

Henry VI Part 3

SYNOPSIS

The Third Part of Henry the Sixth

(probably a collaboration between Shakespeare and another author)

Having won the battle of St Albans, Richard Plantagenet, Duke of York, demands that Henry VI should resign the crown. To his wife's dismay, Henry agrees to disinherit his son Edward, Prince of Wales. Margaret vows to destroy York and his followers. She gains the support of Clifford and others, and they raise an army. In the battle which follows, York's youngest son, Rutland, is killed by Clifford.

York himself is captured by Clifford and Northumberland. They taunt him with details of Rutland's death and then murder him. When York's sons Edward and Richard learn of their father's murder, they unite with Warwick, who proclaims Edward the new Duke of York. They raise an army and defeat the Lancastrians at Towton. Henry, Margaret and their son are forced to escape to the north of the country. Clifford is killed and Henry captured and brought to London, where he is imprisoned in the Tower by York, who has now become the new King Edward IV.

In France, Margaret and Warwick meet at the court of the French King Lewis. News reaches them that Edward has married Lady Elizabeth Grey instead of the woman he had promised to marry earlier, King Lewis's sister Bona. Warwick, who had arranged the French marriage, is insulted, and he and Lewis both turn against Edward. Warwick pledges support to Margaret, releasing Henry from the Tower and making him King again.

Warwick leaves London to gather an army, but meanwhile Edward returns and recaptures Henry. Edward and Warwick's armies meet at Barnet, where Warwick is killed. Margaret arrives in England with more soldiers. Her army fights against Edward's at Tewkesbury, where, after a bloody battle Edward gains the victory, which seems to end the Wars of the Roses.

Media:

DVD:

An Age of Kings (BBC TV 1960), dir. Michael Hayes: a fusion of all the history plays from *Richard II* to *Richard III*

Henry VI Part 3 (BBC TV Shakespeare 1983), dir. Jane Howell

Not commercially available:

The Wars of the Roses (1965), dir. Peter Hall & John Barton: Henry VI & Richard III combined as a trilogy, excerpts on YouTube

The Wars of the Roses (1990), dir. Michael Bogdanov: a filming of the 1987 English Shakespeare Company stage production, uploaded to YouTube

CD Audio:

Henry VI Part 3 (Arkangel Complete Shakespeare)

[Michael Mitchell]