

A man with short brown hair and blue eyes, wearing a white shirt, holds a highly ornate sword vertically in front of his face. The sword's hilt is decorated with intricate carvings. The background is a deep red wall. On the left side, there is a vertical decorative border with a gold-colored, repeating floral pattern.

# THE TUDORS



A SHOWCASE ORIGINAL PRESENTATION

8.30pm Wednesdays from February 6

**showcase**



# THE TUDORS

A SHOWCASE ORIGINAL PRESENTATION

**Divorced, beheaded, died, divorced, beheaded, survived...**  
**The tale of the six wives of Henry VIII.**

Young, sexy, intriguing, romantic and infinitely more complex than he is commonly portrayed, THE TUDORS covers the ten tumultuous years leading to King Henry VIII's first divorce.

England's most infamous royal; Henry VIII was a super-sized King who consumed food and wives as voraciously as he dealt with those who crossed him.

Throughout history, he has been depicted as a rotund man of ruthless appetites with a monstrous ego, who eradicated any traditions that got in the way of his ambitions.

But the King in the pictures is only half the story; the roly-poly royal eclipses the view of a smart and sexy young man who has been overlooked - **until now.**



## KEY CAST

**Jonathan Rhys Meyers** ..... as King Henry VIII

**Sam Neill** ..... as Cardinal Wolsey

**Jeremy Northam** ..... as Sir Thomas More

**Natalie Dormer** ..... as Anne Boleyn

**Maria Doyle Kennedy** ..... as Queen Katherine

## CREW

**Morgan O'Sullivan** ..... Executive Producers  
& **Michael Hirst**

**Joan Bergin** ..... Costume Designer

**Steve Shill** Episodes 1, 3 & 4 ..... Directors

**Ciaran Donnelly** Episodes 9 & 10

**Brian Kirk** Episodes 5 & 6

**Alison Maclean** Episodes 7 & 8

**Charles McDougall** Episodes 1 & 2



EPISODIC  
SYNOPSIS

## EPISODE ONE



**Premieres 8.30pm February X.**  
When England's King Henry VIII wants to wage war with France, Cardinal Thomas Wolsey proposes a treaty that will ensure their place in history, as the Duke of Buckingham plots to assert his own claim to the throne.

## EPISODE TWO

**Premieres 8.30pm February X.**  
In the wake of signing the treaty with France, Henry learns of Buckingham's plot to assassinate him as Lady Blount finally bears him the son he has always wanted.

## EPISODE THREE



**Premieres 8.30pm February X**  
Henry moves to cement his new alliance with Spain's Emperor Charles V as Anne Boleyn begins her seduction of the English King.

## EPISODE FOUR

**Premieres 8.30pm February X.**  
Passion sparks between Brandon and Princess Margaret as he escorts her to Portugal for her marriage to the King. Norfolk and Sir Thomas conspire to discredit Wolsey, while King Henry seeks to divorce Queen Katherine.



## EPISODE FIVE

**Premieres 8.30pm February X.**  
Resolved to marry Anne Boleyn, Henry presses Wolsey for a divorce; a betrayal of their treaty by Charles V sends Henry seeking a rapprochement with the French.

## EPISODE SIX

**Premieres 8.30pm February X.**  
As Wolsey struggles to have the Church grant Henry a divorce, the King's infatuation with Anne Boleyn continues to grow.

## EPISODE SEVEN

**Premieres 8.30pm February X.**  
As the plague that is sweeping England threatens Anne's life, Henry anxiously awaits word from the Pope regarding his request for a divorce.





## EPISODE EIGHT

**Premieres 8.30pm February X.**

The arrival of the Pope's envoy brings a decision on Henry's request for a divorce closer than ever.

## EPISODE NINE

**Premieres 8.30pm February X.**

As Wolsey is driven into exile as a result of the campaign waged by Norfolk and Boleyn, Henry turns to More to be his new chancellor.

## EPISODE TEN



**Premieres 8.30pm February X.**

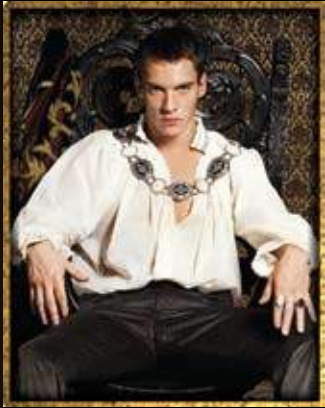
As More begins his bloody campaign to cleanse England of heretics, the exiled Cardinal Wolsey makes one last attempt to return to power.



# CAST BIOGRAPHIES



# ἸΟΝΑΤΗΑΝ ΡΗΥΣ ΜΕΥΕΡΣ



Jonathan Rhys Meyers first gained international attention for his starring role in Todd Haynes' **Velvet Goldmine** opposite Ewan McGregor, Christian Bale and Toni Collette. Rhys Meyers' daring performance as ex-glam rocker Brian Slade garnered him a London Film Critics Circle Award nomination. Since then, Rhys Meyers has landed many leading roles and has emerged as one of Hollywood's most sought-after leading men.

In 2006, Rhys Meyers received a Golden Globe Award for *Outstanding Lead Actor in a Miniseries or Movie* for his portrayal of the young Elvis Presley in the television miniseries **Elvis**. In addition to this honor, he received an Emmy® nomination.

Rhys Meyers was most recently seen in the much-anticipated action sequel **Mission: Impossible III** and will soon be seen in **August Rush**, directed by In America's Jim Sheridan.

In 2006, Rhys Meyers earned critical acclaim for his role in the highly anticipated Woody Allen film **Match Point**. Dubbed as Allen's comeback, the film was nominated for three Golden Globes, including *Best Picture*. **Match Point**, which co-starred Scarlett Johansson, debuted at the Cannes Film Festival in 2005, with Rhys Meyers winning the festival's *Chopard Trophy* for Male Revelation.

His other screen credits include **Bend It Like Beckham**, **Alexander** and **Vanity Fair** and on television, **The Lion in Winter**, **The Magnificent Ambersons**, **Gormenghast**, **The Tribe** and **Samson and Delilah**.

Born in Dublin, Rhys Meyers made his film debut in **A Man of No Importance**, and then played the young assassin in Neil Jordan's biopic **Michael Collins**. His subsequent film credits include **The Maker**, **Telling Lies In America**, starring Kevin Bacon, **The Governess**, opposite Minnie Driver, the thriller **B. Monkey**, Mike Figgis' **The Loss of Sexual Innocence**, Ang Lee's western **Ride With the Devil**, Julie Taymor's **Titus**, with Anthony Hopkins and Jessica Lange, **Prozac Nation** opposite Christina Ricci, **The Tesseract**, the crime drama **I'll Sleep When I'm Dead**, with Clive Owen and Charlotte Rampling and **The Emperor's Wife**.

## ΑΣ ΚΙΠΓ ΗΕΠΡΥ VIII

Henry was never intended for the throne of England. However, the death of his older brother Arthur at the age of 15 and his taking of his dead brother's bride, propelled the young prince into the limelight and laid the foundations for one of the most spectacular reigns in English history. The young Henry VIII was an artist, musician, theologian and sportsman - the perfect Renaissance prince but the failure of his first wife Katherine of Aragon to produce a male heir brought out his darker side. In his bid to produce an heir he would dismantle the established church in England, loot its possessions, and set himself up as an absolute monarch. By the time of his death, his desire to maintain his own magnificent dynasty had seen him marry six times and deplete the nation's coffers.



## ΠΑΤΑΛΙΕ ΔΟΡΜΕΡ



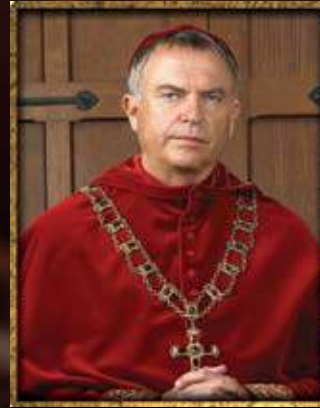
A native of Reading, England, Dormer had her breakthrough big screen debut opposite Heath Ledger in the period comedy **Casanova**, a film The New York Times described as, "...a lively, sly and altogether charming farce."

Along with considerable experience in British theatre, she lists appearances in such television series as **Rebus** and **Distant Shores** among her credits.

### ΑΣ ΑΝΝΕ ΒΟΛΕΥΠ

Anne Boleyn began her court life as one of Katherine of Aragon's ladies in waiting, and went on to become Henry VIII's second wife, bearing him one child, Elizabeth. She was a very powerful figure at court and found herself actively promoting the cause of Church reform; Henry's divorce from Katherine had been "legalised" through the Act of Supremacy which placed the King at the head of the Church in England, freed from Papal authority. However, her relationship with Henry was volatile: she was upset by his string of mistresses and he felt betrayed by her apparent inability to produce a son. On May 17th, 1536 she was accused of adultery, incest, witchcraft and high treason and two days later she was executed in the French style, with a sword.

## ΣΑΜ ΝΕΙΛΛ



Multiple Golden Globe nominee Sam Neill was born in Northern Ireland before his family returned to New Zealand when he was seven years old. His performance in **My Brilliant Career** was noticed by British actor James Mason who lobbied for Neill to get the lead role in **The Final Conflict**. In 1993, he achieved commercial and critical success with **Jurassic Park** and **The Piano**. Among his many credits are the two Jurassic Park sequels, **Event Horizon**, **The Horse**

**Whisperer**, **Wimbledon** and the highly acclaimed Australian TV mini-series **Mary Bryant**.

### ΑΣ ΚΑΡΔΙΝΑΛ ΤΗΟΜΑΣ ΒΟΛΣΕΥ

With Henry VIII's accession Wolsey's political power increased enormously and he was made a cardinal of the Catholic church in 1515; he organised the Field of the Cloth of Gold (near Calais) to try to make peace with France some five years later and in 1523 he was made Prince-Bishop of Durham. He lived in luxury at Hampton Court Palace and wielded an extraordinary amount of power which did not always sit well with the nobles at court. He was, however, unwilling to support the king in his request for an annulment of his marriage to Katherine of Aragon. This stance angered the King and made an enemy of his mistress, soon to be Queen, Anne Boleyn and all his power and the splendid trappings that went with it were removed from him.

## JEREMY NORTHAM



Jeremy Northam made his American film debut in **The Net**, but has appeared frequently in British period films such as **Carrington, Emma, The Winslow Boy, An Ideal Husband, Enigma**, and as famed actor and singer Ivor Novello in Robert Altman's Oscar® - winning **Gosford Park**.

### AS SIR THOMAS MORE

Sir Thomas More was a scholar, author and a statesman. During his political career he was secretary and personal advisor to Henry VIII, Speaker of the House of Commons, chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Lord Chancellor. He refused to sign a letter asking the Pope to annul Henry's marriage to Katherine of Aragon and did not accept Henry's claim to be head of the Church of England. In 1535 he was tried for high treason and was beheaded. His body was buried in the Tower of London while his head was hung over London Bridge for a month from where it was rescued by his daughter Margaret. He was canonised in the Catholic Church in 1935.

## GABRIELLE ANWAR



Born in Laleham, Middlesex, England, the talented Gabrielle Anwar has more than forty-five film and television performances to her credit, including her 1992 breakout film **Scent of a Woman**, in which she appeared opposite Al Pacino. She has netted compelling performances in Barry Sonnenfeld's **For Love or Money**, where she starred opposite Michael J. Fox, and Gary Fleder's **Things To Do in Denver When You're Dead**, starring alongside Andy Garcia.

### AS PRINCESS MARGARET TUDOR

Margaret was the elder sister of Henry VIII and spent most of her life embroiled in the complicated political relationship between England and Scotland. She married James IV of Scotland, who died at the Battle of Flodden Field whereupon she became regent to her infant son, James V (who would become the father of Mary, Queen of Scots). However, when she embarked upon her second marriage, to Archibald Douglas, 6th Earl of Angus, the regency was removed from her and she fled to England. Within a few years she became estranged from her husband and was divorced and soon after married Henry Stuart, later Lord Methven. She tried to arrange a meeting between her son James V and her brother Henry VIII but this only led to James accusing her of betrayal; he also refused to let her divorce Methven. She died of a severe stroke in 1541.

## CALLUM BLUE

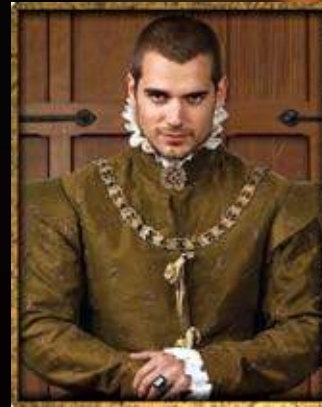


Callum Blue hails from London, England, with a wealth of experience in television and film on both sides of the Atlantic. He is best known in the U.S. for his role as Grim Reaper Mason on the hit series, **Dead Like Me**, and as Bob Spencer in The comedy series **Related**. He has also appeared in the British teen comedy-drama series **What If** and the Emmy® Award-winning **Grey's Anatomy**. Among his film credits are **The Princess Diaries 2** and **Caffeine**.

## AS ANTHONY KNIVERT†

Sir Anthony Knivert was born around the date of the battle of Bosworth Field (1485) the son of Sir Edmund Knivert of Buckenham Castle in Norfolk. He became a gentleman of the Royal Household during the reign of Henry VIII and was disliked by Wolsey who felt that his youthful antics were a bad influence on the young king. He did however manage to survive attempted purges of the kings household and was appointed sheriff of Flint on April 1st, 1528, a position he held until 1532. From 1536 to 1543 he held the position of "Black Rod" in the House of Lords. He was married twice, firstly to Matila, about whom nothing further is known and secondly to Avis (or Avice) Gibson, the widow of Nicholas Gibson a former Sheriff of London. He died in 1549.

## HENRY CAVILL



Henry Cavill began his career as an actor in Stowe Boarding School in England where he appeared in many student productions. He has appeared in several films, including **The Count of Monte Cristo**, **1 Capture the Castle**, **Riding Hood**, **Hellraiser: Hellworld** and the film adaptation of the myth of **Tristan & Isolde**. He recently was seen alongside Robert DeNiro and Claire Danes in the magical-realist fantasy **Stardust**.

## AS CHARLES BRANDON, 1ST DUKE OF SUFFOLK

Charles Brandon was was brought up at the court of Henry VII and became a favourite of Henry VIII. He held several posts in the royal household and distinguished himself in the French campaign of 1513. In 1515 he privately married Mary Tudor, Louis XII's (king of France) widow and Henry VIII's sister, to avoid the political difficulties surrounding the marriage - Henry was keen to acquire the gold plate and jewels which Louis had promised Mary before his death and he made it clear he would only sanction Suffolk's marriage to her if he did indeed get them. Wolsey brokered a deal, however and the couple were able to have a public wedding some months later. Suffolk supported Henry's divorce from Katherine of Aragon, in direct opposition to Wolsey, and after the latter's disgrace, his influence increased rapidly to the point where he acted as High Steward at the coronation of Anne Boleyn.

## MARIA DOYLE KENNEDY

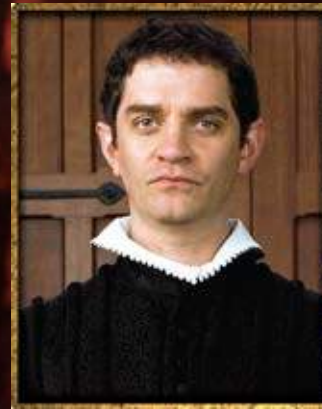


Maria made her big-screen debut in 1991 in Alan Parker's **The Commitments**. Among her feature film credits are **The General** and **Tara Road**. She has an established career as an actress in television where her credits include **Oliver Twist**, the British version of **Queer As Folk** and **Hide and Seek**.

### AS QUEEN KATHERINE OF ARAGON

Katherine was the youngest daughter of Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain. She was betrothed to Arthur, eldest son of Henry VII when she was three years old. The couple married 13 years later, but he died after only six months. She married his younger, but more vigorous brother, Henry, in 1509, when he acceded to the throne. Henry was keen for a male heir, but Katherine's babies were either stillborn, miscarried or short lived until 1516 when she gave birth to a healthy baby girl, Mary (later to become Mary I Tudor). By the time Katherine was 42, her husband's frustration at a lack of a male heir and his interest in one of her ladies in waiting, Anne Boleyn, was common knowledge. Henry began to petition the Pope for an annulment of his marriage, but the Pope stalled and eventually Henry married Anne anyway and had Parliament pass the Act of Supremacy which put him at the head of the English church and therefore outside the control of Rome. Katherine never acknowledged the divorce and was forced to leave the court.

## JAMES FRAIN



James Frain was discovered at college by Sir Richard Attenborough, who directed him in his feature film debut, **Shadowlands** in 1993. He has since appeared in **Nothing Personal**, **Elizabeth**, **Hilary and Jackie**, **Titus**, and **Where the Heart Is**. In addition, Frain boasts an impressive theatrical resume, appearing in productions with the Royal Court Theatre and the Royal Shakespeare Company.

### AS THOMAS CROMWELL, EARL OF ESSEX

Thomas Cromwell became a member of the English Parliament in 1523. Just nine years later, having gained the King's confidence, he was Henry VIII's chief minister. Under his leadership of Parliament the English Reformation proceeded apace and acts were passed which freed Henry from the control of Rome, establishing him as head of the English church and enabling him to divorce his first wife, Katherine of Aragon. Cromwell also presided over the dissolution of the monasteries, and in 1540 he was created Earl of Essex. His advice to Henry to marry Anne of Cleves, a disastrous alliance, gave his political enemies (most notably Thomas Howard, 3rd Duke of Norfolk) the ammunition they needed to remove him from office. He was arrested, imprisoned and executed privately at the Tower of London in 1540 after which his head was boiled and set upon a spike on London Bridge.

## KRIS HOLDEN-REID



Kris Holden-Reid is a champion rider and fencer and a former member of the Canadian National Pentathlon Team. He holds a silver medal from both the Pan American and Pan Pacific Pentathlon Championships.

Holden-Reid has built a respected and growing reputation as an actor. He appeared in the bittersweet drama **Big Girl**, had roles in **Touch of Pink**, **Alice Blue**, **Icebound**, **K-19: The Widowmaker** and **Chasing Cain**. He

has held recurring roles on television's **Degrassi: The Next Generation** and **Paradise Falls**.

### AS WILLIAM COMPTON

When his father, Sir Edmund Compton, died, William became a ward of the crown and a page to the young prince Henry at the court of Henry VII. A friendship developed between the two boys which continued after the death of the old king and the succession of Henry VIII. His apparent involvement with Anne Stafford, wife of Sir George Hastings (later Earl of Huntingdon) and sister of the 3rd Duke of Buckingham, caused Cardinal Wolsey to accuse him of adultery and Sir George to take his wife to the safety of a nunnery. His attentions had been noted by Elizabeth, Anne's sister, who informed their brother who quarrelled with Compton and the King before storming from the court.

## STEVEN WADDINGTON



Waddington is best known for his extensive film career, with credits including **Edward II**, **Last of the Mohicans**, **Carrington**, **Face**, **The Hole**, **Sleepy Hollow**, **The Parole Officer** and **Breakfast on Pluto**. His television credits include **Ivanhoe**, **Boudica** and **The Curse of King Tut's Tomb**. He has appeared on stage in **Barbarians**, **Pericles**, **Coriolanus**, **All's Well That Ends Well**, and **900 Oneonta**.

### AS EDWARD STAFFORD, 3RD DUKE OF BUCKINGHAM

When Edward was just five years old, in 1483, his father, Henry Stafford, 2nd Duke of Buckingham, was executed and "attainted" for rebelling against King Richard III of England. This attainder meant that he and his heirs forfeit their dukedom. When Henry VII came to power, however, two years later, this decision was reversed and the young Edward, now 3rd Duke of Buckingham, was made the ward of Margaret Beaufort, the King's mother. That his guardian was such a close relation of the King is not surprising as his Queen, Elizabeth of York, was the young Duke's cousin on his mother's side. He was made a Knight of the Garter in 1495 and was Lord High Steward at Henry VIII's coronation where he also carried the King's crown. Buckingham became the leader of a group of disaffected noblemen and was ultimately arrested, tried and executed in 1521 on charges which are generally considered to have been fabricated.



# showcase™

The new premium channel in the SHOWTIME package of channels, SHOWCASE offers landmark Australian drama, groundbreaking original series as well as outstanding independent film and feature length documentaries sourced from Fox Searchlight, Paramount Vantage, Working Title, Sony Classics, Madman and Icon among others. SHOWTIME is the provider of Australia's premium suite of movie and original television channels: SHOWTIME, SHOWTIME 2, SHOWCASE and SHOWTIME Greats.

Jointly owned by four of the world's leading film studios NBC Universal, Paramount Pictures, Sony Pictures and 20th Century Fox, as well as global television distributor Liberty Global International, the SHOWTIME channels are available on FOXTEL, AUSTAR and Optus.

For more information, please contact:

Lori Killesteyn  
Publicist  
P 02 8374 6820  
M 0404 881 687  
E [lkillesteyn@showtime.com.au](mailto:lkillesteyn@showtime.com.au)

© The Premium Movie Partnership 2007. For publicity purposes only. Not for resale.

Available on

  
132 342

  
1300 FOXTEL