left the stage to walk among the groundlings, the crowd parted for him as they might once have done for Henry himself."





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