

PROGRAM

MACBETH



"By the pricking of my thumbs
something wicked this way comes"

JANUARY 2020
FLORIDA SHAKESPEARE THEATER

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FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE
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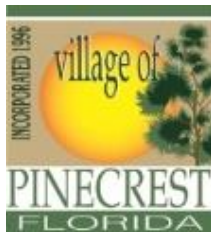


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MIAMI BEACH

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About the Play

Written sometime between 1605-1606, the first recorded production of Macbeth was at the Globe Theater in London, in 1611, but most scholars feel that it was presented earlier to James I, the new King of England, who hailed from Scotland; as the play celebrates both King James' rule which brought together England and Scotland, and memorialized James' ancestor, Banquo.

Shakespeare also seemed to honor the crown by writing about the witches, or wyrd sisters, which was a particular fascination of the King.

Why Does Macbeth Still Resonate?

Macbeth is the ultimate horror show - starting with magic, prophesies, and battles, then moving briskly into assassinations, hauntings, and, of course, ending with the star of the play getting his head chopped off. It out rivals anything that modern Hollywood could throw at the audience... and yet, speaks to us all of our humanity, gained and lost.

Although the play is larded with political speeches designed to flatter King James I, and is a treatise on the concept of equivocation, Shakespeare's tragedy has survived the centuries because the heart of it delves deeply into the human flaws of the protagonist.

We watch in horror as Macbeth transforms from a hero to a despot - seemingly on the basis of a chance encounter with some

witches on a moor. He makes dark decisions every time he is faced with a clear choice: good or evil? Right or wrong? Darkness or light?

We cannot look away from Macbeth's transformation from the King's most loyal subject to the traitor who commits regicide, consorts with the dark side, hires assassins, orders the slaughter of women and children and lays his country to waste.

His lack of humanity is revealed when he refuses accept his wife's descent into madness and seems unconcerned and inconvenienced by her ultimate suicide. Macbeth plays for the power that was promised by a trio of unearthly women on a lonely windswept moor.

As the tale unfolds, we ask ourselves what we would do - with a promised crown dangled just beyond our outstretched hand.

ACTS & SCENES - Macbeth

Prologue

Part 1 – A Hill over a battlefield near Fife

Part 2 – Macbeth's Castle

ACT 1

Scene 1 – The battlefield near Fife

Scene 2 – Inverness, King Duncan's Castle

Scene 3 – A moor near Fife

Scene 4 – Inverness, King Duncan's Castle

Scene 5 – The home of Macbeth

Scene 6 – Outside the battlements of Macbeth's Castle

Scene 7 – A courtyard of Macbeth's castle

ACT 2

Scene 1 – Outside Macbeth's castle walls

Scene 2 – The courtyard of the castle

Scene 3 – The courtyard near the castle gate

Scene 4 – The courtyard near the castle gate

ACT 3

Scene 1 – The garden at Macbeth's castle

Scene 2 – The garden at Macbeth's castle

Scene 3 – The forest near the castle stables

Scene 4 – The banquet hall at Macbeth's castle

Scene 5 – The forest near the castle stables

ACT 4

Scene 1 – A moor near Fife

Scene 2 – A room in Macduff's castle

Scene 3 – England – at the court of the English King

ACT 5

Scene 1 – Dunsinane Castle. The courtyard.

Scene 2 – The English camp near Birnham Wood

Scene 3 – Dunsinane Castle – The throne room

Scene 4 – The English lines at Birnham Wood

Scene 5 – The Throne room at Dunsinane castle

Scene 6 – in the forest outside Dunsinane castle

Scene 7 – at the walls of Dunsinane's castle

Scene 8 – Inside the walls of Dunsinane castle

Synopsis of Macbeth

High on a hill, three witches claim revenge on Macbeth by ritually cursing and stabbing a stuffed doll.

In a room in Macbeth's castle, we see Lady Macbeth handing over her dead infant to a doctor. The witches curse has come true.

A battle rages over the Scottish moors, and we see the hero of the battle cut his way through the Norse army. It is Macbeth. After the battle, Macbeth and Banquo come across the three witches. They tell Macbeth that he will soon be Thane of Cawdor and later king and promise his fellow general Banquo that his heirs will be kings. News arrives from King Duncan that Macbeth is now indeed Thane of Cawdor as a reward for his loyalty. Duncan tells Macbeth he will stay at his castle tonight.

Lady Macbeth reads a letter from Macbeth telling her about his meeting with the witches. Macbeth arrives home and she persuades him they must kill the king while he is staying at their home in order to make the witches' prophecy come true. With Duncan under his roof as his guest, Macbeth has second thoughts, but Lady Macbeth forces him back to the plan.

Macbeth kills Duncan in the night, but the crime horrifies him. Lady Macbeth must complete the job and place the bloody daggers with the king's sleeping servants so that they are blamed for the deed. A knocking on the castle gate rouses the drunken Porter who fantasizes about being a porter at the gates of hell, (Letting in many kinds of sinners; gamblers, equivocators and fornicators.) before letting in Macduff and Lennox. The murder is discovered and Macbeth himself kills the king's servants in an apparent fit of righteous anger, but in reality, a coverup of his own terrible deed. The king's sons, Malcolm and Donalbain, are suspicious and flee to England and Ireland for their own safety. They are now blamed for their father's murder and Macbeth is crowned King.

Macbeth arranges for Banquo and his son Fleance to be murdered, but only Banquo is killed and the boy escapes. At a banquet Banquo's ghost appears to torment Macbeth's conscience. Macbeth is suspicious as to why Macduff did not attend the banquet and decides to meet again with the witches.

The witches present several apparitions to Macbeth which convince him of his invincibility, but a final vision confirms that Banquo's heirs will be kings. Hearing that Macduff has gone to England, Macbeth orders the slaughter of Macduff's wife, children and servants.

In England Macduff tries to persuade Malcolm to fight for the Scottish throne, but Malcolm is suspicious and lies about his own vices to gauge the truth of Macduff's intentions. Satisfied that Macduff is honest, and not an agent of Macbeth, he agrees to attack Macbeth with the support of the English king. When news arrives of the murder of Macduff's family, and Macduff's desire to overthrow the tyrant Macbeth becomes even stronger.

Back in Scotland, Lady Macbeth is tormented by sleep-walking nightmares. Besieged in the royal castle, Macbeth comforts himself with the witches' prophecies, despite the desertion of most of his supporters and at last the suicide of Lady Macbeth. The prophecies themselves begin to crumble and finally Macbeth is left facing Macduff in combat. The witches promised him he could not be killed by any man of woman born, but Macduff tells him he was born by Caesarean section. Macbeth realises his time has come, but resolves to die fighting. Macduff kills Macbeth and proclaims Malcolm the new king of Scotland.



FRANK & SUSAN SALINGER CULTURAL INITIATIVE
Promoting Western Culture & Economic Liberty

We believe where we've been matters as
much as where we're going.

I think nothing equals Macbeth.
—*Abraham Lincoln*

We agree with President Lincoln.

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