



Macbeth

by William Shakespeare

Thursday 6 – Saturday 8 December 2018
7.30pm, Big School





It is a great pleasure to welcome Keith Bartlett back to Whitgift. Keith has played Macbeth professionally ('dark, spare and forceful' wrote the *Observer* of that production) and played Polonius here two years ago. In between he has regularly been seen at Shakespeare's Globe and in roles for the Royal Shakespeare Company: he has truly inspired our students with his expertise and experience. To have a Director in Residence for the term has been a joy.

Like many of the audience I suspect, I first encountered *Macbeth* in the classroom. At junior school we were made to learn 'Is this a dagger...' and I still believe in learning great poetry as a life skill. Of course, few schools dared or dare put *Macbeth* on the school stage (though didn't the Prince of Wales play Macbeth at Gordonstoun?), so amazingly it was Terry Hands's Theatr Clwyd production ('fast, relentless and visceral' – *The Stage*) that was my own first proper, live experience. Today, Whitgiftians are fortunate that what they read in the classroom can be brought to exciting life here in Big School.

And what a production: daringly staged through the middle of the building, bringing the action right to us, this promises to be an evening to remember. Forceful and relentless, dark and visceral: bring it on!

Mr Chris Ramsey
Headmaster

Director's Note

In *Macbeth*, Hecate the goddess of witchcraft says that 'security is mortal's chiefest enemy'. In an insecure world we have a constant desire to control our future and some will go to any lengths to make that happen. We also have a deep desire to improve our lot and many advances in our world would not have happened without that desire but sometimes, we go to extremes.

I always remember a Two Ronnies' sketch where there are two old farmers leaning on a fence and one turns to the other:

"You know if I were that multimillionaire Paul Getty fella, I'd be a lot richer than 'e."

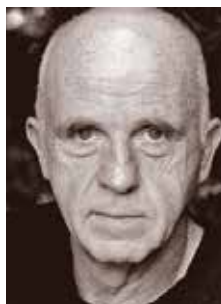
"How would you do that?"

"Well, I'd do a bit of window cleaning on the side."

Ridiculous of course, but it is the basis of consumerism and is the underlying success of advertising, to create a dissatisfaction with the present.

To achieve our ambitions, do the ends justify the means? *Macbeth* is an illustration of where they do not; compounding mistake upon mistake he falls 'into the sere, the yellow leaf, And that which should accompany old age, As honour, love, obedience, troops of friends, I must not look to have'.

The biblical quote 'For what profits a man if he gains the whole world but loses his own soul' was one that Shakespeare would have known. These principles are universal and timeless, as is this production. I've



not tried to squeeze the story into a particular period. *Macbeth* has a very vivid imagination that drives him on together with urging from an equally ambitious Lady *Macbeth*. It is also imagination that brings them both sleepless nights.

This production has been influenced by many others I have appeared in and seen but I hope the end result will be a unique experience.

I would like to thank Whitgift's Headmaster and Mr Pirrie for inviting me to direct *Macbeth*. I am a novice and have come to realise how reliant the director is upon the production team. Many thanks to Miss Seal, Mr Michael, Mr Crook, Mr Jenkinson, Mr Hill and Ms Calamita. I hope you enjoy the production. As a newcomer to directing I will of course have made mistakes but I have been overwhelmed by the enthusiasm and dedication of the boys and girls involved in the show – not to mention talent!

Finally I would like to give a special thanks to Oscar Nicholson, a former pupil of the School who was a brilliant Hamlet two years ago and who volunteered to be an assistant director. His contribution has been invaluable.

Mr Keith Bartlett
Director



Cast (in order of appearance)

<i>Witches</i>	Charlotte Watkins Sasha Willoughby Beth Sanders
<i>Lennox</i>	Siddharth Bhatt
<i>Malcolm</i>	Myron Drage
<i>Macduff</i>	James Desmier
<i>Duncan</i>	Jacob Rose
<i>Rosse</i>	Alfie Tunney/ Fraser Murray
<i>Macbeth</i>	Jack Godwin
<i>Banquo</i>	Joseph Barber
<i>Lady Macbeth</i>	Yasmin Irving
<i>Porter</i>	Jon Cheshire
<i>Fleance</i>	Sam Owen
<i>Donalbain</i>	Wilf Merson
<i>1st Murderer</i>	Will Allnutt
<i>2nd Murderer</i>	Joshua Grey
<i>Gentlewoman</i>	Idara James
<i>Hecate</i>	Idara James
<i>1st Apparition</i>	Vova Pavlov
<i>2nd Apparition</i>	Ben Lyons
<i>3rd Apparition</i>	Nifemi Bankole
<i>Lady Macduff</i>	Emily Speed
<i>Macduff's Son</i>	Kit Connor
<i>Macduff's Children</i>	Luke Ward Ben Lyons Paul Ajuwon Alex Braglewicz Bakari Leon
<i>Doctor</i>	Jonny Shuttleworth
<i>Siward</i>	Jacob Rose
<i>Lairds</i>	Sam Bourke Archie Bull Sami Haddour Louis Maingay Vova Pavlov





Creatives

<i>Director</i>	Mr K. Bartlett
<i>Associate Director</i>	Mr S. Michael
<i>Assistant Director</i>	Mr O. Nicholson
<i>Producer</i>	Miss R. Seal
<i>Musical Director</i>	Mr L. Connery
<i>Scenic Artist</i>	Miss C. Calamita
<i>Fight Director</i>	Mr D. Pirrie
<i>Technical Director</i>	Mr P. Crook
<i>Lighting Designer</i>	Mr D. Jenkinson
<i>Sound Designer</i>	Mr A. Hill
<i>Sound</i>	Tom Saba
<i>Stage Manager</i>	Miss R. Seal
<i>Stage Crew</i>	William Heaver Oscar Robinson
<i>Percussion</i>	Joe Bainbridge
<i>Costume Designer</i>	Ms J. King

Mo Ghile Mear is a traditional Irish folk song arranged by Desmond Earley. All other music written by Mr L. Connery.

Whitgift's Headmaster wishes to thank all those who have contributed to the success of this production, including Old Palace of John Whitgift School and Whitgift Academy of Visual and Performing Arts (WAVPA).

Macbeth

Cast



Paul Ajuwon



Sam Bourke



Kit Connor



Joshua Grey



Will Allnutt



Sam Bragiewicz



James Desmier



Sami Haddour



Joseph Barber



Archie Bull



Myron Drage



Yasmin Irving



Siddharth Bhatt



Jon Cheshire



Jack Godwin



Idara James



Bakari Leon



Fraser Murray



Beth Sanders



Luke Ward



Ben Lyons



Sam Owen



Jonny Shuttleworth



Charlotte Watkins



Louis Maingay



Vova Pavlov



Emily Speed



Sasha Willoughby



Wilf Merson



Jacob Rose



Alfie Tunney



Rudyard Kipling's

THE JUNGLE BOOK

Adapted for the stage
by Stuart Paterson

Thursday 14 and Friday 15 February 2019

7.30pm, Big School

Tickets: £8, Concessions £4

For more details and information on how to book,
please visit www.whitgift.co.uk/events

This amateur production by arrangement with Nick Hern Books





THE 'SNEEZE'

A collection of four one-act comic vaudevilles
and four short stories by Anton Chekov

Adapted by Michael Frayn

Wednesday 20 – Friday 22 March 2019
7.30pm, Performing Arts Centre

Tickets: £8, Concessions £4 (by reserving on WisePay only)





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