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The first production at the Theatre was in 1951 and apart from the following year one of Shakespeare's plays has been produced each July since. In 1971, a second production was staged and a second play has been produced each year since.

In 1976 the Theatre celebrates its twenty-fifth year of productions. Details will be announced as soon as possible.

The garden is open daily throughout the year from 11.00 am until dusk. The house is open until the end of November as follows:

March-end November: 2-6 pm or sunset if earlier (last admission half hour before closing); March-October: Tuesday (not following Bank Holiday), Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holiday Monday; November: Saturday and Sunday only.

Admission: House and garden 50p, Children 22p. Garden only 15p, children 7p. Reductions on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays only for parties of 15 or more 35p, by previous arrangement with the Custodian.

Patrons are advised that the National Trust cannot accept responsibility for personal property left unattended. Articles found should be taken to the Officials Tent. Enquiries regarding lost property should be made to the National Trust Office (Tel Bookham 53401).

#### AUDITIONS

Open auditions are held each year, normally in January, for the selection of the cast. Whilst these are advertised as widely as possible there are always some who do not hear about them in time.

If you would like to be notified of the next auditions will you please inform Reg L Snow, 48 The Park, Great Bookham (Tel Bookham 52863).



Polesden Lacey Open-air Theatre, 1975



The National Trust

# KING LEAR

by William Shakespeare

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by William Shakespeare

## CAST

Lear, King of Britain  
King of France  
Duke of Burgundy  
Duke of Cornwall, Husband to Regan  
Duke of Albany, Husband to Goneril  
Earl of Kent  
Earl of Gloucester  
Edgar, Son to Gloucester  
Edmund, Bastard son to Gloucester  
Curan, a Courtier  
Oswald, Steward to Goneril  
Old Man, Tenant to Gloucester  
Doctor  
Fool  
Captain, employed by Edmund  
A Herald  
Servant to Cornwall  
Goneril, }  
Regan, } Daughters to Lear  
Cordelia, }  
Lady in Waiting  
Attendants

Geoffrey Cheshire  
Chris Elias  
Robert Coward  
Peter Morris  
David Page  
David Evans  
John Ridley  
Gerald Bishop  
Stephen Oliver  
Dennis Reed  
Robert Coward  
Dennis Reed  
Ron Poole  
Peter Hahlo  
Dennis Reed  
Chris Elias  
Christopher Ryan  
Margaret Bircher  
Marion Spiro  
Wendy Tansey  
Betty Ridley  
Ron Poole  
Dennis Reed  
Richard Hahlo  
Graeme Miller  
Andrew Copey  
Rolf Canham  
Christopher Ryan

The action takes place in Britain

The play is directed by Elsie Green

Presented by the National Trust

**There will be two intervals of 15 minutes each**

The National Trust thanks the Bookham Community Association and the people of Bookham for their help in the organisation of the Theatre.

King Lear, in his old age, decides to divide up his kingdom between his daughters. He determines to test their love for him. Goneril and Regan declare intense love, but his youngest daughter, Cordelia, will only admit her love for him as a daughter. He curses her and she marries the King of France.

Gloucester, deceived by his bastard son, Edmund, cuts off his legitimate son, Edgar.

King Lear, baited by Goneril and Regan goes mad and wanders off with his Fool. Gloucester, attempting to comfort him despite the wishes of Goneril and Regan, is betrayed by Edmund and blinded. He wanders away with Edgar who has assumed madness.

Regan's husband, the Duke of Cornwall, is killed, and she, attracted to Edmund, arouses jealousy in Goneril.

Cordelia lands with troops from France to recover Lear's kingdom for him. She finds Lear and comforts him only to be captured by her sisters' armies.

Edmund's plots are discovered. Goneril poisons Regan and kills herself. Before dying, Edmund admits that he has given orders for Lear and Cordelia to be killed. However, this confession comes too late to save Cordelia. Lear carries in her dead body and dies.

Stage Manager – Roy Jones

Assistant Stage Managers – Trevor Osborne, Kate Kneeeve, Valerie Phillips

Wardrobe Mistresses – Muriel Reed, Diana Bowden, Jill Wynn

Set devised and built by Blackfriars Studio, London

Lighting by Blackfriars Studio, London

Lighting Assistant – Lydia Thomas

Amplification by R G Jones of Morden

Sound Assistant – Glen Hall

Fight arranged by David Evans

Wigs by Wig Studio Ltd

Costumes by Chas Fox

Other costumes by John Furniss

Armour by John Eagle

The Licensed Bar and Cafeteria are provided by Bookham Grange Hotel, Little Bookham (Tel Bookham 52742) and are open before and after each performance as well as during the intervals.