

The **4MBS BRISBANE SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL 2021** presents

SHAKESPEARE'S

MACBETH

Roma Street Parkland Amphitheatre | Sat 30 & Sun 31 Oct 2021



CAST

MACBETH | Stephen Hirst
LADY MACBETH | Sarah McLeod
DUNCAN / SIWARD | Frank McMahan
MACDUFF | Jason McKell
LADY MACDUFF / NURSE | Tahlia Downs
BANQUO / YOUNG SIWARD | Samuel Valentine
MALCOLM | Grady Rosevear
ROSS | Alex Letts

LENNOX | Ben Walton
FIRST WITCH | Lauren Storey
SECOND WITCH | Nadia Milford
THIRD WITCH | Tarik Dibb
PORTER / SEYTON / MURDERER | Chris Kellett
DOCTOR / OLD MAN / MURDERER | Danny Brown
FLEANCE / SON / APPARITIONS | Declan Coyle

CREATIVES AND CREW

Director | Eugene Gilfedder
Costume Designer / Assistant Director | Xanthe Jones
Production Manager | Ben Lynskey
Stage Manager / Assistant Director | Mikayla Hosking
Fight Director | Jason McKell
Costume Coordinator | Frances Foo
Assistant Costume Designer | Stefan Cooper-Fox
Lighting & sound operation | Vast AV
Staging | Pro-Stage Queensland

FESTIVAL STAFF

Festival Founder | Gary Thorpe
Classic Arts Manager | Maggie Findlay
Marketing/Events Producer | Wendy Lang

PRE-PLAY ENTERTAINMENT

Mandolins in Brisbane (Saturday)
Prima Spada School of Fence (Sat & Sun)
Pipers Bruce Campbell & Liam Docherty
from Brisbane Boys' College Pipe Band (Sat & Sun)
The Stowaways (Sunday)
Maxine Mellor & Nadine Kelly (kids' activity - Sun)

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The story of...MACBETH

Summary from the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust | www.shakespeare.org.uk

Act I

On a bleak Scottish moorland, Macbeth and Banquo, two of King Duncan's generals, discover three strange women (witches). The witches prophesy that Macbeth will be promoted twice: to Thane of Cawdor (a rank of the aristocracy bestowed by grateful kings) and King of Scotland. Banquo's descendants will be kings, but Banquo isn't promised any kingdom himself. The generals want to hear more, but the "weird sisters" disappear.

Soon afterwards, King Duncan names Macbeth 'Thane of Cawdor' as a reward for his success in the recent battles. The promotion seems to support the prophecy. The King then proposes to make a brief visit that night to Macbeth's castle at Inverness. Lady Macbeth receives news from her husband about the prophecy and his new title. She vows to help him become king by whatever means are necessary (*ominous music*).

Act II

Macbeth returns to his castle, followed almost immediately by King Duncan. The Macbeths plot together to kill Duncan and wait until everyone is asleep. At the appointed time, Lady Macbeth gives the guards drugged wine so Macbeth can enter and kill the King. He regrets this almost immediately, but his wife reassures him. She leaves the bloody daggers by the dead king just before Macduff, a nobleman, arrives. When Macduff discovers the murder, Macbeth kills the drunken guards in a show of rage and retribution. Duncan's sons, Malcolm and Donalbain, flee, fearing for their own lives; but they are, nevertheless, blamed for the murder.

Act III

Macbeth becomes King of Scotland but is plagued by feelings of insecurity. He remembers the prophecy that Banquo's descendants will inherit the throne and arranges for Banquo and his son Fleance to be killed. In the darkness, Banquo is murdered, but his son escapes the assassins. At his state banquet that night, Macbeth sees the ghost of Banquo and worries the courtiers with his mad response. Lady Macbeth dismisses the court and unsuccessfully tries to calm her husband.

Act IV

Macbeth seeks out the witches who say that he will be safe until a local wood, Birnam Wood, marches into battle against him. He also need not fear anyone born of woman (that sounds secure, no loopholes here). They also prophesy that the Scottish succession will still come from Banquo's son. Macbeth embarks on a reign of terror, slaughtering many, including Macduff's family. Macduff had gone to seek Malcolm (one of Duncan's sons who fled) at the court of the English king. Malcolm is young and unsure of himself, but Macduff, pained with grief, persuades him to lead an army against Macbeth.

Act V

Macbeth feels safe in his remote castle at Dunsinane until he is told that Birnam Wood is moving towards him. Malcolm's army is carrying branches from the forest as camouflage for their assault on Macbeth's stronghold. Meanwhile, an overwrought and conscience-ridden Lady Macbeth walks in her sleep and tells her secrets to her doctor. She commits suicide. As the final battle commences, Macbeth hears of Lady Macbeth's suicide and mourns.

In the midst of a losing battle, Macduff challenges Macbeth. Macbeth learns Macduff is the child of a caesarean birth (loophole!), realises he is doomed, and submits to his enemy. Macduff triumphs and brings the head of the traitor Macbeth to Malcolm. Malcolm declares peace and goes to Scone to be crowned king.

The End