

Award winning Bonzo Productions present

Macbeth

August 2023
Directed by Ross Aldridge



Educating Rita extract



Macbeth is possibly the best known of Shakespeare's plays and certainly the best known tragedy.

Lots of favourite quotes

"out out damn spot"

(normally used when the dog has made a nasty smell)

"double double toil and trouble"

"poisoned chalice" to name a few

It is the perfect first play to see if you are new to Shakespeare and having recently performed in Educating Rita I cannot better the conversation between Rita the raw working class student whose main job is hairdressing and Frank, her open university tutor

I hope this show is a thriller and that it gives you all a little food for thought.

Ross Aldridge

Director



RITA It was Shakespeare. I thought it was going to be dead boring but it wasn't. It was brilliant. I went out and bought the book. Isn't it great? Wasn't his wife a cow eh? And that fantastic bit where he meets Macduff and he thinks he's invincible. I was on the edge of me seat at that bit. I wanted to shout out and tell Macbeth and warn him.

FRANK You didn't did you?

RITA Nah. You can't do that in a theatre can you? It was brilliant though. It was like a thriller. Macbeth's a tragedy, isn't it?

FRANK Yes it is.

RITA Well I'd better get back. I've left a customer in the shop. If I don't get back there'll be another tragedy.

FRANK No. There won't be a tragedy.

RITA There will, y'know. I know this woman, she's dead fussy. If her highlights don't come out right there'll be blood and guts everywhere.

FRANK Which might be quite tragic but it won't be a tragedy.

RITA What?

FRANK Well look, the tragedy of the drama has nothing to do with the sort of tragedy you're talking about. Macbeth is flawed by his ambition. YES?

RITA Yeh go on.

FRANK It's that flaw which forces him to take the inevitable step towards his doom. You see? Whereas, you see Rita, a woman's hair being ruined or... the sort of thing you read in the newspaper that's reported as tragic such as ... "Man killed by falling Tree." That is NOT a Tragedy.

RITA It is for the poor sod under the tree.

FRANK Yes it's tragic absolutely tragic but it's not a tragedy in the way that Macbeth is a tragedy. You see, in dramatic terms tragedy is something that is almost inevitable, preordained almost. Now look, even though you hadn't even heard the story of Macbeth you wanted to shout out and warn him and prevent him from going on, didn't you? But you wouldn't have been able to stop him would you?

RITA No.

FRANK And why is that?

RITA Cos they'd have thrown me out of the theatre.

FRANK NO NO. What I mean is that your warning would have been ignored. He's warned in the play, he's constantly WARNED. But he can't go back. He still treads the path towards his doom. But, you see, the poor fellow under the tree hasn't arrived there by following any inevitable steps, has he?

RITA No. So Macbeth brings it on himself?

FRANK YES! You see he goes blindly on and on with every turn he's spinning one more piece of thread which will eventually make up the web of his own tragedy. You see that?

RITA I think so. I'm not used to thinking like that.

Macbeth Plot

In summary

'fairfoul'

The witches predict good fortune for Banquo and Macbeth

'unsex'

Lady Macbeth vows to ensure Macbeth becomes king

'dagger'

King Duncan's visit to the Macbeths takes a turn for the worse

'scorpions'

Newly crowned Macbeth has Banquo murdered but his son, Fleance, escapes.

'gorylocks'

Banquo's ghost puts Macbeth right off his banquet

'apparitions'

The witches get even more cryptic with woods, wombs and warnings

'chickens'

Macduff's wife and children are slaughtered on Macbeth's command

'tyranny'

Macduff and Malcolm plot to remove Macbeth from power

'damnedspot'

Lady Macbeth unravels and breathes her last

'charmedlife'

A bad day in battle for Macbeth with walking woods and birthing stories

'grace'

Macduff slays Macbeth and Malcolm rules in Scotland

The Players

Meet the Cast



Jamie Roffe

Macbeth

I have enjoyed acting since playing Joseph at the age of 5 and have been lucky to appear in a range of productions in theatres from Germany to Hong Kong whilst in the Army. Back home, plays include, An Inspector Calls, Habeas Corpus and Amadeus and since returning to Chedworth in 2003, with Chedworth Drama, in many productions including Hobson's Choice, See How They Run, and Seasons Greetings. This is my 3rd Bonzo production having loved every minute of playing Mercutio in Romeo & Juliet and last year, Herr Zeller in The Sound of Music. Playing Macbeth is proving to be the most challenging and enjoyable role to date and acting alongside my lovely wife, again, has just been an extension of our everyday life at home! Enjoy.



Karen Roffe

Lady Macbeth

I've enjoyed playing many fun roles in some lovely venues since my early teens. Favourite productions include, 'Amadeus', 'Hayfever', 'The Crucible' and more recently 'The Sound of Music' playing Elsa the Baroness for Bonzo Productions.

Macbeth and I met in a production of 'An Inspector Calls' in 1990, so we've had plenty of sparring experience in readiness for this production!

The Players continued

In order of appearance



Heather Robson

Witch 1

I have been behind the scenes with Chedworth Drama for many years, mainly in the key roles of Costumes and Set Designer/ Set Dresser and more recently, I have been responsible for Props for The Cotswold Arcadians. In addition, I have had the pleasure of performing in five productions over the years, but a witch in this play seems the most appropriate!



Sue Rose

Witch 2

Sue has performed in nine previous acting roles with Chedworth Drama. This will be her third with Bonzo Productions .



Sue Nashe

Witch 3

Sue has had various small roles in the four previous Shakespeare productions, Midsummer Night's Dream, Merchant of Venice, Much Ado About Nothing and Romeo & Juliet. This was followed by The Sound of Music playing a Nun and now she is going in the opposite direction playing a Witch!



Charlotte Austen

Witch 5, Macduff's Child 1

Charlotte is 13 years old and this is her second role for Bonzo Productions: her first was as Marta von Trapp in The Sound of Music. She has also appeared as a lost boy in Creation Theatre's production of Peter Pan. She loves acting, singing and dancing and is looking forward to playing both a witch and Macduff's son.



Belle Fort

Witch 6

This will be a year of Shakespeare for me as I performed in A Mid Summer Night's Dream earlier in the year with Flies on the Wall youth theatre. This is my second show with Bonzo productions as I was lucky enough to combine my passion of ponies and drama in The Sound of Music.



Catherine Hitchman

Witch 4 / Seyton

Catherine has been performing in outdoor Shakespeare since 2010 including as a witch in Macbeth in 2011 and a spirit in The Tempest in 2021, both at Hatherop Castle. She greatly enjoyed her role as Lady Capulet in Bonzo Production's Romeo & Juliet in 2020. Her favourite non-Shakespearean role was as Ratty in The Wind in the Willows at the Old Rectory, Quenington.





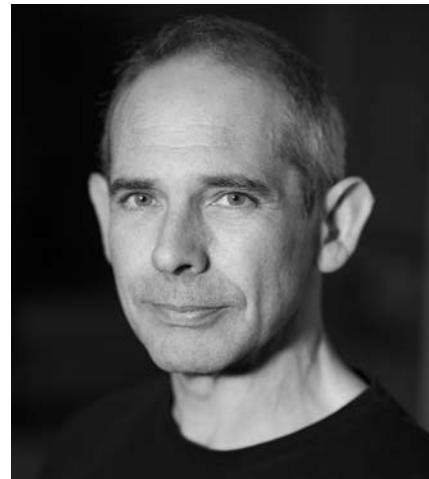
Mirabelle Emily Read
Witch 7, Servant of
Macbeth household

Mirabelle Emily Read has played Titania from A Midsummer Night's Dream 2022. Mirabelle is 14 years old and has ballet and dance experience. Mirabelle is looking forward to many more roles in the future.



Amy Benson
Witch 8,
Messenger to Lady Macduff

This is my second show with Bonzo productions after playing a nun in The Sound of Music. It's my first time taking on Shakespeare and has been a wonderful challenge. It's great to be back again performing at the beautiful Chedworth Manor.



Richard Dampney
Porter, Sergeant, Doctor

This is Richard's 4th time acting with Bonzo Productions, having previously played the Nurse in Romeo and Juliet, Benedick in Much Ado About Nothing, and Graziano in The Merchant of Venice. He has also acted with Chedworth Drama, Cotswold Arcadians, Cotswold Players, and directed for Fairford Drama Society.



Jonathan Vickers
Duncan

This is Jonathan's debut performance with Bonzo. He is a big fan of outdoor Shakespeare, and has performed in recent years with The Meysey Players (Lysander), Chavenage Productions (Pericles, Oberon, Gremio, Borachio), The Riverside Players (Duke Senior, Verges), The Cotswold Arcadians (Petruchio, Buckingham, Macbeth, Puck, Camillo) and The Stroud Shakespeare Festival (Prospero).



George Roffe
Malcom

This is my third performance with Bonzo Productions, playing Romeo and Rolf in previous years. Having worn a dress and high heels throughout a recent production of Aristophanes' Assemblywomen at Edinburgh fringe this year, a tunic and boots in this show is a much appreciated step in the right direction.



Jacquelyne Morison
Lady Lennox

Jacquelyne has been involved with amateur theatre as both actor and director for several decades as well as undertaking some part-time professional acting work. Jacquelyne is a classical singer, mediocre pianist and fiction authoress. In recent years, Jacquelyne has taken the roles of the Duchess of Verona in Romeo and Juliet (2021), Leonata in Much Ado About Nothing (2018) and Salarino in The Merchant of Venice (2017) with Bonzo Productions. With the Cotswold Arcadians, Jacquelyne has appeared as Cobweb in A Midsummer Night's Dream (2017) and Angelina in Pericles (2019). Jacquelyne also recently played Mrs Tromleyton in The Ladykillers at Cotswold Playhouse in Stroud. In 2020 Jacquelyne directed Blythe Spirit for Chedworth Drama.





Adrian Grazebrook

Ross

Adrian has appeared in various guises over the decades, from panto to Shakespeare, but this is his debut for Bonzo Productions. His annual addresses to the Burns Night haggis will have been ideal training for the Scottish play!



Ross Aldridge

Banquo

Ross has played Lago, Lachimo, Polonius, Shylock and the Friar in previous Shakespeare productions and has recently played Frank in *Educating Rita* which will be reprised at the Cotswold Playhouse in the week of 15th April 2024. He has also played Fagin, Doolittle and the compère sergeant in *Oliver*, *My Fair Lady* and *Oh what a lovely war* respectively at the Redgrave theatre in Bristol.



Dave Whittles

Angus, Mentieth, Murderer 3

Dave Whittles has performed in several outdoor Shakespeare productions with Bonzo Productions, most recently in *Romeo and Juliet*. He has also debuted with Cotswold Arcadian in *The Tempest* as Adrian of the royals. Dave also performed in our recent *Sound of Music* production.



Cash Lee-Maddams

Fleance

(Thursday, Friday, Saturday Night)

This is Cash's 1st role for Bonzo Productions. Cash loves acting and relished his role as Doctor Foster in his Year 5 play 'Porridge', and more recently as 'Merlin' in 'What a Knight'.

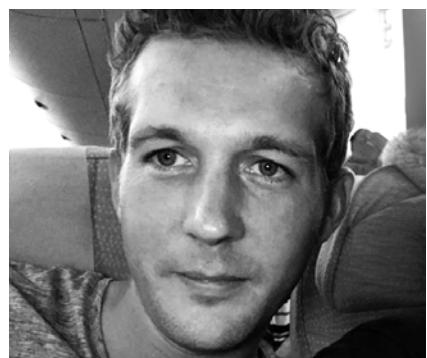


Jemima Hartnell

Fleance

(Wednesday, Saturday Matinee)

Jemima is looking forward to her debut performance with Bonzo Productions. She has just finished performing in the lead role in her school production.



James Crow

Macduff

James was an avid actor whilst at school with his first major role being in *Smike* at the Redgrave theatre in Bristol aged 12. He continued to appear in various Clifton college productions up to leaving school however this will be his first stage appearance for 25 years!





Louise Abbott
Hecate, Gentlewoman

Louise played Sister Berthe in Bonzo Production's The Sound of Music. She has acted with Cirencester Parish Players, Bingham Players, Stratton Drama Group and Chedworth Drama. She has also done some film work with Horizon One and Cotswold TV. Louise loves being a Granny and open water swimming.



Lucy Wilson
Lady Macduff

I have had a double-decade sabbatical from the stage with a brief musical interlude with a choral society but has made a come-back to Thespian life after whittling the last few winters away singing, dancing and attempting to portray dramatic characters on stage with North Cerney Productions. An invitation to work with Bonzo productions was an opportunity to extend the experience.



Perdy Williams
Macduff's Child 2

I am 8 years old and this is my second show with Bonzo Productions having played Gretl in the Sound of Music.



Ian Chatfield
Old Seward, Murderer 1

Ian has played many Shakespearian and other roles for the Cotswold Players and the Arcadians. This is his third role at the Manor having played Shylock's friend Tubal in The Merchant of Venice and Apothecary in Romeo and Juliet.



Percy
Young Seward

I have been involved in a series of theatrical productions throughout my school years whilst also studying Drama for my A-Levels. This is my first open air show with Bonzo productions and have thoroughly enjoyed the process.



Synopsis of the Play

The play begins with the brief appearance of a trio of witches and then moves to a military camp, where the Scottish King Duncan hears the news that his generals, Macbeth and Banquo, have defeated two separate invading armies—one from Ireland, led by the rebel Macdonwald, and one from Norway. Following their pitched battle with these enemy forces, Macbeth and Banquo encounter the witches as they cross a moor. The witches prophesy that Macbeth will be made thane (a rank of Scottish nobility) of Cawdor and eventually King of Scotland. They also prophesy that Macbeth's companion, Banquo, will beget a line of Scottish kings, although Banquo will never be king himself.

The witches vanish, and Macbeth and Banquo treat their prophecies skeptically until some of King Duncan's men come to thank the two generals for their victories in battle and to tell Macbeth that he has indeed been named thane of Cawdor. The previous thane betrayed Scotland by fighting for the Norwegians and Duncan has condemned him to death. Macbeth is intrigued by the possibility that the remainder of the witches' prophecy—that he will be crowned king—might be true, but he is uncertain what to expect. He visits with King Duncan, and they plan to dine together at Inverness, Macbeth's castle, that night. Macbeth writes ahead to his wife, Lady Macbeth, telling her all that has happened.

Lady Macbeth suffers none of her husband's uncertainty. She desires the kingship for him and wants him to murder Duncan in order to obtain it. When Macbeth arrives at Inverness, she overrides all of her husband's objections and persuades him to kill the king that very night. He and Lady Macbeth plan to get Duncan's two chamberlains drunk so they will black out; the next morning they will blame the murder on the chamberlains, who will be defenseless, as they will remember nothing. While Duncan is asleep, Macbeth stabs him, despite his doubts and a number of supernatural portents, including a vision of a bloody dagger. When Duncan's death is discovered the next morning, Macbeth kills the chamberlains—ostensibly out of rage at their crime—and easily assumes the kingship. Duncan's son Malcolm flees to England, fearing that whoever killed Duncan desires his demise as well.

Fearful of the witches' prophecy that Banquo's heirs will seize the throne, Macbeth hires a group of murderers to kill Banquo and his son Fleance. They ambush Banquo on his way to a royal feast, but they fail to kill Fleance, who escapes into the night. Macbeth becomes furious: as long as Fleance is alive, he fears that his power remains insecure. At the feast that night, Banquo's ghost visits Macbeth. When he sees the ghost, Macbeth raves fearfully, startling his guests, who include most of the great Scottish nobility. Lady Macbeth tries to neutralize the damage, but Macbeth's kingship incites increasing resistance from his nobles and subjects.



Frightened, Macbeth goes to visit the witches in their cavern. There, they show him a sequence of demons and spirits who present him with further prophecies: he must beware of Macduff, a Scottish nobleman who opposed Macbeth's accession to the throne; he is incapable of being harmed by any man born of woman; and he will be safe until Birnam Wood comes to Dunsinane Castle. Macbeth is relieved and feels secure, because he knows that all men are born of women and that forests cannot move. When he learns that Macduff has fled to England to join Malcolm, Macbeth orders that Macduff's castle be seized and, most cruelly, that Lady Macduff and her children be murdered.

When news of his family's execution reaches Macduff in England, he is stricken with grief and vows revenge. Prince Malcolm, Duncan's son, has succeeded in raising an army in England, and Macduff joins him as he rides to Scotland to challenge Macbeth's forces. The invasion has the support of the Scottish nobles, who are appalled and frightened by Macbeth's tyrannical and murderous behaviour. Lady Macbeth, meanwhile, becomes plagued with fits of sleepwalking in which she bemoans what she believes to be bloodstains on her hands. Before Macbeth's opponents arrive, Macbeth receives news that she has killed herself, causing him to sink into a deep and pessimistic despair. Nevertheless, he awaits the English and fortifies Dunsinane, to which he seems to have withdrawn in order to defend himself, certain that the witches' prophecies guarantee his invincibility. He is struck numb with fear, however, when he learns that the English army is advancing on Dunsinane shielded with boughs cut from Birnam Wood. Birnam Wood is indeed coming to Dunsinane, fulfilling half of the witches' prophecy.

In the battle, Macbeth hews violently, but the English forces gradually overwhelm his army and castle. On the battlefield, Macbeth encounters the vengeful Macduff, who declares that he was not "of woman born" but was instead "untimely ripped" from his mother's womb (what we now call birth by cesarean section). Though he realizes that he is doomed, Macbeth continues to fight until Macduff kills and beheads him. Malcolm, now the King of Scotland, declares his benevolent intentions for the country and invites all to see him crowned at Scone.



Production Team

Behind the scenes



Martin Abbot ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Actor and Director with R.A.D.S. (1970-73);
Bradgate Players, Bedford (1973-76);
Cirencester Parish Players (1976-98);
Bingham Players (1998-02);
Chedworth Drama (2000-18).
Various radio plays.
Last appeared on stage in Hobson's Choice (2008).

Directed such plays as Macbeth (1974);
And Then There Were None (1975);
Wait Until Dark (1998);
When We Are Married (2001);
'Allo 'Allo (2004);
See How They Run (2007);
Midsummer Night's Dream (2015) (Co-Director);
Season's Greetings (2018).

STAGE MANAGER

Fran Robbins

COSTUMES

Fran Robbins

Sylvie Mills

Sue Power

SOUND & LIGHT

Ian Chandler

IG Lighting

MAKE UP

Sally Tomlinson

FIGHT CHOREOGRAPHER

Maisie Carter

MC Combat

SET STAGE AND PROPS

Fran Robbins

WEAPON CREATOR

Spike Robbins

WEBSITE, PUBLICITY & PROGRAMME

Furry Feet Studios

POSTER & SIGNAGE INSTALLER

Mark Lanyon

Peter Richwald

FRONT OF HOUSE

Tim Hamilton

Mark Lanyon

Duncan Cairns

John Westbeach

Roland Watt





Thank you

**Seb and Pippa for hosting our production
here in the beautiful grounds of
Chedworth Manor.**



Award winning Bonzo Productions present

Macbeth



Profits in aid of

Winston's Wish and The Gloucester Cathedral Organ Fund