

Macbeth



Written by
WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Adapted by
RYAN PHILPOTT

Performed by
DICKENS THEATRE COMPANY



Who are Dickens Theatre Company?

Since 2015, **Dickens Theatre Company** have been creating exciting stage adaptations of literary classics, making theatre accessible to all.

DTC's **Revision on Tour** programme gives students the chance to see the texts they study in the classroom brought vividly to life on stage by professional actors, with performances designed to **engage, educate and inspire**.



Synopsis of the play:

Set in medieval Scotland, Shakespeare's shortest tragedy charts the bloody rise to power and tragic downfall of the warrior general, Macbeth.

Seduced by the idea of power and spurred on by his ambitious wife, Macbeth, succumbs to a series of murderous deeds to secure the throne. But as he becomes increasingly tyrannical, his paranoia leads him to kill again to secure his power.



DTC's adaptation:

DTC's streamlined adaptation contains all the Bard's original themes, characters, scenes, and speeches. The added bonus comes from the Porter who, acting as narrator throughout, builds a bridge of trust with the audience, recapping key scenes through modern & engaging verse.

DTC's Macbeth is skilfully brought alive by a cauldron of 6 awesome multi-rolling actors. ***PLUS - A FREE post-show Q&A session** with the cast & director available after the matinees.

KEY THEMES:

- AMBITION & POWER
- THE SUPERNATURAL
- BETRAYAL & GUILT
- MANIPULATION & FATE

SHOW RUNNING TIME:

90 MINUTES +PLUS INTERVAL

AGE GUIDANCE:

8YRS UPWARDS

MOTIFS:

- HALLUCINATION
- PROPHECY
- VIOLENCE

HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

Written in the early C17th, Macbeth contains many elements to appeal to the newly crowned **King James I**. James was a great patron of the theatre. Soon after his coronation he bestowed Shakespeare's company the title of **'The King's Men'**. This play intended to flatter James, to appeal to his interests but also to warn away any potential usurpers of this paranoid king.

How much are tickets?

£16 plus every 11th ticket free for staff.

Age recommendation?

Our audiences range from **Year 5 & 6** pupils experiencing Shakespeare for the very first time, through to **Year 10 & 11** students, frantically trying to learn all those key quotes, themes & motifs for their exams.

LINKS TO THE KS3 & KS4 NATIONAL CURRICULUM:

KS3

Watching Shakespeare's work being performed as the Bard intended will greatly support students' critical reading skills. It will aid understanding of the structure, language and conventions of Shakespeare's verse, as well as the interpretative possibilities of his dramas. It will support students' understanding of how language, including figurative language, vocabulary choice, text structure and organisational features, presents meaning for audiences.

KS3 students will begin to recognise a range of poetic conventions and understand how these have been used effectively, and how alternative staging allows for different interpretations of a Shakespeare play.

KS4 Detailed study

Watching a Shakespeare play is essential to support a student's ability to justify their own interpretation of the text and the context in which the play was written. Seeing a live performance will also support their critical reading skills back in the classroom by identifying and distinguishing between themes. Watching DTC's Macbeth come to vivid life on stage will help students analyse the language, form and structure used by Shakespeare to create meanings and effects. With the Porter narrating between some key scenes and speeches, students are presented with relevant GCSE subject terminology. After the horror of the murders, DTC's Porter explains Shakespeare's reason for injecting coarse jokes into the play with: **"...after horror most abject we can only suppose, would heighten the pathos and so juxtapose. STICK THAT IN YOUR ESSAYS!"**

LINKS TO THE KS2 NATIONAL CURRICULUM:

Reading Comprehension

Understanding Texts: KS2 students can develop their comprehension by analysing the story's events, characters and plot, including understanding the purpose of specific vocabulary and literary devices.

Exploring Themes: Pupils can discuss the play's core themes, such as the power of ambition, the concept of fate and the consequences of betrayal.

Historical Context: The story provides a window into society, allowing children to learn about the historical period in which superstition, witchcraft and religion had such impact.

Writing

Narrative Structure: Teachers can use DTC's Macbeth to inspire narrative writing by examining how Shakespeare builds suspense and uses sensory details to create atmosphere and tragedy.

Character Development: Pupils can explore characterisation by analysing Macbeth's decline and downfall, and write about the different characters' personalities through their actions and interactions with others.

Vocabulary Enhancement: Resources encourage the use of more precise vocabulary, for instance, by providing synonyms for simple verbs like "walked" to enrich writing.

Speaking and Listening:

Discussion: The themes and characters presented in the play can serve as a basis for spoken presentations or group discussions, where students can share their interpretations, ideas and feelings after watching the play.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

www.dickenstheatrecompany.co.uk

info@dickenstheatrecompany.co.uk

07799 661124 | 07990 587934