AUDITION INFORMATION – THE DEATH OF KINGS
Director: Irwin Appel (i.appel@cox.net)

What is The Death of Kings?
For its 10th anniversary at UCSB, Naked Shakes presents an epic world premiere event, The Death of Kings, two plays performed together in repertory, adapted and directed by Irwin Appel from the history plays of William Shakespeare. Part One: “I Come But For Mine Own”, comprises Richard II, Henry IV, 1 and 2, and Henry V. Part Two: “The White Rose and the Red”, encompasses Henry VI, 1, 2 and 3, and Richard III. In February and March 2016, audiences will have the opportunity to see both productions, on successive nights or on the same day. Students will be acting alongside some faculty and staff who are already cast.

When and where are performances?
UCSB Hatlen Theater. Performance schedule is as follows:

| PART ONE | | PART TWO | |
|-----------|------------------|------------------|
| FEB 19 - 20, MAR 1, 3/ 7:30 PM | FEB 26, MAR 2, 4, 5 - 6/ 7:30 PM |
| MAR 5 - 6 / 2 PM | FEB 27 / 2 PM |

PLEASE NOTE: There may be a student matinee performance of Part One added at 10 AM on Friday, March 4.

When and where are auditions?
Auditions and callbacks will be held in Theater and Dance West (TD-W) 1507 on the following dates:

| Monday, November 16, 5:00-11:00 | Tuesday, November 17, 5:00-11:00 |
| Wednesday, November 18, 5:00-11:00 | Thursday, November 19, 5:00-11:00 |
| General Auditions | Callbacks |
| Callbacks | Callbacks |

How should I prepare for the audition?
Both scripts will be posted to the Gaucho Space/callboard with this audition information. Read both plays carefully! I realize there are a lot of characters to keep track of – do the best you can to get a good general sense of what’s going on. If you have very little experience reading Shakespeare, don’t worry, try to look up words you don’t understand in the dictionary and be as prepared as you know how to be. I also recommend getting together with others and reading the plays out loud! Shakespeare plays are meant to be performed, not read silently – you will find if you read the plays out loud, you will be pleasantly surprised to find you understand them better. By the way, both scripts are still very much in transition – they will have been extensively rewritten by the time rehearsals begin.
What is the audition procedure?
Please sign up in the Production Office for a space in a one-hour slot. Come 15 minutes early to fill out an audition form. Be prepared to stay for the full hour plus an additional half hour. It is also possible that we may be running behind, so make sure you do not schedule anything else too close to the end of your audition hour. Please dress professionally in clothing that allows you to move freely and potentially play different characters.

What do I have to prepare for the audition?
Please have prepared:

• A one to one-and-a-half minute monologue from any character of your choice from either Part One or Two of The Death of Kings. Your monologue should be memorized and staged. If the character you choose does not have a monologue that lasts one minute or so, you may string together a couple of that character’s shorter speeches.

• 16 bars or so of any song that you will sing a cappella, (totaling no more than 30 seconds).

Please note: the audition is designed for you to have a chance to show me what character you would most love to play. It is very important to me to give you the opportunity to choose what you’d like to audition with. There will also be a place on the audition form to indicate other roles you are particularly interested in. Of course, I need to make decisions independent of your wishes, but, again, this is your chance to show me what you would like me to see.

As for the song, it does not have to be a “show tune,” it can be as simple as “Happy Birthday” if that’s all you know. Singing will be a component of the shows, so this audition gives me an opportunity to hear your voice. Once again, use this as an opportunity to show me what you would most like me to see.

After you have completed your monologue and song, it is possible that I will ask you to do either or both again with some direction. I also may hand you an additional monologue or monologues to read for me in the latter part of your hour slot. This is a chance for you to do and me to see as much as possible before callbacks begin. If I do not direct you in your monologue or song, or you are not asked to read more during the hour, it does NOT necessarily affect whether you will be called back or not.

If I am cast, will I be in one play or two?
Most everyone will only be in one of the plays. A few characters may cross over from Part One to Part Two, but if you are cast in one of those roles, your workload will be evenly distributed as if you were only in one play. If you do not wish to be cast in both plays, you can note this on your audition sheet, and it will absolutely not reflect negatively on your overall casting.

What skills are important for The Death of Kings?
If you have never done Shakespeare before, that’s ok! Just fully commit to your audition and show me where you are at in your development. I am looking for actors with excellent language skills, along with physical freedom and creativity. Since the actors create everything in a Naked Shakes production, you must make strong, distinct character choices, often for playing multiple characters. You must also be a committed ensemble member. In addition, I
am looking for some actors who can sing and harmonize, and/or for actors who play any kinds of musical instruments. Also, if you speak French, that is a plus! Finally, you don’t have to be an experienced stage fighter necessarily, but you must be physically able to learn and master a wide variety of stage combat moves. Remember, commitment to the ensemble and your preparation, along with the willingness to take risks and make bold choices, are more important than experience!

If I am cast, when are rehearsals? Do I begin rehearsing during Fall quarter?
Yes, there will be some rehearsal immediately following callbacks during fall quarter. Rehearsals begin Friday, November 20. Here is the preliminary schedule (subject to change):

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<tr>
<th>Part One</th>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, November 20</td>
<td>6:00-11:00 (first read-thru)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, November 22</td>
<td>1:00-6:00 (table work)</td>
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<td>Monday, November 23</td>
<td>6:00-11:00 (table work)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, November 24</td>
<td>6:00-11:00 (table work)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, November 30</td>
<td>6:00-9:00 (fight work)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, December 1</td>
<td>6:00-9:00 (fight work)</td>
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<th>Part Two</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, November 21</td>
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<td>Wednesday, December 2</td>
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There will be no rehearsals Wednesday, November 25 (the Wednesday before Thanksgiving) or between December 3-January 3. Rehearsals will resume Monday, January 4.

Are there any roles that are unavailable?
Yes, we are very excited to have faculty/staff in the following roles:

- Sir John Falstaff (Part One)
- Edmund, Duke of York (Part One)
- Henry Bolingbroke/Henry IV (Part One)
- John of Gaunt
- Richard, Duke of York (Part One)
  (NOTE: this is the father of Richard III. The role of Richard III is very much available and will be played by a student.)

I am listing below most of the available roles for you to audition for:

**Death of Kings – Character Descriptions of Available Roles**
(M – Male, F – Female, M or F – gender of character is as written but could be cast as Male or Female actor)
PART ONE

King Richard II (M or F)
King of England when play starts. Richard loves fashion, spending lots of money on parties, clothing and all courtly pleasures. He is accused of squandering money and land and of being surrounded by “flatterers.” His uncle, John of Gaunt, calls him “Landlord of England, not king.” Richard is sensitive, poetic, emotional, impulsive, and capable of intense mood swings. Ironically, he is the only English king in Death of Kings whose right to the throne is not in question. In fact, he believes most strongly in his divine right to be king, and is genuinely puzzled by criticism against him. He says early on “we were not born to sue, but to command.” As the play goes on, and he is deposed by Henry Bolingbroke, Richard winds up in prison, highly introspective about his mighty fall from royalty and grace. He is then shortly murdered by Bolingbroke.

Henry Percy (Hotspur) (M or F)
Hotspur is son of Northumberland and nephew of Worcester. He is a great soldier and fighter, but he is also a young hothead, as his nickname implies. He easily flies off into a rage, and he is especially upset that King Henry IV has demanded prisoners Hotspur has taken during wars in Scotland. Hotspur joins his family in rebellion against King Henry IV. He is also contemptuous of King Henry’s son, Prince Hal, and Hotspur is killed by Hal in their final, inevitable fight. Hotspur is married to Lady Percy.

Northumberland (M or F)
Father of Hotspur and brother of Worcester. He is greatly upset by how Richard has managed the kingdom and how Richard seized Henry Bolingbroke’s lands and rightful inheritance after Henry’s father, John of Gaunt’s death. After Henry returns from banishment, Northumberland joins with him and becomes the primary helper to Henry’s rise to the throne. However, after Henry becomes king, Northumberland and the rest of his family are very upset, feeling that Henry originally just came to get his land back, but instead became a usurper’s to Richard’s throne. Northumberland becomes haunted by Richard’s death and becomes ill as he gets older, unable to lead his men to join his son Hotspur’s rebellion against King Henry. Northumberland is serious, measured and loves his country deeply.

Worcester (M or F)
Northumberland’s brother and Hotspur’s uncle. A shrewd strategist and the brains behind the rebellion. His caution is a check and balance to Hotspur’s impulsiveness. He is highly intelligent, sophisticated and thoughtful. He makes a conscious decision not to tell Hotspur of King Henry’s offer of mercy to the rebels, thinking King Henry will never really forgive them. He accuses King Henry of going against his oath and usurping Richard’s throne.

Lady Percy (F)
Hotspur’s wife. She possesses many of the same qualities as her husband – fiery, passionate and not afraid to speak her mind. At first, she presses Hotspur to tell her why he is so guarded and conspiratorial, and then is deeply wounded when he says he does not love her. Later, after
Hotspur’s death, she blames her father-in-law Northumberland for abandoning her husband. She and Hotspur should have great physical chemistry and sensuality between them.

**Vernon (M or F)**
Loyal right hand man to the Percy family. An experienced warrior who has the most poetic speeches about the surprising assent of Prince Hal against low expectations.

**Prince Henry (Hal)/Henry V (M or F)**
Hal begins the play as a huge disappointment to his father King Henry IV. Rather than pursue his duties as Prince of Wales, heir apparent to the king, he prefers to hang around Eastcheap at the Boar’s Head Tavern, and other houses of ill repute, with his buddies Falstaff, Pistol, Bardolph and others. He is a prankster, a drinker, a partyer, loves women and is most at home with common thieves and prostitutes. His friendship with Falstaff is at the center of *Death of Kings*, and when he becomes King Henry V, he disavows Falstaff. Expectations for him are very low, based on his sordid past, and he surprises everyone by becoming the great, heroic king. He is highly driven and becomes single-minded in his purpose to defeat France against great odds.

**John of Lancaster (M or F – COULD ALSO BE IN BOTH PART ONE AND PART TWO)**
Hal’s younger brother who comes of age fighting the rebellion of the Percies. An excellent fighter and leader. He looks up to his older brother Hal, but feels awkward about Hal’s partying life. As of now in the two scripts, he continues on in Part Two as Lord Protector to the young King Henry VI. He deeply loves his country, and he becomes completely dismayed by the infighting that takes over the court after his brother Henry V’s death.

**Pistol (M or F)**
Hal’s best friend and drinking buddy from the Boar’s Head tavern. Has a great lively fun-loving spirit and loves practical jokes. A real street kid. In *Death of Kings*, Pistol is a combination of characters from the original plays, including Pistol and Poins. He is honest and not afraid to say what’s on his mind directly.

**Katharine (F)**
Daughter of the King of France. She speaks French almost exclusively, and begins to learn English because of the prospect of her being promised to King Henry V to be his wife. Has great spirit, and is genuinely torn about loving the “enemy of France.”

**Alice (F)**
Katharine’s maid – also speaks French almost exclusively. Teaches Katharine English the best that she can, and deeply loves and serves her.

**Bishop of Carlisle (M or F)**
Has one of the most important speeches in the play denouncing Henry Bolingbroke becoming king. Just before Henry is crowned, the Bishop courageously steps forward to implore the nobles not to go through with usurping the throne. He is then arrested for his “act of treason.”

**Thomas Mowbray (M or F)**
Locked in a fierce battle with Henry Bolingbroke at the beginning of the play, accusing him of being a traitor and defending his own honor from the same charge. He comes to the court to duel in a joust with Bolingbroke, but is stopped by King Richard II and banished for life. Mowbray is proud and filled with fury.

**Williams (M or F)**
A soldier in King Henry V’s army. He is not happy about going to war at Agincourt with the odds so against the English. He is visited around the campfire at night by a disguised King Henry V, and not knowing it’s him, challenges him to a fight. Williams is a man of conviction and passion.

**Chorus (M and F)**
Narrators and storytellers of the full productions. May be a single voice or multiple voices. We will be experimenting in rehearsal how to represent the chorus, but they drive the story forward and become the link between the story and the audience.

**PART TWO**

**King Henry VI (M or F)**
Becomes king when he is only 9 months old after the death of his father, King Henry V. As he grows up, he reigns over the Wars of the Roses, basically a huge family squabble of which he is at the center. He becomes highly religious and wishes for peace, not dissent. He marries Margaret, and they have a son, young Prince Edward, but then he makes a deal with Richard, Duke of York to give the kingdom to York’s sons, as long as York lets him rule for the rest of his life, thus disinheriting his only son. He is seen as a very weak king, and he wishes for a life of prayer and solitude until he is murdered by Gloucester, later Richard III in the Tower.

**Margaret (F)**
One of the central figures of *Death of Kings*, Margaret is originally taken prison in France by Suffolk, who, in love with her himself, offers to wed her with King Henry VI. Margaret grows frustrated with King Henry VI’s weak behavior, saying he would better of being “pope” than king. She is passionate, a fighter and has a raw, uncensored spirit. She is highly ambitious, but shouldn’t be played as evil. She feels justified in defending her crown and her son’s future from Henry VI’s deal with the Yorks. She loves Suffolk until the day he dies.

**Prince Edward (M or F)**
One of many characters named Edward in Part Two. Prince Edward is young son of King Henry VI and Margaret. He vows to follow his mother to the field to defend his right to succeed his father. When he is captured at the end by the Yorks, he exhibits great bravery in standing up to them before he is killed.

**John of Lancaster (M or F)**
See description in Part One. In original Henry VI plays, he is known as Humphrey of Gloucester.

**Somerset (M or F)**
Principal enemy of Richard, Duke of York. Somerset is standard bearer of the red rose. He is one of many nobles who are lifelong warrior leaders.
**Suffolk** (M)
Allied with Somerset, he falls in love with Margaret as he takes her prisoner. He is young, handsome, brash, and plots with Margaret to kill John of Lancaster, King Henry VI’s lord protector so that Margaret can have more power. He is banished by King Henry and afterwards killed by Jack Cade and the rebels.

**Clifford** (M or F)
An older warrior, loyal to the Lancasters. Successfully argues for the rebels to abandon Jack Cade and come back to King Henry. He dies on the battlefield, unleashing the fury of his son, Young Clifford, who vows revenge on the Yorks for his father’s death.

**Young Clifford** (M or F)
Devastated by the loss of his father, Young Clifford goes on a bloodthirsty, furious rampage against the Yorks. He kills Richard York’s young boy Rutland in cold blood. He is a strong ally of Margaret until his battlefield death.

**Richard, later Duke of Gloucester, later King Richard III** (M or F)
Third son of Richard, Duke of York. Begins the play as loyal son to his father Richard, Duke of York, but afterwards says “I have no brother. I am myself alone.” He will stop at nothing to become King, eventually killing his older brother George, Duke of Clarence. Actor must make strong physical choice about Richard’s deformity – he is referred to as a “foul, bunchbacked toad” and “hedgehog cripple.”

**Lady Anne** (F)
Daughter of Warwick and daughter-in-law of King Henry VI, now a widow due to the death of her husband, Prince Edward, King Henry VI’s son. As she mourns the body of King Henry VI, she is stopped by Richard of Gloucester. At first she fights back at him hard, but then eventually he woos her to be his wife. Later she speaks of being “captive to his honey words.”

**King Edward IV** (M)
Oldest son of Richard York, and older brother of Richard III and Clarence. He is brash and impulsive, and he makes a fatal decision to marry Elizabeth rather than the French King’s sister, after he is crowned king. He loves women, and develops a strong appetite for power and pleasure. He becomes ill and dies suddenly, leaving a power gap that Richard III seizes on.

**George, Duke of Clarence** (M or F)
Elder brother of Richard III and younger brother of Edward IV. Disapproves strongly of Edward’s marriage to Elizabeth, and leaves to join forces with Warwick. Eventually he returns to his brother Edward and asks forgiveness. He is later set up to go to prison by Richard III and is murdered there.

**Lady Grey/Elizabeth** (F)
Originally a widow, the Lady Grey, she is wooed by Edward and becomes queen. After Edward’s death, she tries desperately to protect her children, but her two young princes are murdered by Richard III in the Tower. Eventually, she makes Richard think she is going along.
with his request to woo his daughter for her, but she joins with Henry, Earl of Richmond to overthrow Richard III. She always is willing to fight for what she wants, beginning with going to King Edward to sue for her husband’s lands, even though he fought on the opposite side of the war. Elizabeth’s strength and fortitude are significant in the downfall of Richard III.

Joan La Pucelle (Joan of Arc) (F)
The great heroic warrior and eventual saint of the French. She claims to have heard voices from angels and be touched by God and the Virgin Mary. She overcomes the French Dauphin, Charles, in a test of combat, and proceeds to lead the French to great victories over the English. Eventually she is captured and burned at the stake.

Talbot (M or F)
Heroic warrior of the English and adversary of Joan. Must be an excellent fighter. Eventually is killed because of the conflict between York and Somerset and their inability to send him reinforcements.

Richmond (M or F)
Defeats Richard III at the battle of Bosworth. Becomes King Henry VII, the first Tudor king, at the end of the play.

Jack Cade (M or F)
Leader of the rebels, commissioned by Richard York to stir up trouble in the kingdom. He claims to be John Mortimer, rightful heir to the throne, and leads his band of peasants and workers all the way through the kingdom. He is a huge colorful character – brash, wild-eyed, probably drunk, loving being in command. Eventually he runs away as the rebels turn on him.

Charles the Dauphin (M)
The French prince, son of the king. Very confident. Sends King Henry V the trunk full of tennis balls as a mock of the Henry’s younger days. Believes Henry was a trivial king and person and that the French will defeat them easily now that he’s dead. Wants no part of peace with the English. Meets and challenges Joan La Pucelle to test her fortitude and veracity. He becomes attracted to her and wants her for his own. He is flamboyant and even cocky.