

## THEATER NEWS

### Two River Theater Explores Political Power and Succession With *The Lion in Winter*

Tony nominees Michael Cumpsty and Dee Hoty lead the cast.

**Jason Zednick** • **New Jersey** • **Nov 12, 2016**



The cast of James Goldman's *The Lion in Winter*, directed by Tyne Rafaeli, at Two River Theater. (© Amanda Crommett)

*The Lion in Winter* begins performances tonight at Two River Theater.

Set during Christmas 1183, James Goldman's play explores the relationships between King Henry II of England; his wife, Eleanor of Aquitaine; and their sons, Richard, Geoffrey, and John, as they open old wounds — while making new ones — and fight over who will rule the land after Henry's death. Tyne Rafaeli directs.

Tony Award nominee Michael Cumpsty leads the cast as Henry II alongside Tony Award nominee Dee Hoty as Eleanor of Aquitaine. They are joined by Noah Averbach-Katz (John), KeiLyn Durrel Jones (Richard), Ronald Peet (Philip), Hubert Point-Du Jour (Geoffrey), and Madeleine Rogers (Alais).

"Questions about the battle for succession and the demands of leadership have never felt more pertinent," says artistic director John Dias. "What makes *The Lion in Winter* feel so immediate and fresh is how it bridges great political posturing and intense personal and domestic intrigue. The play is not only about the battle over succession — it's also a family drama, and very fun to watch."

The creative team includes Kristen Robinson (scenic design), Andrea Hood (costume design), Jennifer Tipton (lighting design), Josh Schmidt (sound designer), Dave Bova (hair and makeup design), J. Jarad Janas (hair and makeup design), and J. Steven White (fight direction).

Performances run through December 4.  
For more information and tickets, [click here](#).