

PRE-SHOW IN-THE-KNOW

FAST FACTS

Name:

Macbeth by William Shakespeare. STC 2014 version by Kip Williams

Directed by:

Kip Williams

About the play:

A dark prophecy triggers Shakespeare's gory tragedy that charts the rise, rise and fall of a political couple whose wayward moral compass takes them in a deadly direction.

Fasten your seat belts for another towering performance from Hugo Weaving as he wrestles with one of Shakespeare's most complex protagonists. A man whose opportunism o'er-shadows his humanity, whose ambition destroys its prize.

Continuing his keen-eyed interpretation of classic texts, director Kip Williams (*Under Milk Wood*, *Romeo and Juliet*) delivers a sharp reworking on a reinvented stage. In Alice Babidge's extraordinary design, the vast Sydney Theatre will be turned inside out into a dark, intimate venue with a strictly limited capacity, promising a haunting new experience.

Main Characters:

Macbeth, Lady Macbeth, King Duncan, Banquo, Fleance, Macduff, Malcolm, Donalbain.

Style:

Shakespearean Tragedy with contemporary Dramatic Techniques.

Running time:

2 hours no interval.

ACTIVE AUDIENCE

Think about:

- The psychological effect on people who are given greatness and power
- Macbeth's gradual isolation and his false sense of invincibility
- The first half of the play centred around the banquet table
- *Macbeth* existing as a story and a play rather than a morally educative play

Watch for:

- Reversal of stage and seating
- Multiple role, transitioning of roles and mask
- Use of space around the banquet table
- Use of light and sound to create atmosphere

Memorable Moments:

- The delivery of the prophecies
- The drop of clear confetti from the ceiling
- The murder of Macduff's wife and child
- Macbeth's fight scene at the end of the play