

“Can this small stage hold the vast fields of France?” asks Chorus as our play begins. He is our narrator and guide throughout the performance, turning our empty stage into a fantasia for the eyes, the ears, the mind. Chorus will serve to guide the imaginations of you, our audience.

Welcome to the Theater of the Mind! It is October, 1415. King Henry V of England, intending to tax the English church, is sent off to war by the bishops to enforce the (doubtful) claim to France. Thus sure of divine blessing for his cause, Henry wages war on the French, themselves perhaps too proud in their sense of overpowering strength. Henry's self-doubt and his diminishing numbers stand in the way of a victory that would unite the two countries and provide Henry with a Queen. Through sheer determination, impassioned speeches, and his skill as a military leader, he readies his men for the bloodiest of battles: Agincourt.

Victorious in battle against all odds, Henry lays out his terms for peace: France itself, and the beautiful Princess Katherine as his bride.

Not a play in the conventional sense, *Henry V* is an exciting multimedia presentation combining the music of Gustav Holst's magnificent orchestral masterpiece *The Planets* with Shakespeare's words, peppered with projected images and lively sound effects all combining to tell the tale and, we hope, provide you with a wonderful and exciting evening of entertainment.