



MACBETH
October 1995
Leeds Arts Centre

MACBETH

THE PLOT

Macbeth and Banquo, generals in the service of Duncan, King of Scotland, meet three witches who prophesy that Macbeth will become king. Lady Macbeth persuades her husband to murder Duncan while he is their guest. Malcolm, Duncan's son and heir, flees to England. Macbeth then has Banquo murdered to secure his position. Banquo's ghost appears to Macbeth at a banquet. Macbeth visits the witches who warn him to beware of Macduff, who has fled to England. They also tell him that he cannot be harmed by any man 'of woman born'. Macbeth orders the murder of Macduff's wife and children. Macduff and Malcolm raise an army in England and march against Macbeth. Lady Macbeth commits suicide. Macbeth is killed by Macduff, who was delivered as a baby by Caesarian section, and so was not 'born' of woman. Malcolm is crowned King of Scotland.

THE DATE

'Macbeth' did not appear in print until the First Folio of 1623. References within the play suggest that it was written after the accession of the Scottish King James VI to the English throne in 1603. It was probably written in 1606, when the repercussions of the Gunpowder Plot made the subject of regicide and the Scottish succession topics of vital popular interest.

THE SOURCES

The major source for 'Macbeth' was Holinshed's Chronicle, but Holinshed drew heavily on other chroniclers, some of whom Shakespeare may also have read. Seneca's 'Medea' possibly influenced Shakespeare's conception of Lady Macbeth, who does not emerge strongly from any of the chronicles.

THE HISTORY

Macbeth was a real historical figure who became king of Scotland after murdering Duncan in 1040. He ruled for seventeen years and, unlike his Shakespearean counterpart, appears to have been an able and conscientious monarch. His claim to the throne was through his wife, Gruoch, who was the grand-daughter of King Kenneth III. Historians writing under King Malcolm were undoubtedly encouraged to blacken Macbeth's name in order to secure the position of his victorious opponent. Later chroniclers brought forward (or perhaps invented) the character of Banquo, from whom the Stewart dynasty (including King James) claimed descent.

by William Shakespeare

CAST

THE WEIRD SISTERS

Monica Brown
Trudy Stewart
Kathryn Heneachon

MACBETH

Michael Brooksbank

LADY MACBETH

Gwynneth Hadley

DUNCAN, King of Scotland

Malcolm Brown

MALCOLM, his son

Andrew Williams

DONALBAIN, his second son

Shane Binks

BANQUO

Richard Francis

FLEANCE, his son

Matthew Francis

MACDUFF

Martin Key

ROSS

Stuart Watson

LENNOX

David Kenning

ANGUS

David Mallinson

A SERGEANT

Jonathan Coope

LADY MACDUFF

Margaret Savage

YOUNG MACDUFF

Alex Boothroyd

A GENTLEWOMAN

Maureen Gokhale

A DOCTOR

Edwin Barraclough

SEYTON, Macbeth's servant

Eddie Butler

MURDERERS

Jonathan Coope, Shane Binks

Other parts played by members of the company

PRODUCTION TEAM

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Richard Francis

STAGE MANAGER

Martyn Drake

SET CONSTRUCTION

George Westmoreland,
George Teale, Martyn Drake,

Richard Francis

PROPS

Andre Kilner

Belinda Burrow

PROMPT

Shirley Burgess

LIGHTING

Peter Waddicor

SOUND RECORDING

Jim Marshall

SOUND OPERATION

Tim Wilkinson

WARDROBE

Maggie Rhodes, Betty Triggs and
the Centre wardrobe team

FIGHT DIRECTOR

Martin Key

FRONT OF HOUSE MANAGER

Shirley Broadbent

BOX OFFICE MANAGER

Maggie Rhodes

Stage set-up assisted by members of Masquerade Youth Theatre

DIRECTED AND DESIGNED BY MALCOLM BROWN

Costume Hire

Costumes of various types and periods are available for hire from the Leeds Arts Centre costume collection at reasonable rates either by drama societies or by individuals for fancy dress occasions.

Please telephone Leeds 275 6796 and discuss your requirements with Margaret Rhodes, our wardrobe mistress.

Civic Theatre Staff

Theatre Manager - *Steven Cartwright*

Assistant Manager - *Vivien Simpson*

Chief Technician and Lighting - *Peter Waddicor*

Technicians - *Sandy Clark, Chas Elliott*

Catering for Crown Point Foods - *Shirley Tarran*

Box Office - *Helen Richmond, Shirley Shortall, Sylvia Gooding*

In accordance with the requirements of the Licensing Sub-Committee of Leeds City Council:

- a. The public may leave at the end of the performance by all exits and entrance doors and such doors must at that time be open.
- b. All gangways, passages and staircases must be kept entirely free from chairs or any other obstructions.
- c. Persons shall not be permitted to stand in any of the intersecting gangways, or stand in any other unseated space in the auditorium, unless standing in such a space has been specially allowed by the Licensing Committee. A notice is exhibited in that part of the auditorium in which standing has been sanctioned.
- d. The safety curtain must be lowered and raised once immediately before the commencement of each performance to make sure it is in proper working order.

Next Week.....

Proscenium Players

Billy Liar

19th to 21st October 1995 at 7.30 pm

Forthcoming Leeds Arts Centre productions.....

The Accrington Pals by Peter Whelan

This lyrical and absorbing play is set in Accrington during the first two years of the Great War. The 'Pals' are the men from the local volunteer battalion who march high-spiritedly off to war. Their experiences in the trenches are contrasted with those of the women left behind, adapting to new patterns of life and drawing

together in the face of social and sexual deprivation.

At times funny, at times sad, the play paints a moving and powerful picture of the changes in civilian life during wartime.

Directed by Pam Wilson
30 January to 3 February 1996

PYGMALION

by George Bernard Shaw

Cockney flower girl to the toast of London Society - who would have thought Eliza Doolittle's chance encounter with Henry Higgins would prove to be such a challenge for both of them!

Don't miss this opportunity to see Shaw's brilliant comic masterpiece.

Directed by Joyce King
23 to 27 April 1996

Relatively Speaking by Alan Ayckbourn

Greg and Ginny are living together but Greg suspects that he is not the only man in her life and follows her when she claims she is going to visit her parents. Misunderstanding follows misunderstanding to create a hilarious situation ideal for a summer

evening's entertainment.

This is without doubt one of Ayckbourn's funniest plays - don't miss it!

Directed by Chris Ward
25 to 29 June 1996

FRIENDS OF LEEDS CIVIC THEATRE

Join the 'Friends' and support this delightful little theatre.
Application forms available from the foyer

**Book at Civic Theatre Box Office,
Cookridge Street, Leeds**

Tel:(0113) 245 5005 or 247 6962

Leeds Arts Centre....

Leeds Arts Centre was formed in 1945 as an amateur Society to encourage and foster interest in the Arts. Members come from all walks of life and include some who have worked in and others who aspire to the professional theatre.

Our activities are now mainly centred around the theatre with the Drama Group mounting four or five plays each year at the Civic Theatre. These often include a musical or review type show.

The Green Room Group puts on plays and other forms of entertainment in the rehearsal rooms to give members valuable experience of acting and producing before they tackle major parts or productions in the Civic Theatre. Prospective members are welcome to attend these performances.

The Fine Arts Group meets twice each week throughout the year for drawing, painting and other creative work. Annual exhibitions are held of members' work.

In addition there is a variety of social activities for members, such as theatre visits, outings, parties etc.

Interested in Joining?

We are always glad to welcome new members and our lively Green Room Group provides a friendly atmosphere in which younger and less experienced members develop their potential - making friends in the process.

If you are interested in acting, producing, drawing, painting (pictures or scenery), set building, making costumes, helping back stage, front of house or even with publicity and think you might like to join the Centre, or would like more information please have a word with one of our members tonight or write to:

The Secretary, Leeds Arts Centre,
Stansfeld Chambers,
Great George Street, Leeds 1