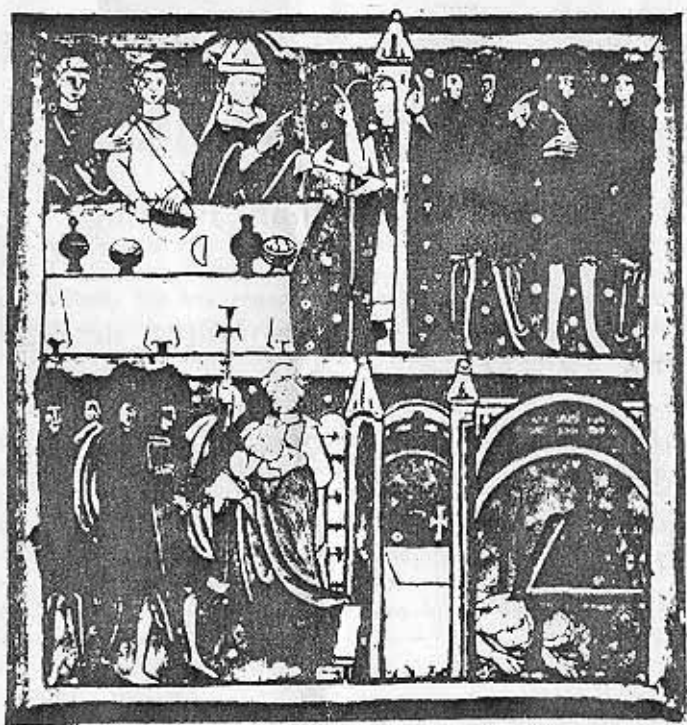


ÆTHELFLÆD

Presents T. S. Eliot's

MURDER in the CATHEDRAL



At the Edinburgh Fringe Festival,
23 - 28 August, 8:00 pm at Old St. Paul's Church (Venue 45).

The Cast (in order of speaking)

The Chorus	Jane Ballantyne Shona Galloway Fiona Morton
The Priests	Donald Cattanach Davie Clark
Messenger	Lucy Robertson
Thomas à Becket	Megan Fisher
First Tempter First Knight	John Fleming
Second Tempter Second Knight	Dominique de Lavigne
Third Tempter Third Knight	Mike Reed
Fourth Tempter Fourth Knight	Tim Jupp

Director Dominique de Lavigne

Assistant Director Tim Jupp

Musical Directors Rachael Arnold
Matthew Greenhalgh

Technical Crew

Stage Manager Michael Hume

A.S.M. Jenny McRae
Matthew Greenhalgh

Aethelfled would like to extend their thanks to:
James River Fine Papers;
John Graham for his generous sponsorship of the production;
Maisie Orr, treasurer of Old St. Paul's for her appreciable co-operation;
Ann Bridges and John Haswell for their invaluable ideas, advice and assistance. Also Bill Marshall for his helpful observations;
Edward Silvera at Swiftprint (Broughty Ferry) for printing the posters;
Sue Pollock-Squires for printing flyers;
Joan Stewart at Hope Park Church St Andrews for providing rehearsal space;
The staff at the Fringe Office for their patient and kind assistance;
Amateur Stage Armoury for their flexibility;
Jamie Lee and Caroline at Box Office;
Rory Weller for conjuring up the idea in the first place;
Edinburgh Fruit Market;
Maggie Kinloch at The Byre Theatre, St. Andrews for help with costumes;
Royal Lyceum Theatre Company and Ros McFarlane for help with props;
...and everyone else who has helped us in any way

The History:

Thomas à Becket was born in London in 1118 of a wealthy Norman family. He was educated in Paris and his keen intellect was put to good use as a delegate of the Archbishop of Canterbury. His reputation led the newly crowned King Henry II to appoint him Chancellor of England in 1155. Thomas excelled in this extremely powerful position, as diplomat, administrator and even as a general on the battlefield. He became the king's closest confidant, and in the conflict between Church and State that characterised the period, he was bold in his advancement of royal objectives. Thus, when the Archbishop died in 1162, Thomas seemed the obvious choice as a puppet replacement, and was duly appointed. In his new office, however, he unexpectedly became as ardent a defender of the Church as he had previously been of the crown. The resulting rift with Henry was the cause of a long exile in France. Nevertheless, in December 1170 Thomas returned to England.....

The Author:

T. S. Eliot was born in Missouri in 1888 but became a British subject in 1927, joining the Anglican Church after years of spiritual wandering. The 1930s witnessed his attempt to revive poetic drama in a new and radical form. He produced "Murder in the Cathedral" for the Canterbury festival in 1935. It was his first, and arguably his finest poetic drama.

The Company:

Æthelflæd aims to smash the horizons of what we call "theatre" by laying the beans of originality smartly but gently upon the toast of tradition, for how can the performing arts stir the soul without first seducing the senses? After a month's ceaseless rehearsals, we feel that we have at last perfected the ultimate theological blockbuster. It is plainly obvious to man or beast that our style will be widely copied, and in fact if you look closely you will see Kenneth Branagh sitting on your right in an extremely cunning disguise..... Needless to say, we are an amateur student drama company!

On a slightly more serious note, our members met through the Quad Theatre Company at Madras College St. Andrews, Scottish Youth Theatre, and Kirkcaldy Tech.

We hope you will enjoy our humble representation of a masterpiece of modern theatre.....