

The Life and Death of
King John

CHARACTER PROFILES

3 m

King John

King Philip

Prince Louis

12 m/f

Bastard

Hubert

Cardinal Pandulph

Arthur

Pembroke

Salisbury

Essex

Chatillon

Austria

Faulconbridge

Prince Henry

Mayor of Angiers

4 f

Constance

Queen Elinor

Blanche

Lady
Faulconbridge

The Bastard	m/f major role
<p>Being the unacknowledged child of King Richard Lionheart, the Bastard always felt he/she was destined for more. After getting the chance to become an influential political player, the Bastard starts to create havoc wherever he/she can, coldly plotting his/her way up to the top.</p> <p>He/she glues the play together, connecting plots and speaking with the audience.</p>	

King John	m major role
<p>The freshly crowned King of England has big footsteps to follow. He often plays it cool but on the inside John is a pot of boiling water. Gladly his mother usually fixes things when John can't back up his big words. To save his crown John has to be ruthless and do unspeakable things that end up becoming his downfall.</p>	

Hubert	m/f major role
<p>John's chief of staff and most loyal servant. Hubert has worked for the royal family for many years and would do anything to protect the kingdom. He/she asks no questions, but gets shit done. When being ordered to kill Arthur by John, Hubert's conscience comes into play and a plan is made with the Bastard to overthrow the King.</p>	

Queen Elinor	f medium role
<p>After mourning the deaths of her husband and her eldest son Geoffrey, Elinor led the country herself until Richard (and then John) was old enough to be King. She is a full time professional in political matters and knows how to use her status and influence on her son to lead the country.</p>	

Constance	f medium role
<p>The proud widow of John's eldest brother Geoffrey always wanted to be queen. After her husband died the only way to keep Constance's dream alive was to project it onto her son Arthur. She deeply despises John and her mother-in-law for having what she believes is her right and has allied with the French to achieve her goals.</p>	

Arthur	m/f medium role
<p>Being the son of John's elder brother, young Arthur has a legitimate claim on the throne backed up by the French and especially his mother. Although he might not even want to be king and just wants to see his mother happy, Arthur gets kidnapped and later killed which causes the French Attack on England.</p>	

King Philip	m medium role
<p>The elderly king of France is an unhurried, likeable guy and an experienced statesman. After losing a big chunk of his lands to the Brits he surrendered his control over the military to his son Louis. Philip hopes to find a political solution for the conflict that contents everybody but is overruled by the intervention of the cardinal.</p>	

Prince Louis	m major role
<p>The ambitious and hot-headed leader of the French military is destined to be a great ruler. Having learned from the best politicians Louis has become a calculating young man who makes wise choices. After the wedding with Blanche and Arthur's death though, he gets corrupted by power and attacks England, subsequently losing the war.</p>	

Blanche	f medium role
<p>The young lady from Spain is John's niece and is merely used as an instrument by her family to solve the conflict with France. After the wedding with Louis and the outbreak of war she stands between two sides and has to decide what is more important: family blood or your newly wed husband?</p>	

Austria	m/f minor role
<p>The ruthless, backstabbing Duke/Duchess of Austria played a big part in the assassination of King Richard Lionheart while on a states visit in Vienna. After siding with the French and wearing the skin of a lion he/she took from the dead Richard as a trophy, Austria gets killed out of revenge by the Bastard.</p>	

Cardinal Pandulph	m/f major role
<p>The emissary of the Pope excommunicates John because of a dispute over some archbishop and orders France to go to war against him. He secretly plots with Louis only to later make peace with John. Pandulph only acts to the benefits of Rome and becomes a powerful third political player besides France and England, acting as a mediator while pursuing his own agenda.</p>	

Pembroke, Salisbury & Essex	m/f 3 medium roles
<p>This unholy trio are John's advisors and they hold the highest offices in England. The opportunistic lords change sides to France after Arthur is killed but get back to John later after they find out the French planned to hang them after the war was over. They open and close the play participating in the coronation ceremony and represent those "2nd row politicians" that weasel their way out of every crisis while others fall.</p>	

Chatillon	m/f medium role
<p>This proud French ambassador is always the bearer of bad news: wars, weddings & widowmakings! After being wounded in the war, he/she warns the lords of Louis' plan to kill them before he dies. Also Chatillon gets yelled at a lot.</p>	

Prince Henry	m/f minor role
<p>Staying at home in England during the conflict in France, young Prince Henry doesn't get involved in the political chaos until the end: With his father John dying, Henry is his legitimate successor. Minutes after mourning his dad's death he gets crowned King Henry, totally not being ready for this position. Luckily the Bastard will be there to help him out...</p>	

Faulconbridge	m/f minor role
<p>The Bastard's younger sibling wants his/her (biological) father's legacy for his/her own. Faulconbridge would even ask the king himself to solve this conflict and won't care if their mother's reputation gets dragged through the mire.</p>	

Lady Faulconbridge	f minor role
<p>The Bastard's mother is shocked when she hears her children are running through the city saying she cheated on her husband. When she and the Bastard have some private talk though, she admits to have slept with King Richard Lionheart, confirming the rumours of the Bastard's descent.</p>	

Mayor of Angiers	m/f minor role
<p>The Mayor represents the proud people of Angiers, an English-occupied city on French territory. They have locked themselves inside their city walls and won't let anyone in until the Kings have agreed on who rightfully sits on the English throne. Being threatened with the destruction of the city, the Mayor proposes the idea of the wedding to temporally make piece between England and France.</p>	

Extras	
<p>3-4 extras will be needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lady Faulconbridge, Faulconbridge and Mayor can take part as an extra if they want because they only have one scene • otherwise stage hands will get the chance to play extras (e.g. secret service agents, photographers) 	