

Macbeth

Cast

Macbeth
Lady Macbeth
Banquo
Banquo's Son
Macduff
King Duncan
Donalbain
Malcolm
Witch 1
Witch 2
Witch 3
Messenger
Courtier 1
Courtier 2
Courtier 3
Servants
Guards x2
Assassins x2
Ross
Angus
Doctor

Witch's dance

Witch 1 : When shall we three meet again?

Witch 2: In thunder, lightning

Witch 3: Or in rain?

Witches exit

Narrator : Welcome to the hills of Scotland, where it all begins. A tale of black magic and of murdered kings.

Fanfare. King Duncan and his courtiers enter. A messenger enters breathlessly through the hall.

Messenger: Your Majesty, your majesty. I have news from the battlefield.

King Duncan: Well speak up, don't keep me waiting!

Messenger: The rebels have been defeated. (*Courtiers applaud and congratulate the King*) Macbeth and Banquo are returning home.

King Duncan: Macbeth's efforts must be rewarded.

Courtier 1: Why not make him a lord your majesty?

Courtier 2: He is already Lord of Glamis.

Courtier 3: The Lord of Cawdor was the leader of the rebels.

Messenger: He was killed during the battle my Lord.

King Duncan: Then my decision is made, I shall make Macbeth Lord of Cawdor as well.

The King writes a message, hands it to the messenger who exits through the hall. Fanfare. All exit.

Narrator : And so a message was sent to give Macbeth his reward. To tell him that, of Cawdor, he was now the Lord.
Across the heath. Macbeth and Banquo were returning home.
Suddenly it all went dark and they were no longer alone.

During the above Macbeth and Banquo enter chatting happily. Suddenly it goes dark. The 3 witches enter slowly. There is a crack of thunder. Macbeth and Banquo turn suddenly and draw their swords. Witches circle the two men.

Macbeth: Who are you?

Banquo: What do you want?

Macbeth: Stand aside you horrible witches.

Witch 1: All hail Macbeth! Hail to the Lord of Glamis.

Macbeth: Yes I am Macbeth, Lord of Glamis.

Banquo: And I'm Banquo Lord of...

Witch 2: All hail Macbeth! Hail to the Lord of Cawdor.

Macbeth: Lord of Cawdor?

Banquo: He's not Lord of...

Witch 3: All hail Macbeth, who shall be King hereafter.

Macbeth: Who shall be King? (*Macbeth looks pleased with this prophecy*)

Banquo: King eh? So what about me? (*Witches turn suddenly to Banquo making him jump*)

Witches: Banquo, you will NOT be King, but you will be the father of Kings.

Witches vanish

Macbeth: Wait, tell me more.

Banquo: Who were they?

Macbeth: They said I would be King.

Banquo: Yes, but they called you Lord of Cawdor and you're not. We killed him in the battle.

The messenger arrives breathlessly through the hall.

Messenger: My Lord, my Lord, I have news from the King.

Macbeth: Well speak up! Don't keep me waiting.

Messenger: (*Reading scroll*) In honour of your glorious victory King Duncan has made you Lord of Cawdor.

Macbeth and Banquo look at each other in amazement as...

Witches: (Offstage) All hail Macbeth! Hail to the Lord of Cawdor.

Banquo: How did those horrible witches know you were going to become Lord of Cawdor?

Macbeth: I don't know, but they also said I was going to be King.

Song?

Narrator Excited by the news Macbeth wrote a letter home.
To tell his wife about his future upon the Scottish throne.

During the above Macbeth hands the Messenger a note. Messenger exits back through the hall. Macbeth and Banquo exit. Lady Macbeth enters. Messenger re-enters through the hall.

Narrator : As soon as Lady Macbeth received the letter, she began to plot and plan King Duncan's death.
She arranged a victory dinner for the following night and sent a formal invitation to the King and his sons

During the above the messenger has handed Lady Macbeth the note. She then gives the messenger the invites and he exits back through the hall. Macbeth enters and is warmly greeted by Lady Macbeth.

Lady Macbeth: Tonight you must kill the King

Macbeth: Sssh (*Looking around*) I can't, he is my cousin.

Lady Macbeth: If you want to be King, Duncan must die.

Macbeth: But how...?

Lady Macbeth: Tonight, as he sleeps, you will take the daggers from his guards and stab him through the heart.

Macbeth: How will I get them from his guards?

Lady Macbeth: I will put a potion in their drinks. They will sleep heavily.

Fanfare. The Macbeths prepare to greet their guests. King Duncan, Donalbain, Malcolm and their servants arrive. Macbeth bows and Lady Macbeth curtsies.

Lady Macbeth: Your majesty, it is a pleasure having you as our guest. Looking more handsome than ever. (*She kisses his hand*) Your sons are welcome too, Malcolm (*She kisses Malcolm's hand*) and Donalbain (*She kisses Donalbain's hand*).

King Duncan: The pleasure is all mine Lady Macbeth.

Donalbain: You must be very proud of your husband.

Malcolm: His bravery gave us an important victory.

Macbeth: I was only doing my duty Sir. My servants will show you to your rooms.

All exit apart from Macbeth and Lady Macbeth

Lady Macbeth: It must be done tonight!

She exits followed by Macbeth.

King Duncan on a bed. Two guards stand by the door.

Narrator : While King Duncan slept, two guards waited by the door.
After drinking the poisoned wine they soon began to snore.

Lady Macbeth and Macbeth enter.

Lady Macbeth: The coast is clear, now is the time.

Macbeth: I can't do it. There must be another way.

Lady Macbeth: *(Angrily)* You are a coward! You don't deserve to be King. A King is supposed to be strong and courageous not pathetic and weak. Take the guard's daggers and do what you have to do. I will be Queen!

She exits. Macbeth creeps up to the sleeping guards, takes their daggers and enters King Duncan's bedroom. He stands by the bed and hesitates.

Lady Macbeth: *(Offstage)* You are a coward. You don't deserve to be King!

Angrily, Macbeth plunges the dagger into Duncan. There is a crack of thunder. He then panics, runs out of the room, dropping the daggers back by the guards.

Narrator : That night Macbeth's sleep was haunted by terrible dreams
In the morning the castle was awoken by a horrible scream.

Lady Macbeth, in the bedroom, screams. The guards awake and reach for their daggers. Macbeth, Malcolm and Donalbain rush in. Lady Macbeth steps forward.

Lady Macbeth: The King, he, he , he is dead.

Malcolm: Dead? How can that be?

Lady Macbeth: He has been stabbed, twice through the heart.

Donalbain: *(Noticing the guards daggers)* Look your daggers! they're covered in blood!

Macbeth: *(Desperately trying to hide the truth)* You killed him, while he slept.

Macbeth draws his sword and lunges forward, stabbing both the guards in one thrust. They both fall to the floor dead.

Macbeth: *(Shaking)* He was their King! They were supposed to protect him! THEY killed him!

Donalbain: They must have worked for the rebels.

Malcolm: It is not safe for us here. We should leave this land.

Donalbain: I will go to England.

Malcolm: And I to Ireland.

The brothers exit

Narrator : With the sons out of the country Macbeth was finally crowned.

Tormented and with guilt he worried that the truth would be found.

He wanted to be King forever, he never wanted to go.

But he was worried about the son of his old friend, Banquo.

Macbeth: The witches said his son would be King.

Lady Macbeth: Then you know what you must do.

Macbeth: What?

Lady Macbeth: Kill the boy and his father. Then our reign will be safe.

Macbeth: Now that this crown is mine I will do whatever it takes to keep it.

Lady Macbeth exits. Two assassins enter to ominous music Macbeth whispers two them. They nod and go and wait in the audience. Macbeth exits.

Narrator : Later that night the Macbeths offered a big dinner of celebration. All the Lords of the land came to see the coronation.

During the following Banquo and his son enter through the hall, chatting happily. As they pass the assassins they begin to follow them. When they get on stage the assassins attack. Music.

Narrator: As Banquo and his son enter to Macbeth's castle Macbeth's men attacked them and stabbed Banquo to death.

Macbeth also wanted Banquo's son to die that day but the boy managed to escape.

In the fight Banquo protects his son who manages to escape and runs back through the hall. Banquo is killed and dragged offstage by the assassins. Macbeth enters. The assassins greet him.

Macbeth: Is it done?

Assassin 1: Banquo is dead.

Macbeth: And the boy? What about the boy?

Assassin 2: He escaped.

Macbeth: WHAT! I told you I wanted him dead. You will pay for this with your lives.

Assassin 1: Ignore him, your Majesty. It is just a joke.

Assassin 2: A what? (Assassin 1 kicks him) Oh yeah, sorry your majesty. The boy is dead as well.

Macbeth: Then you have done well. Come let me reward you.

Table set on stage. Lady Macbeth and Macbeth sit at the ends. Ross, Angus and Macduff sit along the side. Lady Macbeth is happily talking with the three Lords. Macbeth is looking suspicious and paranoid.

Narrator : In the castle's grand hall the lords were having a good time.

But Macbeth believed they all knew about his crime.

However none of the guests knew the truth about their host.

: As they sat there eating Macbeth saw Banquo's ghost.

Banquo's Ghost enters behind the table. Macbeth sees him and cries out in shock. None of the others can see Banquo.

Macbeth: (Gasping) Banquo!

Ross: Yes where is Banquo?

Banquo: (Pointing at Macbeth) You killed me.

Angus: I thought he was not here.

Macbeth: I didn't do it. (*Backing away from Banquo*)

Macduff: Do what my Lord?

Macbeth: Kill him.

Ross: King Duncan?

Macbeth: (*Pointing at Banquo who now stands between the others*) Banquo.

Angus: Banquo killed King Duncan?

Banquo: You cannot hide the truth forever.

Macbeth: No, get away, get away from me. Leave me alone.

Macduff: Your majesty?

Lady Macbeth: Forgive my husband, he is not feeling well.

Ross: Of course, we should leave.

Macbeth: (*Almost crying*) Please, leave me alone, I did not do it.

Angus: Good night my Lady, my Lord.

Angus, Ross and Macduff bow and then exit. Banquo's Ghost remains.

Macbeth: Can you not see him?

Lady Macbeth: Who?

Macbeth: Banquo, right here before your eyes.

Lady Macbeth: Stop it (*She slaps him*). Your behaviour will make them suspicious.

Banquo's Ghost slowly exits.

Macbeth: Could you not see him?

Lady Macbeth: I saw nothing!

She exits eventually followed by Macbeth.

Table is cleared.

Narrator: Later that night as her husband lay asleep in bed.

Lady Macbeth was haunted by visions of the dead.

Lady Macbeth stands in the middle of the stage. King Duncan and Banquo circle her, getting closer and closer. She holds her head in her hands and drops to her knees. King Duncan and Banquo exit. She then exits.

Narrator: Macbeth was desperate to know more about his future.

So he went to find the witches so they could tell him more.

The three witches enter and circle a large cauldron.

Witch 1: Double, double toil and trouble.

Witch 2: Fire burn and cauldron bubble.

Macbeth enters at the front of the stage. The witches hide behind the cauldron.

Macbeth: Horrible witches show yourself to me. I need to know whether my crown is safe. Will I still be king.

There is a crash of thunder.

Witches: All hail Macbeth!

The witches slowly approach from behind the cauldron.

Witch 1: Hail to the Lord of Glamis.

Witch 2: Hail to the Lord of Cawdor.

Witch 3: Hail to the King of Scotland.

Witch 1: Beware of Macduff, who is the Lord of Fife.

Witch 3: For he is the only one who can end your life.

Witch 2: You will never be defeated until Great Birnam Wood

Witch 3: Climbs the hill where your castle is stood.

The witches slowly exit.

Macbeth: Wait what do you mean? Great Birnam Wood climbs the hill?

Macbeth exits

Narrator Macbeth returned to tell his wife the news.
That unless the trees began to move he would never lose.

Macbeth and Lady Macbeth enter

Lady Macbeth: Then we have nothing to fear. Who ever heard of trees moving. The forest cannot touch us here.

Macbeth: But what about Macduff?

Lady Macbeth: You know what to do. *(Exits)*

Macbeth: Macduff must die.

Assassins enter. Macbeth whispers to them then they leave.

Narrator So Macbeth sent his men to kill the Lord of Fife.
But they could not find him so they killed his child and wife.
They knew Macbeth would be angry so both of them lied.

The assassins enter.

Assassin 1: The job is done your majesty.

Assassin 2: Macduff will trouble you no more.

The assassins exit

Macbeth: Then nobody can hurt me. I am the King!

The Doctor enters in a hurry

Doctor: Your majesty, I have grave news. Your wife is ill.

Macbeth: Is it serious?

Doctor: I'm afraid the fever is very severe. She claims to see ghosts.

Macbeth: Ghosts? Of who?

Doctor: I do not know. Now I must return to her. Do you wish to see her?

Macbeth nods then they both exit.

Narrator When Macduff heard about his family, he vowed to get revenge. To help him defeat Macbeth he called upon his friends.

Macduff enters, followed by Malcolm and Donalbain

Macduff: Thank you both for coming.

Malcolm: We were both devastated when we heard what happened to your family.

Macduff: We have both suffered losses at the hand of Macbeth.

Donalbain: You think Macbeth killed our father?

Macduff: I am sure of it. I think he ordered Banquo's murder as well.

Malcolm: Then let us gather an army together and claim back the throne.

They all exit

Narrator As they gathered an army the Doctor came to see Macbeth. And broke the news that she had taken her last breath.

Enter Macbeth and then the Doctor.

Doctor: Your majesty, her suffering is over. Lady Macbeth is dead.

Macbeth drops to his knees, head in his hands and begins to sob. The doctor leaves slowly.

A servant of Macbeth's comes running through the hall.

Servant: Your majesty! Your majesty! There is an army approaching. They carry the flag of Prince Malcolm and Prince Donalbain. They are taking cover in Great Birnam Wood.

Macbeth jumps to his feet and looks out. At the back of the hall the soldiers begin to creep forward, using branches to shield them.

Macbeth: The trees! They are moving this way!

Witches: (Offstage) You will never be defeated until Great Birnam Wood climbs the hill upon where your castle is stood.

Macbeth: Make sure my guards are ready. Prepare to defend the castle!

Macbeth's guards gather on stage. The Princes army approaches. There is a fight. Macbeth kills several soldiers.

Macbeth: The witches were right. I have nothing to fear. No one can hurt me now!

Macduff appears behind Macbeth.

Macduff: Is that so Macbeth.

Macbeth: You are nothing but a ghost. You cannot hurt me. I had you killed.

Macduff: You killed my wife and child, but I am still very much alive.

Macduff lunges forward and there is a fight eventually Macbeth is killed. Malcolm and Donalbain enter.

Macduff: Now that Macbeth is dead the crown can be given to its rightful owner.

Macduff takes the crown from Macbeth's head and places it on Malcolm's.

Macduff: Hail King Malcolm. Hail King of Scotland.

The line is repeated by the chorus, gradually building up until all repeat the line. Macduff and Donalbain both kneel either side of Malcolm.

Narrator: So Macduff had brought an end to Macbeth's evil reign
And Scotland had a true and noble King once again.

Song?

Narrator Thank you all for watching we hope you enjoyed the show.
All we ask is for a round of applause before you have to go.

All stand and bow. Line up

Final Song –