

## PRESS QUOTES KINGS OF WAR

The reactions of the press after the performance in BARBICAN LONDON in april 2016 were superb.

*"This is Shakespeare for the 21st century, shorn of majesty, unlovely and horribly familiar. (...) It's realised with ingenuity, intelligence and verve: a hurtling history play for today."*

The Times \*\*\*\*

*"Kings of War has a submarine quality. The outside world comes to feel very far away. It's hypnotic. (...) Van Hove's take on Richard III feels genuinely audacious thanks to Hans Kesting's juggernaut of a performance, his face port-wine stained, his gait subtly spidery. He's menacing yet gentle, charming yet repulsive – mesmeric, magnificent. (...) The text has been intelligently filleted, subplots excised, and the production moves with the pace of a Scandi-thriller, a modern power play. Monarchy here is a costume, a gift and a burden. It is too heavy for some men and makes beasts of others."*

The Stage \*\*\*\*

*"This marathon production is both mordant and mesmeric"*

The Independent \*\*\*\*

*"Van Hove's production is utterly engaging. (...) Van Hove's compression of the histories is a timely reminder that across the centuries, Shakespeare's knowledge of the human heart remains unwithered by age, unstaled by familiarity."*

The Telegraph \*\*\*\*

*"Van Hove's production highlights Shakespeare's profound understanding of the role of naked power-hunger in the body politic."*

The Guardian \*\*\*\*

*"If this past weekend's Shakespeare birthday celebrations have reminded us of anything, it's surely the soaring beauty of that language. Still, the man in charge of this audacious project, which gallops through Henry V, the three parts of Henry VI and Richard III, is the celebrated Ivo van Hove, whose inspired rethink of A View from the Bridge took London theatre by storm. As he proves here, van Hove always has something fresh to contribute."*

Evening Standard \*\*\*\*

*"Hans Kesting's petrifying Richard III, a performance surely destined for the history books."*

Variety