

Macbeth Fallout

Adapted by Trey Clarkson

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STORY OF THE PLAY

This one-act version of William Shakespeare's *Macbeth* maintains the Bard's original dialogue but changes the setting to a post-apocalyptic world affected by nuclear fallout. The setting allows for many opportunities for creative staging, props, music, and lighting. Three witches arise from piles of mannequin parts, looking as if they were just pieced together. Use of a shadow scrim intensifies the violent and edgy nature of the play. About an hour.

ORIGINAL PRODUCTION

Bishop Sullivan Catholic High School Theatre Company
Barry Robinson Theater and Fine Arts Center
Virginia Beach, Virginia, October 26th, 2012.

Directed by Trey Clarkson. Assistant Directed by Holly Smith. Production Assistants: Lauren Ciampoli and MJ Sargent. Student Stage Manager: Kimmie Cenzon. Cast and Crew: Philip Palting, Nikki Frias, Jon Belka, Henry Boone, Cole Roberts, Cynthia Newby, Sarah White, Lizzy Gardiner, Tyler Chapman, Madison Mundy, Sam Belka, Moira McAvoy, Chandler Edington, Jacob Wild, Kimmie Cenzon, Mirium McCue, Dana Baraki, Jeff Bealer, Pepper Camden, Josephine Bawab, Sydney Spreen.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(6-16 m, 5-15 w, flexible casting)

MACBETH: Thane of Glamis.

LADY MACBETH: Macbeth's wife.

DUNCAN: King of Scotland.

MALCOLM AND DONALBAIN: Duncan's sons.

BANQUO: Thane of Lochaber, a general in Duncan's army and Macbeth's best friend.

MACDUFF: Thane of Fife.

SEYTON: Macbeth's servant. Can double as Sergeant.

SERGEANT: Reports to Malcolm. Can double as Seyton.

TWO MURDERERS: Hired by Macbeth.

A PORTER: Serves Macbeth. Can double as Messenger.

LENNOX: A Scottish noble who gradually questions Macbeth's tyrannical rule.

ROSS: Macbeth's cousin, a Scottish noble who eventually turns on Macbeth choosing to side with Malcolm and the English forces.

MESSENGER: Delivers news to Macbeth and Lady Macbeth. Can double as Porter.

THREE WITCHES: In the original production the witches were mannequins and hidden amongst the set. The witches could also be scared scavengers that enter after the soldiers leave.

A DOCTOR: Charged with curing Lady Macbeth's madness.

GENTLEWOMAN: A servant to Lady Macbeth.

ENSEMBLE: Various attendants and servants as well as Scottish nobles who join with Malcolm and the English forces in opposing Macbeth. Includes Angus, Fleance (Banquo's son), and Siward (Earl of Northumberland).

SET NOTES

Being set in a nuclear fallout, industrial scaffolding, building remnants, and fabric are preferred materials for set design. In the original production, broken signage from a local sign repair company was used to add the feel of a world destroyed. Incorporating floodlights into the set is also effective. To sell the idea of the witches, mannequins and mannequin parts are also suggested as well as rubble piles. A shadow scrim can be useful to hide some of the violence and make the death scenes safe and easily repeatable in a visually interesting way.

SOUND DESIGN

Any music will work, but the original production heavily used rap music samples to effectiveness. Thematically, rap music and the effect of slicing samples together, fits the play because of the setting where everything has been lost and pieced back together again.

COSTUME DESIGN

Costumes for the show need to showcase the post-apocalyptic theme. Eyewear is needed in the aftermath of nuclear fallout. The original production also utilized Baja sweaters because the woven fabric looked militarist and armor-like. All weapons need to be handmade using creativity and what is available. These handmade weapons will alter the direction of the fight scenes based on their design.

PRODUCTION NOTE

Scene 14 calls for the use of a chainsaw which has been altered for theatrical safety. Another type of weapon will work in this scene as well, per director's discretion.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Special thanks to Josh Malbon for the original art work.

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Scene 1

(AT RISE: A video compilation of George W. Bush's Weapons of Mass Destruction news conference. The video shifts to images of war that increase in intensity and speed, ending with the image of a nuclear explosion mushroom cloud and the sound of the air raid siren. BLACKOUT. LIGHTS up on an industrial set strewn with rubble. A train of wounded SOLDIERS, in various stages of injury and severity, slowly walk across stage throughout the scene. Enter DUNCAN, MALCOLM, DONALBAIN, and LENNOX, with ATTENDANTS, pulling a bleeding SERGEANT from the group.)

DUNCAN: What bloody man is that? He can report,
the newest state of the revolt.

MALCOLM: Hail, brave friend!

Say to the king the knowledge of the broil
As thou didst leave it.

SERGEANT: The merciless Macdonwald--
Worthy to be a rebel, from the western isles
is supplied;
But brave Macbeth brandish'd steel,
and carved out his passage
Till he faced the slave Macdonwald;
he unseam'd him from the nave to the chaps,
And fix'd his head upon our battlements.

(The train of SOLDIERS cheer.)

DUNCAN: Valiant cousin! worthy gentleman!

SERGEANT: No sooner justice had with valour arm'd
Compell'd his army to trust their heels,
But a Norweyan lord surveying vantage,
With furbish'd arms and new supplies of men
Began a fresh assault.

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DUNCAN: Dismay'd not this
Our captains, Macbeth and Banquo?

SERGEANT: Yes; they were
As cannons overcharged with double cracks, so they
Doubly redoubled strokes upon the foe.
I am faint, my gashes cry for help.

DUNCAN: So well thy words become thee as thy wounds;
They smack of honor both. Go get him surgeons.

(Exit SERGEANT, attended.)

DUNCAN: *(Cont'd.)* Who comes here?

(Enter ROSS.)

MALCOLM: The worthy thane of Ross.

ROSS: God save the king!

DUNCAN: Whence camest thou, worthy thane?

ROSS: From Fife, great king;
Where the Norweyan banners flout the sky
And fan our people cold. Norway himself,
With terrible numbers,
Assisted by that most disloyal traitor,
The thane of Cawdor, began a dismal conflict;
But the victory fell on us.

(Cheers from the CROWD.)

DUNCAN: Great happiness!
No more that villainous thane of Cawdor shall deceive
Our interest: go pronounce his present death,
And with his former title greet Macbeth.

(DUNCAN gives ROSS a fallout costume item to represent the new rank.)

ROSS: I'll see it done.

DUNCAN: What he hath lost noble Macbeth hath won.

End of Freeview

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