



Helena Bonham Carter



Merle Oberon



Genevieve Bujold



Charlotte Rampling

Was she innocent or guilty—and if guilty, guilty of what. For historians, playwrights and novelists the enigmatic Boleyn presents one of history’s great dramas.

In Scottish law the verdict ‘not proven’ is different to ‘not guilty’ and even at the time of her execution some, including her enemies, the Spanish ambassador a defender of Catherine of Aragon, believed that ‘not proven’ would be a fairer verdict.

Was Anne a victim of a lover’s quarrel or was the real issue that she had not produced a male heir in a highly dynastic age. Was she the adulteress claimed at her trial. This is the historians’ dilemma. Many distinguished actresses have played Anne on screen and TV. Helena Bonham Carter in **Henry VIII**; Natalie Portman in **The Other Boleyn Girl**, Natalie Dormer in **The Tudors**; Claire Foy in **Wolf Hall**, Charlotte Rampling in **Henry VIII and His Six Wives**, Genevieve Bujold in **Anne of the Thousand Days**, Merle Oberon In **The Private Life of Henry VIII**, and Vanessa Redgrave (in a nonspeaking role) in **A Man for All Seasons**.



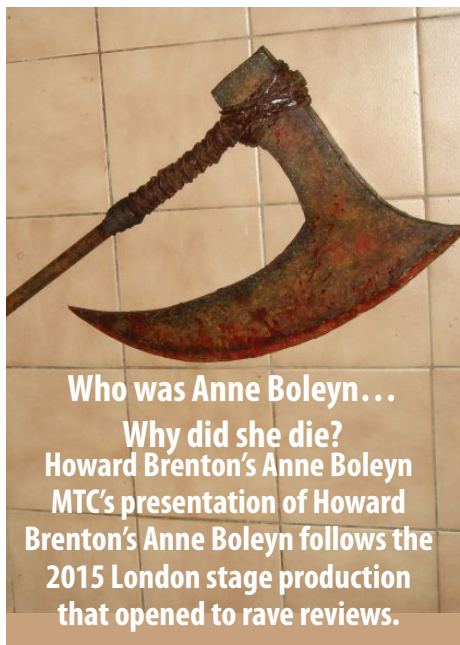
Natalie Portman



Natalie Dormer



Claire Foy



Who was Anne Boleyn...
Why did she die?
Howard Brenton’s Anne Boleyn
MTC’s presentation of Howard
Brenton’s Anne Boleyn follows the
2015 London stage production
that opened to rave reviews.

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1501
TO
1536

History 1501–1536

1501 (or possibly 1507): Anne is born at Blickling, Norfolk, to Thomas Boleyn and his wife, Elizabeth (daughter of Thomas Howard, later second Duke of Norfolk). Historians debate whether Anne was born in 1501 or 1507.

1513 Her first post in was maid-of-honour at the court of Margaret, archduchess of Austria; then later she serves Mary, queen of France, wife of Louis XII (Henry VIII’s sister). After Louis’ death, Anne remains at the court of the new French queen, Claude, for seven years

1521: Anne recalled to England by her father and makes her first appearance at Henry VIII’s court, when Henry was having an affair with Anne’s sister, Mary.

1526: she becomes object of his love. Henry’s letter of 1527 states that for more than one year he had been “struck by the dart of love” and asks Anne to “give herself body and heart to him”

1532/33: The royal wedding. The official wedding is held in January 1533, but they are probably married secretly at Dover in October 1532. Henry’s marriage to Catherine of Aragon is not annulled until May 1533

1533 7 September: The birth of Elizabeth and 29 January 1536: The miscarriage of a male fetus

1536 2 May: Anne is arrested and taken to the Tower, along with her brother George Boleyn, Lord Rochford



On April 16th and April 24th, historian and theater critic Peter Robinson, in a pre-show talk explores Henry VIII’s relations with Anne Boleyn; the affair, the execution and the consequences. He fast-forwards to the reign of James I, with questions about how the story unfolded 70 years later.

Peter Robinson is a graduate of Cambridge University (UK). He is now the editor of San Francisco Books & Travel magazine and President of the San Francisco Literary Society. He is a popular commentator on KALW 91.7fm.