

MICHAEL YORK
ACTOR

Audiences have long marveled at Michael York's versatility. With an impressive body of work on screen, stage, television and with audio recording, this consummate performer still retains the fire for the actor's life which first blazed when he was a teenager in England.

After joining the National Youth Theatre and playing Shakespeare in London and throughout Europe, York continued his theatrical bent at Oxford University (where fellow performers included future Monty Pythons, Terry Jones and Michael Palin) from which he graduated with honors in English.

"Afterwards, I just knew I wouldn't be happy if I didn't give the profession a try," recalls York who, who joined Laurence Olivier's new National Theatre Company in 1965 in a production directed by Franco Zeffirelli. A year later I got a call to audition for his film of *The Taming of the Shrew* with Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor. Luckily, I got the role and with it this other label as a movie actor."

This was the first of several screen collaborations with Zeffirelli; York was also Tybalt in his award-winning *Romeo and Juliet*, and played John the Baptist in his landmark *Jesus of Nazareth*.

York's more than 100 other screen credits that go back over 40 years include memorable roles in such films as Bob Fosse's Oscar-winning *Cabaret*; *Something for Everyone*, the all-star *Murder on the Orient Express*; *The Last Remake of Beau Geste*; as D'Artagnan in *The Three Musketeers*; as the title character in the sci-fi classic *Logan's Run*; *The Island of Dr. Moreau*. He even played himself in Billy Wilder's *Fedora*.

Recently the charismatic York has added more successful credits. He was Basil Exposition in the first two Austin Powers movies, and in *Goldmember*, their smash-hit sequel. He also played appeared in the independent feature, *The Omega Code*, and reprised his role in its sequel, *Megiddo*.

His work includes everything from big-budget studio features to smaller projects like *Borstal Boy*. "I've always enjoyed the challenge of working in independent films, York says and particularly with first-time directors". York's television career includes *The Forsyte Saga*, *Great*

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Expectations, Space, The Heat of the Day, A Knight in Camelot with Whoopi Goldberg and, most recently, *The Lot*, for which he was nominated for an Emmy, and *Curb Your Enthusiasm*.

His Broadway credits include "Someone Who'll Watch Over Me", "Bent", the musical of "The Little Prince", "The Crucible" and the world premiere of Tennessee Williams' "Outcry". His voice is in demand, with over 60 audio book credits as varied as "The Book of Psalms," Carl Jung's "Memories, Dreams, Reflections," Anne Rice's "The Vampire Lest," and his own children's book, "The Magic Paw Paw". Grammy - nominated for his "Treasure Island," he won an Audie Award for "The Fencing Master," and a Listen Up Award for "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe".

He has narrated Alan Hovhannes' version of "The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam" and also William Walton's setting of Shakespeare's "Henry V." In 2002 he played the title role in the world premiere concert performance of Walton's "Christopher Columbus" and performed Shakespeare at the Hollywood Bowl. He has recorded and performed the Tennyson/Strauss "Enoch Arden" with John Bell Young.

Through his numerous travels, York has been able to indulge a hobby: "collecting anything to do with the theater, ballet and opera – costume sketches, scenic designs, the practical things." His wife Pat, the celebrated photographer, is his frequent traveling companion, though York confesses his delight in reversing that role now that Pat's photographs are being exhibited all over the world, mostly recently in Moscow, New York, Belgium, London and the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. The two met in 1967 when she was assigned to photograph him. They married a year later and have made their home in Los Angeles.

In addition to acting, York enjoys writing. *Dispatches from Armageddon: Making the Movie Megiddo...a Devilish Diary* was published in January 2002. Prof. Richard Brown of N.Y.U. hailed it as one of the most readable, literate, and insightful works ever written on the process of making movies. In 2001 he co-authored *A Shakespearean Actor Prepares* (with a longtime colleague, actor/director Adrian Brine) which the Spectator magazine reviewed as A triumph... the most illuminating study of the dramatist since Granville Barker's Prefaces. It deserves to become a classic. This book, a finalist in the Independent Publisher Book Awards

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2001, follows his 1991 autobiography *Accidentally on Purpose* (British title: *Travelling Player*) of which the Associated Press enthused, Michael York inherits the mantle of his fellow countryman, David Niven, as a premiere storyteller.

He also lectures internationally -- on Shakespeare, the poetry of Rudyard Kipling and the history and art of acting. His contribution to his profession has been recognized with the award of the Order of the British Empire, France's Ordre National des Arts et Lettres and, in 2002, a Star on The Hollywood Walk of Fame.

York serves as the Chairman of California Youth Theatre that provides performing arts education for young people. Current plans include developing the company's new permanent center and an exchange program with the UK. "It's all about turning out better citizens, not little stars," York explains. Recalling that his own life has been shaped and enriched by the theater arts, York enthuses "I just know this works. Its another kind of 'gang' that turns lives around for the better. It's learning by doing, and by obeying that Shakespearean imperative - 'on your imaginary forces work.'" For more information please visit www.apbspeakers.com.