

PRESS RELEASE

T.S. ELIOT'S *MURDER IN THE CATHEDRAL*

AT TEMPLE CHURCH 30/31 JAN & 1 FEB 2015

845 years ago today, Thomas a Becket was murdered in Canterbury Cathedral by four knights purporting to do so on the orders of King Henry II.

80 years ago, T.S. Eliot wrote arguably his finest theatrical work inspired by these incidents; *Murder in the Cathedral*.

One month from now a unique collaboration between the legal and theatrical professions will bring Becket's martyrdom to life in the historic Temple Church in the centre of Middle and Inner Temple, two of the Inns of Court.

A professional cast featuring Philip Franks and Christopher Ravenscroft with Andrew Hall, Christopher Hollis and Patrick Toomey is working alongside actors drawn from the talents of the British and Irish Bar. The Chorus of the Women of Canterbury – the heart of Eliot's exploration of the meaning of Becket's martyrdom – is formed by some of the finest women advocates in the country ranging from high-flying young barristers to well-established QCs. The Priests – who battle with so much of Eliot's interpretation of the mysteries of Christian faith – similarly bring together talents from a recently called Barrister to an established Government Solicitor.

The production is directed by Joe Harmston and is the brain child of Stephen Hockman QC who will be Treasurer of Middle Temple in 2015. Stephen's passion for the connections between the worlds of advocacy and the stage and his love of Eliot's dramatic trial of Becket's motivation brought him together with Joe and Philip Franks and the three decided to make a lunch-time idea a reality.

There will be only three performances on Friday 30th & Saturday 31st January @ 7pm and Sunday 1 February @ 4 pm. Box Office www.templemusic.org or 020 7427 5641.

For further information contact Director Joe Harmston – joe@joeharmston.com or 07973 666 382

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