

PRESS RELEASE

**New for 2025 & further to the
International Launch in 2024**

This Saturday 29th November 2025
King Richard III Visitors Centre, Leicester
14:00 to 17.00
<https://www.avoiceforrichard.co.uk>



History reimagined.

**The reconstructed face of King Richard III
speaking in the authentic pronunciation of his time.**

Imagine if you could see and hear King Richard III speaking his own words. Imagine if you could see him breathing, thinking and effectively 'brought back to life'.

Last year, in November 2024 York's Theatre Royal was the stage for a life-like digital reconstruction of King Richard's face speaking in his Original Pronunciation. The decade-long project blended art, science, history and technology in a pioneering collaboration that involved experts in cranio-facial reconstruction linguistics, forensic psychology, CGI and motion capture.

The result sparked global media attention and fresh debate over the King's true character. Now King Richard's facial avatar has been recreated to speak his famous prayer.

A permanent exhibition will open the day after at Leicester's King Richard III Visitor Centre.
"Once again, in effect, King Richard III will speak for himself."

Fast-forward to more than a decade later and **a documentary film *A Voice for Richard III*** (produced for History Hit channel) explores how the many pieces for a complex puzzle came together using primary evidence. Documentary feedback examples:

Am still breathless from the excitement. Brilliant, riveting, and we need so much more of this painstaking work. We will never stop trying to achieve ways that will allow us to know the past. Thank you!

- I am stunned by this event. Speechless even. What a brilliant episode. Possibly the best I've seen yet. A special video. I would love to see FaceLab do other historical figures.

- This was brilliant! I am completely impressed with the thought processes and skills that led to this incredible presentation.

- Thanks to Matt, Thomas, and everyone involved. This was incredible. Such a fantastic project and so many talented people involved. Just wonderful 🙌🙌🙌

wow amazing film HH! great job to all and the actor, there must've been a lot of pressure to get this "right". This marriage of science, history and artistry is what I hope will be the future generation of historical documentaries. Amazing, superb work.

What started for Yvonne Morley-Chisholm, voice teacher and vocal coach, over ten years ago as an after-dinner entertainment to compare Shakespeare's character with what we know of the real man, developed quickly into a research project with a unique focus: to explore the possibility of creating a literal voice for a long-dead historical figure.

This is the new science of Historical Human Reconstruction or Postmortalism, which uses a facial avatar of the person, based on the forensic reconstruction of their head. It provides an entirely new way to learn about the past. In this instance we'll understand more about the last Plantagenet King. It also paves the way for other historical avatars in the future.

After all the controversy surrounding this monarch and the questions raised about his actions and personality: was he a good man or murderous psychopath?

Now, in effect, King Richard III will speak again ... for himself.

Experts from across the UK and abroad joined in this unique, pioneering collaboration. Some of them will share presentations during this second launch event with an entirely new avatar of the King speaking in his Original Pronunciation.

Location: King Richard III Visitors Centre, Leicester and via Livestream

Launch Date: Saturday 29th November 2025

Time: 14.00 through to 17.00 with the final 'reveal' at 4.30pm

Taking the rostrum with **Yvonne Morley-Chisholm** will be leading cranio-facial identification expert **Professor Caroline Wilkinson**, and **Dr Jessica Liu** from Face Lab.

Presentations will also be from historian, author and podcaster **Matthew Lewis**, who presented the acclaimed History Hit documentary *A Voice for King Richard III*,

Revd Alan Hawker who was on the committee at Leicester Cathedral for the reinterment of Richard III's mortal remains will present on Richard's prayer.

Journeying from London, leaving his understudy on stage for the day ... West End actor **Thomas Dennis** (currently in *The Mousetrap*). His face was selected to animate the digital face of King Richard and to give the King's own words voice in his Original Pronunciation.

As well as exploring aspects of the real person of King Richard III, the event will include discussion on a wide range of topics including Medieval History, Linguistics, Original (Historical) Pronunciation, Craniofacial Reconstruction, Forensic Psychology, Voice and Dialect, Historical Human Reconstruction, Postmortalism, CGI and Motion-Capture among other specialisms.

Tickets are on sale now at <https://kriii.com/what-s-on/2025/a-voice-for-king-richard-iii/>

Further information is available at <https://www.avoiceforrichard.co.uk>

The event will also be Live-streamed and be available for 48 hours after the event.

Background information: Richard III was King of England from 1483 until his death at the Battle of Bosworth in 1485 at the age of 32. He was the last king of the House of York and the last of the Plantagenet dynasty. His defeat at Bosworth was the penultimate battle in the Wars of the Roses and ushered in the Tudor dynasty. The remains of Richard III were discovered in 2012 under a car park in Leicester by Philippa Langley MBE through her original *Looking For Richard Project*. Philippa's search for the king's grave was the subject of the award-winning TV documentary: *Richard III: The King in the Car Park*. The remains of King Richard were identified using a range of scientific disciplines including DNA analysis.

Yvonne Morley Chisholm, Project Originator says:

- This new science of Historical Human Reconstruction is making history cool again. Fresh evidence-based work teaches us more. In some cases, history will need to be rewritten. I believe this is the case for Richard III.
- It's been the greatest privilege to work with Professor Caroline Wilkinson. Her highly skilled team at Face Lab provide the physical nucleus, my voice team provide the vocal nucleus. This is the new science of Historical Human Reconstruction or Postmortalism.
- Working with
- Professor David Crystal has been incredible. His work used personal letters and other documents to work out how Richard would have spoken. He is regarded as the international expert in Original Pronunciation.
- This is as close as you can get to knowing the real Richard.
- It's taken 10 years. Experts from a range of fields including Cranio-facial reconstruction, forensic Psychological profiling, dentistry, physiotherapy, ethology, genetics, research-based history have worked in this pioneering collaboration.
- The project has achieved more than I ever dared to imagine it could.
- We bring a long dead king back to a kind of "life" and learn more about him as we do so.
- With state-of-the-art motion-capture technology, CGI animation and the like, I hope that - for those who find history a little dull - this "cool" project can spark their interest.

Professor Caroline Wilkinson said: "Since we produced the facial reconstruction of Richard III in 2012, we have dreamt about bringing him alive, to see him move and speak his own words. With the help of advanced digital avatar technology and Yvonne's voice team, we have been able to realise this dream. The result has exceeded our expectations and represents the most authentic and realistic portrait of this great king, based on all the evidence available."

Professor David Crystal OBE said: "I think people will be surprised to hear a kind of speech that is a fascinating mixture of the familiar and the unfamiliar. English pronunciation has changed a lot since the 15th century, but it's still very intelligible to modern ears".

Matthew Lewis said: "We live in an age experienced and digested through media. We're surrounded by the images and voices of all kinds of people. Yet not so long ago, we have no images beyond portraiture, which often comes years after a person's death. We have no recordings of their voices to hear them, and in an age before diaries were commonplace, little hope of piercing beyond public personas. The Voice For Richard Project is a stunning example of how science, technology, and history can come together to help bridge the distance of time that separates us from those we have heard of but could never have heard. This is as close as we can get to being in the room in the fifteenth century when a king speaks. I can't wait for the world to see the culmination of ten years of hard work and innovation."

Philippa Langley MBE said: "To help bring Richard to life, research into his character focused on contemporary descriptions from his own lifetime. These included private letters and a diary. The results corresponded directly with similar public descriptions offering a probability bordering on certainty of his recognised character from his lifetime. The results, premiered on 17 November in York, were a technological, scientific and historic break-through in aiding our understanding of the past and this important historical figure. It's been the most incredible honour to be part of this cross-platform research over its ten years and I would like to thank Yvonne Morley-Chisholm for inviting me to be a part of her team."

Notes to editors

Available for interview:

Professor Caroline Wilkinson and the Face Lab team, Liverpool John Moores University

Professor David Crystal O.B.E., Linguist & specialist in Original Pronunciation

Matthew Lewis, author, historian and podcaster for *History Hit*

Yvonne Morley-Chisholm, Voice teacher, vocal coach and Project originator

Thomas Dennis, West End actor (currently in *The Mousetrap*), who's vocal performance and facial movements were chosen to animate the avatar that was made from King Richard III's facial reconstruction.

Schedule for the event from 14.00 to 17.00 pm finish:

- 14. 00 **Yvonne Morley-Chisholm**, Project Originator, voice coach and vocal profiler
- 14. 30 **Prof. Caroline Wilkinson, Director for** Face Lab, Liverpool John Moores University
& **Dr. Jessica Liu**, Project Manager for Face Lab.
- 15. 00 **Matthew Lewis**, author, historian and presenter for *History Hit*
- 15.30 *Tea break*
- 15.45 **Revd Alan Hawker**, Anglican priest, on Richard's piety and his medieval prayer
- 16.10 **Yvonne** talks with **Thomas Dennis**, the actor chosen to be King Richard's voice,
- 16. 35 **Film of King Richard III's face** speaking his own words in his own pronunciation

For further information, to arrange interviews, request press tickets (on site /Livestream) or for filming enquiries, please contact:

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Event Ticket information: <https://kriii.com/what-s-on/> phone: 0116 299 4444