



In the mid nineties I had the great good fortune to be in Atom Egoyan's film *The Sweet Hereafter* which starred Ian Holm - a great and generous actor and man. He was about the same age then as I am now. One day I asked him what he was going to be doing after this film and he said "I am going to play Lear - and I'm beginning to prepare now because if you're going to do it you have to go all the way". I nodded - not fully understanding what he meant. I asked him if he had ever been in the play before and he said "once, I played the Fool". I asked who had played Lear then and he said Charles Laughton.

I have never been in Lear before but I have seen it played by the likes of Peter Ustinov, Bill Hutt, Christopher Plummer, Brian Bedford, Colm Feore and Seana McKenna. And I think, watching them, I began to understand what Ian meant. Now, I am in this play and I most certainly do know what he meant.

Watching all of us in this cast strive to understand and bring to life all the multiple stories of pain, and suffering and love you can't help but fall in love with this play, as you realize that it seems to encompass almost everything, all of life and death, and how could you possibly even begin to inhabit that world unless - you go all the way.

**TOM MCCAMUS**

King Lear in *King Lear*