Eric Oliver

Theater 1030

November 27, 2017

Richard III

The play Richard the third was transformed into a movie by the director, Richard Loncraine. He decided the film would be set in a pre world war two setting. Personally I cannot stand when Shakespeare, or any other period piece, is done in a style that is not the original style. The nineties Romeo and Juliet movie is especially atrocious. I believe changing the setting of the work only hinders the original tone and feeling.

The Character of Richard was well played by Ian McKellen. He is a fabulous actor and is a benefit to any production he is on. From the beginning, with his first speech, he sets up the base for his nefarious acts, declaring that he will stop at nothing to achieve his goals. Throughout the rest of the movie he goes through monologues detailing his further descent into evil. Finally in his last monologue he talks about how he has been using his deformity to endear and manipulate people to himself and his ideas. Throughout the play you start to realize just how evil this man actually is, using everything he can to try and get what he wants.

The wardrobe choices really stood out to me. They made you feel like you were actually there in the pre world war two setting. The sets were also very well done, if they didn’t use real buildings, it looked they did.