

Henry V at Liverpool Playhouse

Reviewed by Emma Short April 2012

The Globe Theatre, who are currently touring the UK before their main season launches in early June on Bankside, have brought Shakespeare's Henry V to the Liverp ool Playhouse

. Framed by its famous proscenium arch the unfolding of England's victory over France at the battle of Agincourt under the direction of Dominic Dromgoole was a pleasure to witness indeed.

If the words *Shakespeare*, *Henry V* and *battle* evoke thoughts of a heavy, relentless, tiresome history lesson in a dimly lit classroom, banish them immediately! You are in danger or discolouring what is an extremely vibrant and exciting production. It was delivered by the Globe's acclaimed entourage of actors and actresses including the flawless performance of Jamie Parker as Henry V (returning after playing the role of Henry IV some two years ago) in what felt like true Shakespearian style; articulate, assertive and with a pinch of devilment. Every member of the cast whether playing one or numerous roles brought complex and strong characters to the stage.

