

Script

Scene 1: Edward Dies

Scene 2: The Witan

Scene 3: Harold's Coronation

Scene 4: At William's Castle in Rouen

Scene 5: A Comet Appears in the Sky

Scene 6: Harold gets the message that Tostig and Hadrada have invaded York.

Scene 7: Map of England / Battle of York

Scene 8: Harold and Alditha

Scene 9: Harold and Edyth near the Battlefield

Scene 10: The Battle

Scene 11: On the Battlefield

Scene 12: The English Have Lost

Scene 13: The Normans Celebrating their Victory

Characters

Sir Harold Godwinson

- Alditha Godwinson, his wife
- Edyth Swanhaels, his mistress
- Leofwine Godwinson, his brother
- Gyrrh Godwinson, his brother
- Tostig Godwinson, Earl of Northumbria, his brother

Edward the Confessor

- Edith Godwinson, his wife

William Duke of Normandy

- Mathilda, his wife
- Agatha, his daughter
- Guillaume Fitz Osborn, his best friend

Others:

- Archbishop Stigand of Canterbury
- Bishop Ealdred of London
- Edgar (the aethling)
- Morkere
- Sir Eadwine
- Messenger in England
- Messenger in Normandy
- Monk
- Ten Saxon Housecarls and Fyrd
- Ten Norman Knights
- Seven women with children
- Six Guards
- Storyteller

Scene 1

Edward Dies

**We are in Edward's bedroom, he is dying.
Edith, his wife and Bishop Stigand, Harold Godwinson, the maid and two
guards are with him.**

| Characters | Text | Stage Directions |
|--------------------------|--|--|
| | | Camera on Edward, - zooms away slowly - Messenger appears and asks (worried) Maid answers (quietly) |
| Messenger(1): | How is he? | |
| Maid: | He is very weak, he will die soon! | |
| Edith: | You cannot leave me now. What should I and England do without you? | Edith is afraid and says to Edward: * howl * |
| Edward: | You will manage without me! And my successor... | Edward speaks with heavy breath. cough, rattle |
| Edith: | Who? | Edith excited |
| Edward: | ... my successor, Harold Godwinson. He will care for you and my country. | Edward slowly lifts his head. He lowers it again and puts his hand on Harold's head. He breathes his last breath out, the hand falls down. Edith breaks out in tears. |
| Harold Godwinson: | I will not disappoint your trust. Don't worry, dear sister. | - to the dying King Edward, turns round, puts his hand on Edith's shoulder. - to his sister, the Queen |
| Bishop Stigand: | In nominae Patri et Filii et Spiritus Sanctus ... | Bishop Stigand begins a prayer and gives him the blessing. Camera fades out slowly. |

Scene 2

We are at the High Council, the lords and earls of the Witan have assembled.

| Characters | Text | Stage Directions |
|--------------------------|---|--|
| | | Lords and earls of the Witan are sitting at a long table. - waiting, discussing the future. |
| Eadwine: | My lords and gentlemen, we must discuss who will be the successor of our king Edward. It's possible that the King will die this night and it lays by us to say who will be the next king of England. I think I will ... | Eadwine stands up. |
| Stigand (to all): | The King is dead. | But then he is interrupted by Stigand, who comes in with Harold; very earnest. They walk to the table. |
| Eadwine: | Lords and gentlemen, now it's the time to make a decision. | The people are frightened and at a loss. After a little time... Eadwine stands up and takes the word. |
| Stigand: | I would like to lay my right to name the king in your hands, my lords of the Witan. You must choose the next king of England. I must tell you, it was Edward's last will that Harold should become the new king. | Stigand seizes the word. Camera on Stigand |
| Eadwine: | He has already reigned England during Edward's long illness. What is your idea? Sir Gyrrh, Earl of East Anglia. | -Stands up. To Gyrrh |
| Gyrrh: | Let it be Harold. | -Sits down. Camera on Gyrrh -Stands up. -Sits down. |

Scene 4

William and the others are in his castle in Rouen, Normandy. Some knights are training outside.

| Characters | Text | Stage Directions |
|--------------------------|---|---|
| Messenger (asks): | Ou est le Duke? | <p>Julia moderates the scene. We see some knights fighting with swords. A messenger comes running up the hill. He shouts.</p> <p>A soldier brings the messenger to Duke William.</p> <p>Now we are in a great hall. William is sitting on a chair with his wife Mathilda.</p> <p>The Messenger comes and gives him a letter from the house Godwinson.</p> |
| William: | Mathilda, my Cherie. | |
| Mathilda: | Oh, William. | |
| Messenger: | Mon Roi, je vouz rapporte une nouvelle de pays Britannique. | |
| William: | Qu'est –ce que vouz avez pour moi? | |
| Messenger: | I should give you a letter from the house Godwinson. | |
| William: | Oh, great! Wait here, I must go to the toilette! | |
| (to the monk) | Translate this letter for me! | William gets a monk. |
| Monk: | Yes, of course, my lord! Edward, King of England, is dead. Harold Godwinson is the new king. | Monk takes the letter. |
| William: | Oh, merde! Can you say that again? I can't believe it. | |
| Monk: | King Edward is dead! Harold Godwinson is the new king. | William runs quickly back and forth and becomes angry. |
| William: | I should be the king. That's not the last word. You will have to suffer for this message. | (to the messenger) |
| Mathilda: | What's the matter? | |
| William: | Harold is the king and not me! Go down on your knees and give me your hand! | In this moment William cuts the messenger's hand off. |

Scene 5

Some women are in the forest and see the comet.

| Characters | Text | Stage Directions |
|----------------------|--|---|
| | | 6 women and two children are collecting firewood. |
| Woman 6: | Oh, look! What's this? | Camera on one woman, near - a voice in the background |
| All women: | Oh, my God! | The woman runs to her friends - picture of the comet - |
| Woman 3: | What could it be? | Camera on the group |
| Older child: | That's Santa Claus. | - annoyed |
| Woman 5: | Oh, no, you silly woman. That's an explosion. | |
| Woman 6: | I don't know. But I'm sure, it is a bad sign. | - very serious |
| Mother: | Yes, it is, it is a very bad sign. | - frightened |
| Woman 2: | Today is the end, you know. | |
| Woman 6: | Today is the Judgement Day!! | |
| Woman 5: | Oh. Shut up! I believe, it's a bad sign but not as bad as you say. | - panicky |
| Woman 3: | But what does it mean for us? | - inspired |
| Older child: | Mum, is that the real Santa Claus? | |
| Mother: | I don't think so!! | |
| Little child: | Mummy, it's Christmas! | |
| Mother: | No, we've had Christmas. | - to the child |
| Monk: | Go down on your knees and repent your sins! | M. comes in from the side and speaks to the women. |

Scene 6

Harold Godwinson is in his room and gets the message that Tostig and Hardrada have invaded York.

| Characters | Text | Stage Directions |
|--|--|---|
| <p style="text-align: center;">Messenger(1):</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Harold G.:</p> | <p>“Excuse me, Milord. Your brother Tosting and Harold Hardrada broke in with more than 300 ships. Now they are marching to York.”</p> <p>“He will be sorry for that.”</p> | <p>Harold sits at his table and is writing. In this moment a messenger comes in.</p> <p>Harold jumps up angrily.</p> <p>Camera fades out.</p> |

Scene 7

Map of England/Battle of York

| Characters | Text | Stage Directions |
|----------------------------------|--|--|
| 1st Housecarl: | So, we were called by Harold. We all came together in London. | 2 housecarls right and left of the map. -shows with his axe |
| 2nd Housecarl: | When we all had gathered, we took our weapons and started the long and hard march... | |
| 1st Housecarl: | ...to York where Hardrada and Harold's brother Tostig were waiting to defeat us. | Camera on 1 st Housecarl. |
| 2nd Housecarl: | Yeah, but they didn't! They were defeated... | Camera on both. |
| 1st Housecarl: | ...slaughtered. | 1 st Housecarl laughs. |
| 2nd Housecarl: | We made minced meat out of the Danish. | |
| 1st Housecarl: | That's true, but it wasn't that easy! After that hard fight, saving England and a few pints of beer we marched home again. | |
| 2nd Housecarl: | What we didn't know was that the next bad message was on its way. | |

Scene 8

**Harold and Alditha are sitting in their room in Harold's castle in London.
Harold is sitting opposite of Alditha.**

| Name | Text | Stage Directions |
|----------------------|---|---|
| Alditha: | I have very important news for you. I'm pregnant. | Shy, a bit afraid |
| Harold: | That's beautiful. I'm so lucky. This is good news in these bad times. He shall be our next king. | Harold is astonished and happy. He kisses her hand. |
| Alditha: | I'm so relieved about your joy. I thought you wouldn't be so happy, because I'm not the only woman in your life. | - relieved |
| Alditha: | I ... | |
| Messenger(1): | My King, please forgive me... William, he he ... he | A messenger opens the door and runs over to the king, Harold and Alditha look up. |
| Harold: | What has happend ? | Harold is angry and jumps up. |
| Messenger: | William has invaded England! | Harold is shocked. |
| Harold: | That's not true! I must leave immediatly! | Harold starts to rush out of the room, but Aldytha holds him back. |
| Alditha: | My Lord, please, take your mistress Edyth with you. I would be happy to know that someone will care for you! Please... | - pleadingly, looks at Harold lovingly |
| Harold: | I will do that, but do you really agree? | - to his wife |
| Alditha: | Yes, I do. | with a sad voice |

Scene 9

**We are in front of a tent near the battlefield.
Harold and his mistress are in it.**

| Characters | Text | Stage Directions |
|----------------------------------|--|---|
| | | Camera shows the background. Some fyrds are sitting there at the fire. Harold comes out of his tent. |
| Harold: | What a good day for a successful battle. | |
| Harold: | Good morning! | Edyth comes out of the tent, too. |
| Edyth: | Good morning, darling. Oh Harold, please don't leave me. | |
| Harold: | Don't worry, I'll be back soon. | |
| Edyth: | Ok, I wish you a good fight. | Harold takes the battleaxe from the tent and swings it in the air, then onto the ground. He tries to pull the axe out. |
| Harold: | Thank you! | |
| | This damned bl*#* axe! | At last Harold pulls the battleaxe out, it flies and hits a man, who shouts in the background. Harold talks with his brothers and Housecarls. They come out of their tent, one by one, and they all say good morning to each other. |
| 1st Housecarl: | Are you ready to fight? | |
| Harold: | Of course, I am ready to fight. | |
| Eadwine: | We will fight for you. | The Housecarls and Harold talk about their success. |
| Harold: | Let's beat them all. | Camera shows the Fyrd. |
| 1st Fyrd: | We will die, I'm sure. | |
| 2nd Fyrd: | Oh, no, we won't die, we will be slaughtered. | |
| 3rd Fyrd: | We must stand up! | The sleeping Fyrd get up and complain about the lords. |
| 4th Fyrd: | These damned lords! We must sleep on this wet ground and they can sleep in a tent. | |

Scene 10

The Battle

| Characters | Text | Stage Directions |
|-----------------------|--|--|
| Saxon Outlook: | The French are coming! | - comes running to Harold's army |
| | | The Norman army marches towards the battlefield. |
| | | Camera on William William starts the attack. |
| William: | First the archers. Take out your bows and kill them all! | We see the archers shoot off their arrows. These are held off by the Saxon shields. |
| Harold: | Are you ready to fight? We must win this battle. The future of England is in your hands. Use your shields to protect yourselves. | Camera on Harold - speaks to his soldiers |
| | Now you can come. | - turns round - to William's army |
| William: | Stop it! The arrows are not effective. Take out your swords, now let the party begin. | Camera on William - to his men |
| Harold: | They are coming, but wait until they are here. Now they are close enough. Kill them all. | The Normans run up the hill and fight, but they are beaten by the English. They run away down the hill again, the English are happy. |
| Storyteller: | The French were stunned. They couldn't do anything. They ran down the hill until they were out of range. Those who were able, frightened more by the duke than they were of the English, turned round and staggered back to the slope. | The storyteller moderates the battle. Camera on the moderator. |

Scene 11

On the Battlefield

| Characters | Text | Stage Directions |
|----------------------------|---|--|
| | | (Pützborn) The two women go to the battlefield. The battle is over. They walk across the battlefield. |
| Edyth: | Oh my God, look... all these brave and powerful men! Now they're all dead. Come with me to William. I will ask him, if I can have Harold's body. I want to see him for the last time to say good-bye to him. | - to her maid Mary |
| Mary, Edyth's maid: | Oh no, no... no... no! Robert, my one and only! Don't leave me, I need you!!! | They walk slowly and carefully, searching the battlefield. Mary looks over the field. Suddenly she screams and runs to a man who lies on the ground. - crying |
| Edyth: | Oh Mary! Come, he is dead, Harold is dead, they are all dead!!! | |
| Mary: | My Lady, it hurts so much! We wanted to marry! | |
| Edyth: | I'm sorry about that. Look, there is William with a guard. | They go silently and crying to the two men. - Cut - When they want to speak with William the guard stops the two women. |
| Fitz Osborn: | What do you want? | Camera on Edyth and F. Osborn |
| Edyth: | We want to speak with William, it's very important! I am Harold's mistress! | |
| Fitz Osborn: | Hm...Okay! I will allow it! But only a short time! | Edyth is nervous. The two women pass the guard. |

Scene 12

The English Have Lost

| Characters | Text | Stage Directions |
|---------------------|--|---|
| Storyteller: | <p>So William Duke of Normandy became William “King of England”!</p> <p>It was a long and hard fight. Many brave and courageous warriors died.</p> <p>William was the victor in one of the hardest fought battles on English soil. He was the last man who conquered England.</p> <p>Now they are celebrating their victory.</p> | <p>- On the battlefield - Camera on storyteller Storyteller tells:</p> <p>Storyteller walks over the battlefield.</p> <p>- Cut - - Blend to the party in scene 13</p> |

Scene 13

The Normans are celebrating their victory and William's coronation.

| Characters | Text | Stage Directions |
|-----------------|--|--|
| | | <p>In the King's Palace in London (Kiefernhof)</p> <p>Musicians play for the Norman and Saxon nobles. William is sitting on the English throne, beside him his wife Mathilda, also at the table his daughter Agatha, Bishop Stigand and others</p> <p>Stigand stands up and speaks a toast to William.</p> |
| Stigand: | <p>Silence please! We wish you a good start for your reign. May he be a great and good king of England and of the English! A toast to William!</p> | <p>Stigand sits down again.</p> |
| William: | <p>Thank you, guys, your words delight me. Let the people dance, music!</p> | <p>William claps with his hands, "The party can start."</p> <p>Musicians play medievil music.</p> <p>People (nobles) go to the dance floor. First they dance a classical dance, but then ... Surprise!</p> |

Rap : 1066

Now William, Duke of Normandy
Was England's highest man.
Crowned the King at Westminster,
He didn't have a fan.

His rule was hard, his hand was quick
To punish English men.
But that brought quiet to the land,
Peace was restored again.

Chorus:

**He had the Domesday Book,
He had the Domesday Book.
So he knew how much money
From the Englishmen he took.**

**He had the Domesday Book,
He had the Domesday Book.
So he knew how much money
From the Englishmen he took.**

The English got some more new words,
The Normans got their beer.
The castles now were built of stone,
The people needn't fear...

...any other mighty man,
Who came to get their land,
No Viking king,
No Dansih prince set foot on England's sand.

Chorus:

**He had the Domesday Book,
He had the Domesday Book.
So he knew how much money
From the Englishmen he took.**

**He had the Domesday Book,
He had the Domesday Book.
So he knew how much money
From the Englishmen he took.**

Harold Godwinson

Come here and we'll tell you a story
Of the last of the Saxon kings.
It's a story of Harold Godwinson,
Of the man and his deeds it sings.

Born was he in 1023
Under Danish King Cnut's reign.
Under Edward the Confessor he became a man.
By William he was to be slain.

When Edward died in 1066
The Witan made Harold the King.
They voted for the bravest knight,
The best they trusted in.

In Wales and in Northumbria
Many battles he fought for his land.
T'was never a braver or kinder man
Who had the rule in his hand.

In April a comet appeared in the sky.
Many people asked "Why?"
The church claimed it was a very bad sign
And many a person would die.

It was October the 9th when the message came,
William had crossed the sea.
To Aldytha, his queen, Harold said good-bye,
To Edyth he said, "Come with me!"

So the Fyrd and the Housecarls were called once more.
They marched south to Hastings Town,
There to meet Duke William's men
And fight for the English crown.

They fought on the 14th day of that month,
It was a bloody and terrible fight.
With arrows and axes, with lances and swords,
More than 6000 died by that night.

The battle was lost and Harold was dead.